



“The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe”

UEAPME Board asks Juncker Commission to work on Small Business Act review

Inter-institutional agreement on better law-making, Structure of DG Grow and Consultations must reflect SMEs

Brussels 27th January 2015 – The Board of UEAPME – the European Craft and SME association – is seriously concerned with the lack of visibility and support the new Juncker Commission is giving Crafts and SME in Europe. Despite acknowledging SMEs’ importance for jobs and growth in each ‘Sunday speech’, the European Commission removed the urgently needed Small Business Act review from its work programme for 2015. Furthermore, the association is concerned with the continued visibility of SMEs in the structure of the DG GROW. Finally, UEAPME asks the Commission to give representative SME organisations more relevance in public consultation processes, to apply the SME test more regularly and to make the Think Small First Principle a binding principle in the Inter-Institutional Agreement for better law-making.

At its Board of Directors meeting yesterday, UEAPME Members were seriously concerned the handling by the new Juncker Commission of the most important SME policy issues. UEAPME President **Gunilla ALMGREN** stated, *“it is not enough to hear in each ‘Sunday speech’ about the importance of SMEs for Jobs, Growth and Innovation, if this has no consequence in daily policy making.”* Indeed after a full year of preparation and a public consultation last autumn, the European Commission has not put the review of the Small Business Act in its work programme 2015. *“It is definitely the wrong signal being given to millions of Crafts and SMEs in Europe if the Commission to give the impression that only large companies and large investment projects are at the focus of European Policy”*, continued Ms Almgren. UEAPME hence asks the Commission to present its new proposal for the Small Business Act in 2015, one which has to include a strong focus on implementation of the five agreed policy priorities.

Finally, UEAPME asks the European Commission to use the upcoming Inter-Institutional Agreement on better law-making – present in the work programme 2015 – for a more binding implementation of the Think Small First Principle. *“Already in 2008, all European Institutions agreed to apply this principle for new legislation, but we learnt that political agreements are not strong enough to ensure an effective implementation”*, explained Ms Almgren, demanding *“a more legally binding solution, in order to make the principle a reality.”*

**** END ****

EDITORS’ NOTES: UEAPME is the employers’ organisation representing crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 80 member organisations covering over 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner. For further information please visit <http://www.ueapme.com/> or follow [@UEAPME](https://twitter.com/UEAPME) on Twitter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Gerhard Huemer, Economic Policy Director, Tel. +32 (0)2 230 7599, Email: g.huemer@ueapme.com
Jenny Manin, Press and Communications Officer, Tel. +32 (0)496 520 329, Email: pressoffice@ueapme.com