

UEAPME Newsflash

Social Dialogue: capacity building is most urgent priority for SMEs

The EU Social Partners signed a [Quadripartite Statement](#) "A New Start for Social Dialogue" with EC Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Thyssen and the NL Presidency on behalf of the Council of the European Union. This is the follow-up of the March 2015 High-Level Conference on the topic. The most important result is to have reached such a new political momentum for social dialogue at all levels with all four parties agreeing on major priorities, i.e. greater involvement of social partners in the EU Semester and their systematic consultation by the EC on all relevant policies. Secretary General Peter Faross pinpointed the most urgent priority for SMEs: capacity building. A new support to capacity building is the only way to ensure that social partners be able to fully play their role in the EU Semester as well as in policy making. Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)



by Georges Schneider - [photonews.at](#)

Digital Single Market files at the centre of Legal Affairs Committee

The Legal Affairs Committee, chaired by Vice-President Helena de Felipe Lehtonen (CEPYME), exchanged views on the proposals of the e-commerce package: Geoblocking and especially its impact on SMEs. They also fine-tuned their positions on contract rules for online purchases of digital content and tangible goods as well as on the insolvency framework. Moreover, they agreed on further steps to take on the Fitness check of consumer law as well as on the guidelines on the collaborative economy. After a round table on first experience with the European Single Procurement Document, they went on to agree on a better involvement in the REFIT platform. Contact: [Chiara Aprea](#)

Micro and small enterprises: new target for health and safety at work

OSHA (EU Agency for Safety and Health at Work) presented the first results of an ongoing research on health and safety (OSH) in micro and small enterprises (MSEs). At the seminar, Social Affairs Director Liliane Volozinskis insisted on the main difference between small and larger enterprises – MSEs work and act differently. Understanding this fundamental difference should help in applying the "Think Small First" principle and in designing the right support for prevention and better implementation of OSH regulation. Designing specific actions and tools (such as reducing red tape, awareness raising, guidance, etc.) have to become reality, by taking into account the role of business organisations, labour inspectorates and social partners. Only then will OSH provide a win-win situation for economic success and workers' protection. Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

Endocrine Disruptors: UEAPME requests practical legal framework

Following the Commission's presentation of scientific criteria for identifying endocrine disrupting properties, DG SANCO set up a working group on the related draft legal acts. At its first meeting, UEAPME emphasised that in order to identify endocrine disruptors of concern it is of utmost importance to check the severity and the potency of an active substance that have endocrine disrupting properties. In fact, only substances with high potency that lead to severe adverse effects on the endocrine system should be identified as endocrine disruptors. Contact: [Guido Lena](#)

SMEs can profit from extension of Geographical Indications

Advisor Chiara Aprea spoke at the conference "A possible extension of GIs to the non-agricultural products: time for an EU legislation", organised by S&D MEPs Nicola Danti (IT) and Virginie Rozière (FR). The aim of the conference was to discuss the possible proposal to extend the Geographical Indication protection to non-agricultural products with DG GROW and collect experiences from businesses across Europe. Ms Aprea stressed UEAPME's support towards this proposal and highlighted the main benefits for SMEs: protection of traditional know-how, increase of fair competition, better protection against counterfeit products, higher visibility for local products, development of local economies and tourism, and decrease of unemployment rates. In order to be effective, a new initiative on GI must be accessible for SMEs and therefore additional costs and administrative burdens have to be limited. Contact: [Chiara Aprea](#)

Video overview of the UEAPME General Assembly

Media Director Dieter Grohmann published a short [video](#) of the impressions of the General Assembly meeting held a few weeks ago in Vienna at the WKO premises. In it, President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller also speaks to SMEs and member organisations with a message on UEAPME's ongoing actions for their representation and their rights. Contact: [Dieter Grohmann](#)

*News from UEAPME Projects***Standardisation: first steering group meeting on joint initiative**

Secretary General Peter Faross and SBS Director Christel Davidson attended the first meeting of the steering group that was set up in the context of the Joint Initiative on Standardisation. The purpose of this meeting was to agree on the terms of reference of the group and identify the leaders and stakeholders participating in the different actions. Mr Faross once again highlighted the fact that standards on services need to be market driven and that, in all cases, standards must not bear more red tape nor extra burden. Moreover, SBS proposed to take the lead on the action aimed at improving the representation of SMEs at international level and volunteered to participate in various others actions relating to inclusiveness and the construction sector. Contact: [Christel Davidson](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- Joint Social Partners' EU Social Dialogue Conference (05-06.07, contact Arnold de Boer)
- Operational restrictions in the retail sector (08.07, contact Luc Hendrickx)
- Conference on insolvency (12.07, contact Luc Hendrickx)
- Workshop on franchising (12.07, contact Luc Hendrickx)
- [ACCA-Barclays-UEAPME event "CMU : delivering new opportunities for SMEs through venture capital"](#) (13.07, contact Gerhard Huemer)

SUBSCRIBE / UNSUBSCRIBE / PAST ISSUES

To subscribe to, unsubscribe from or read and download all the issues of the UEAPME Newsflash, please visit the following link: <http://www.ueapme.com/spip.php?rubrique14>

UEAPME Newsflash
Compiled by: [Jenny Manin](#)
Press and communications officer
Phone: +32 2 230 7599
Mobile: +32 496 520 329