

UEAPME Newsflash

Health and Safety Package rightly aims to support micro-companies

Following the in-depth evaluation of the various existing directives in the field of Occupational Health and Safety (OSH), UEAPME [took note](#) of the OSH package published by the EU Commission. UEAPME notably appreciates the specific guidance and support foreseen for micro and small companies to better implement existing rules instead of adding new legislation. To achieve effective implementation, close partnership is necessary at national level between public authorities, social partners, SME organisations and labour inspectorates. This should also contribute to avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens and high compliance costs. This approach can only become feasible if actions are dedicated to help micro-enterprises at local level to comply with these rules, including via SME organisations.

Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

Employers raise concerns over EP report on Carcinogens Directive

In a joint [letter](#) sent to the European Parliament, UEAPME and other employer organisations voiced strong concerns over the draft report of the Employment Committee on its proposals for the directive on carcinogens and mutagens. The rapporteur requests much stricter rules and limit values than those proposed by the Commission (based on consensus between social partners). But the EC rules and values already create substantial challenges for companies. This would add to the burden of employers, notably SMEs and micro-enterprises, without clearly helping further workers' protection. Employers stressed their commitment to protect workers, but endangering the decision-making process by going well beyond the agreement already reached in the Council should be avoided. Employers encourage the EP to support the original approach for a sensible agreement in good time.

Contact: [Arnold de Boer](#)

Branch associations profiting from cooperation with UEAPME

Economic Policy Director Gerhard Huemer met ELCA Secretary General Yves Heirman and Head of Taxation Campaign Egbert Roozen to exchange views on possible cooperation. [ELCA](#) is the European Landscape Contractors Association (Gardeners). Mr Huemer explained how UEAPME, as a European horizontal SME association, cooperates with its European Branch Associations and discussed dossiers, i.e. where and how UEAPME can support the interests of ELCA members. The most important topic was the current discussion about a reform of VAT rates, as ELCA members are suffering from illegal competition from the shadow economy and undeclared work. But considering that gardening is not on the list of labour intensive local services, reduced VAT rates cannot be applied. Mr Huemer therefore introduced different ways forward and feasibility of these actions to achieve results for their members.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

UEAPME organises REACH workshop with WKÖ and ECHA

UEAPME, Austrian member WKÖ and ECHA are jointly organising the "REACH 2018 SME Workshop - Road to successful registration" on 9-10 March in Vienna (AT). The workshop will provide practical advice on the last REACH registration deadline (i.e. 31.05.18). Participants will be guided through the process of a dossier-preparation by a number of top experts from different relevant areas. In one-to-one-sessions, there will also be enough time to discuss individual problems. UEAPME invites entrepreneurs affected by the deadline, and their advisors, to register. All information pertaining to the event can be found on the dedicated event [webpage](#).

Contact: [Guido Lena](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- ESBG Workshop on Proportionality on Banking Regulations - [registration](#) (24.01, contact [Gerhard Huemer](#))
- The importance of Financial Intermediaries for SME finance (UEAPME-AECM event) – [registration](#) (26.01, contact [Gerhard Huemer](#))
- REACH 2018 SME Workshop (09-10.03, contact [Guido Lena](#))

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