

UEAPME Newsflash

Waste framework directive proceeds to next round

In view of the upcoming EP ENVI Committee vote on the waste amendments, UEAPME drew up voting recommendations on specific provisions of the revised [Waste Framework Directive](#) and [Landfill of Waste Directive](#). UEAPME disseminated them to the EP ENVI Committee as well as to its members, asking them to get in touch with their MEPs. These recommendations follow the amendments jointly proposed last year by UEAPME and EUROCHAMBERS, some of which were tabled by several MEPs. The amendments aim to cut red tape and useless costs for SMEs. For instance, in the framework of the Extended Producer Responsibility, UEAPME recommends MEPs to vote against the introduction of a reporting procedure for all products that are placed on the European market, since it would result in major additional obligations SMEs can hardly handle.

Contact: [Guido Lena](#)

UEAPME meets Cedefop on higher vocational training

A UEAPME delegation led by Training Policy Director Liliane Volozinskis met with Cedefop Director General James Calleja and his expert team in Thessaloniki (GR). Cedefop is the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. The meeting took place in the context of the Erasmus+ project “[QA HiVETnet](#)”, aimed at promoting and implementing European principles of quality assurance in qualifications. The project partners first exchanged views on the “European guidelines on quality assurance of higher vocational training” currently being developed and invited Mr Calleja to contribute to the final conference in Brussels in May. Since higher vocational training is still very heterogeneous, the QA HiVETnet project focuses on the related qualifications needed by crafts and SMEs and in which UEAPME members are strongly involved in the design and governance structures.

Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

Common Tax Base is about simplification and fairness

The ECO-Section of the European Economic and Social Committee organised a hearing on [the corporate tax reforms package](#). In his [intervention](#), Economic Policy Director Gerhard Huemer underlined UEAPME’s support for a common tax base. This would significantly reduce compliance cost for cross-border business activities compared to 28 different regimes for corporate taxes and it would reduce the possibilities for large multinationals to use the different regimes for sophisticated tax avoidance measures. He agreed that the current Commission proposal to introduce the common tax base in a first phase without the possibility for cross-border consolidation is just a second best solution. However, it can be an acceptable one to achieve simplification for SMEs and fairness between small and large companies.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

Equal opportunities needed in education & labour market

Social Affairs Adviser Arnold de Boer spoke about gender-related challenges in education systems in Amsterdam, in the context of an EIGE project (European Institute for Gender Equality). Stereotypes and segregation persist at all levels of public and private life across national education systems. Therefore, more efforts are needed to enable unbiased choices to raise the full potential of education systems and labour markets. This concretely requires fighting discrimination, raising awareness on the issue and promoting non-traditional careers, sectors and professions. Furthermore, it is important to motivate women to enter scientific pathways like STEM and ICT. Entrepreneurship, business/education partnerships and vocational training/dual learning pathways (including apprenticeship) need to be developed to break ceilings and show the attractiveness of alternative professions for women.

Contact: [Arnold de Boer](#)

----- News from UEAPME Projects -----

Consumer Right Campaign for SMEs: project kick-off meeting

At the kick-off meeting in Brussels, the [highlights and aims](#) of the project “Training for SMEs on consumer rights in the digital age” were put forward. The project is funded by the European Commission and led by BEUC (European Consumer Organisation), in cooperation with UEAPME and EUROCHAMBRES. Considering SMEs struggle to understand their rights and obligations towards administrations, consumers and competitors, this project aims to stimulate the compliance of micro and small enterprises with consumer and marketing law. It is a two-year project to develop and organise trainings on consumer rights for SMEs that offer their products or services through digital media.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

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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