

UEAPME Newsflash

Europe's SMEs are already pioneers for sustainability

President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller was part of the European Commission's delegation at the G7 Environment Ministers' meeting, under the Italian Presidency, in Bologna. She [presented](#) UEAPME's views during a [parallel event](#) on "Firms for Sustainable Development". She underlined the pioneer role of SMEs in this field, the necessity to reduce red tape and the need to give more access to finance and skills resources in order to boost SMEs' contribution to fight climate change. Furthermore, she stressed the need for a win-win situation between economy and ecology. These contributions influenced the [communiqué](#) of the G7 meeting as well as the recommendations of the side event.

Contact: [Guido Lena](#)



Sustainability Committee focusses on circular economy initiatives

The R2π (tRansition from linear 2 circular) project, financed by Horizon 2020, was presented at the Sustainable Development Committee by the project coordinator, the Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP). The project, where UEAPME is a partner, looks into successful business models and develops business guidelines in order to showcase the advantages of the circular economy. Likewise, Sustainable Development Director Guido Lena gave an update of the Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre, aiming at setting up a virtual support platform for SMEs and business intermediaries in order to improve resource efficiency. UEAPME is a subcontractor of the consortium setting up the centre. Also on the same issue, the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) presented the works of the Task Force on Circular Economy.

Contact: [Guido Lena](#)

SMEs support proportionate regulation of professions

UEAPME published a [note](#) on the EC's new directive proposal on a proportionality test for new regulations of professions. While UEAPME expresses the need for a better functioning Single Market, there is no support for a systematic deregulation of professions. On one hand, some members are in favour of improving transparency and further assessing the proportionality of certain national rules for regulated professions which are seen as an obstacle to free movement of services. On the other hand, some members consider the new proposal useless for reducing restrictions in the Single Market. The long list of new criteria to assess the proportionality of national rules is going too far and risks endangering the quality of vocational education and training pathways as well as the quality of service provisions.

Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

Migrant entrepreneurship has to be promoted more

At a round-table on the potential of migrant entrepreneurship, organised by [SME Academy Avignon](#) and with the participation of several UEAPME members, Social Affairs Adviser Arnold de Boer pointed out how showcasing the benefits can foster a realistic debate on migration. With great resilience and motivation, migrant entrepreneurship contributes to business diversity and opens new market opportunities for both countries of destination and origin. Obstacles to overcome are those that all entrepreneurs face, i.e. access to specific professions, administrative formalities, access to finance and finding business partners, as well as language skills for newcomers. Business organisations play a crucial role at local level in supporting successful migrant entrepreneurs.

Contact: [Arnold de Boer](#)

----- News from UEAPME Sector Fora -----

Food Forum discusses current topics and the acrylamide controversy

The Food Forum [discussed](#) the following topics with representatives from the Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA): the implementation of delegated acts in the Official Controls Regulation, the REFIT program on Health Claims, and the still controversial issue of the new regulation on the presence of acrylamide in food (where SMEs ask for fewer mitigation measures imposed in particular on potato preparations). Furthermore, UEAPME successes with the two recent EFSA initiatives for SMEs were highlighted: the simplified measures for hygiene controls in the HACCPs (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) and the pilot project for support in administrative application files by SMEs. Finally, the Food Forum experts presented an update on the work of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste as well as on the High-Level Forum for a Better Food Supply Chain.

Contact: [Birte Day](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- East Invest 2 Annual Conference (21.06, Kyiv, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))
- Research & Innovation - Shaping our Future - High-Level Group Pascal Lamy (03.07, contact [Gerhard Huemer](#))

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