

UEAPME Newsflash

SMEs call for a different approach on work-life balance

At the informal Ministers' Meeting for Labour and Social affairs in Tallinn, Secretary General Véronique Willems [explained](#) why UEAPME rejects the proposal on work-life balance. While the Commission wants to expand the amount of leaves at high costs, which entails taking people out of the labour market, the SME employers would like to see more focus on investments in support services so that men and women have a real choice. In a [position paper](#) presented, UEAPME criticises the proposal as it does not take into account the reality of SMEs and the impact on their work organisation. As Ms Willems explained, this will be at the expense of entrepreneurs and jeopardise their own work-life balance. Therefore, UEAPME calls for a different approach which focusses on the amount and quality of support services and care facilities to give parents and care-givers a real choice for their working and private lives.

Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

Insolvency proposal needs to be fine-tuned

UEAPME published its [position](#) on a proposal for a directive on preventive restructuring frameworks, second chance and measures to increase the efficiency of restructuring, insolvency and discharge procedures. According to UEAPME, the proposal does – rightly – not aim to harmonise certain core aspects of insolvency such as rules on conditions for opening insolvency proceedings, a common definition of insolvency, ranking of claims, or avoidance actions. Overall, the proposal is a good starting point, however it needs to be further fine-tuned to balance the interests of debtors and creditors. In particular, SMEs as creditors are exposed to serious economic risks in case of default of their claims and this can have serious consequences for their own financial situation (i.e. chain reactions). On the other hand, SMEs as debtors need to be able to have a fresh start under proportionate conditions.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

SMEs against a change in road transport working time

UEAPME [replied](#) to the first stage consultation on the possible revision regarding working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities. Based on the views of UEAPME members as well as the members of its Transport Forum, UEAPME is opposed to the reopening of the road transport working time directive. In particular, UEAPME is against a possible reduction of the reference period which provides the necessary flexibility to small road transport companies and self-employed who fall under the scope of the directive since 2010. Moreover, UEAPME asked to have a say in defending SMEs of the sector if the EU-recognised sectoral social partners decide to initiate a social dialogue in this context.

Contact: [Patrizia di Mauro](#)

UEAPME increases cooperation with EURid

Secretary General Véronique Willems and Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx met EURid General Manager Marc Van Wesemael to consider further cooperation. EURid is the registry manager of the ".eu" and ".eu" (Cyrillic script) country code top-level domains. During the meeting, they discussed opportunities and advantages the ".eu" domain name can offer to SMEs.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

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

East Invest 2: Lviv Chamber of Commerce visits UEAPME

In the framework of the East Invest 2 project, a representative from the Lviv (Ukraine) Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited UEAPME. The three-day visit included meetings with Secretary General Véronique Willems on various topics regarding EU-Ukraine SME policy, as well as an intensive best practice exchange with UEAPME member organisations and with high ranking UEAPME experts in various policy and management fields.

Contact: [Dieter Grohmann](#)

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