

UEAPME Newsflash

SG Willems meets IMCO chair on current SME impacting files

Secretary General Véronique Willems met with the new chair of the IMCO committee MEP Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR). They discussed files that have a strong impact on SMEs, such as the e-services card, geo-blocking, the online and other distance sales of goods, the proportionality test. Moreover, they exchanged views on the Brexit negotiations.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

Future of Europe debate needs an SME perspective

[Member representatives](#) met for an ad-hoc [working group](#) to discuss the EC's five scenarios regarding the Future of Europe, as presented in the [White Paper](#) and in the various [reflection papers](#). At the meeting, there was a broad agreement that none of the five scenarios meet the expectations or needs of SMEs. Therefore, UEAPME will elaborate an alternative scenario from the perspective of SMEs to be presented at the upcoming Tripartite Social Summit (mid-October) and will focus on improving the conditions for growth and job creation, improving fairness for doing business within the single market (in a global context and for companies of all sizes), and ensuring a stable political and societal environment.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

Scepticism on services e-card remains

In July, UEAPME published a [position paper](#) on the so-called European Services e-card welcoming the measures to reduce administrative burdens for enterprises and service recipients in line with the Services Directive. However, the effects in this field are difficult to judge. Indeed, the claimed advantages and the reduction of administrative burdens will depend on the implementation of the directive in the national legislations and on the content of the delegated acts of the European Commission. The proposals can entail far reaching consequences, especially for the construction sector. UEAPME therefore insists that the needs and concerns of all relevant sectors must be taken into account.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

Brexit impact on SMEs: many open questions

At an EESC meeting on the impact of Brexit on SMEs, Enterprise Policy Advisor Chiara Aprea explained that, given the countless factors to evaluate, it is hard for SMEs to predict the impact on their business. SMEs certainly need pragmatic solutions to avoid disruptions of the single market and limit trade and commercial barriers. The possibility of the UK also leaving the single market and the customs union leads to many open questions and problems to tackle, e.g. new customs procedures and burdens, eventual legal vacuums, technical trade barriers, competition distortion and barriers to free movement. It is in the interest of all SMEs for the EU and the UK to maintain a close relationship, similar to the single market. Despite the difficulties of this divorce for all who believe in the EU, it is essential to reach an agreement within the timeframe proposed so as to remove all legal uncertainties and enable companies to have a vision on the medium-long term.

Contact: [Chiara Aprea](#)

SMEs can profit from a common corporate tax base

Economic Policy Director Gerhard Huemer participated in an [experts' meeting](#) on a common corporate tax base (CCCTB), organised by the S&D Group in the European Parliament, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and the Trade Union Institute. He said that a common tax base would significantly reduce the compliance costs for SMEs doing cross-border business in the EU. Furthermore, if such a common base becomes mandatory for large multinationals, it would reduce their abilities to avoid taxation by creative tax planning and hence create fairness between large enterprises and SMEs. Especially since SMEs are currently confronted with considerably higher effective tax rates than multinationals. As regards the [European Commission's concrete proposal](#), Mr Huemer raised concerns about the super deduction for R&D spending.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

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

Businessmakeover.eu helps traditional SMEs innovate

UEAPME is a partner in the Business Makeover project that offers entrepreneurs support to start a new business, check the performance of their business, grow it or increase its profitability. [Businessmakover.eu](#) offers different online services, like self-assessment tools, case studies, discussion fora and advisory services. The services are currently available in seven languages and more will come. The first FREE [webinar](#) will take place on 11 September at 19:00 CET and will deal with the 'Value of Business Models'.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

EU Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Higher VET published

The Erasmus+ "QA HiVETnet" project is coming to an end. The goal of the project was to increase recognition for Higher Vocational Education and Training (VET) since Higher VET is very heterogeneous, as opposed to tertiary academic qualifications (bachelor, masters, PhD). To reach this goal, the consortium developed the [EU Guidelines](#) consisting of twelve quality features of higher VET. The guidelines will now be implemented by the project partners. UEAPME will promote them in VET related discussions.

Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- Information Day: "Legal & Financial aspects of H2020" (21.09, contact [Gerhard Huemer](#))
- Regions & Cities for Sustainable & Inclusive Growth (10-13.10, contact [Birte Day](#))
- * SBS Annual Conference (10.10, contact [Christel Davidson](#))
- CoR Workshop on Work-Life Balance (11.10, contact [Arnold de Boer](#))
- 4th Eastern Partnership Business Forum (26-27.10, Tallinn, contact [Doris Rabetge](#))

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