



“The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe”

Social dimension needed for more jobs and fairness

Pillar Social Rights needs economic and social dimensions, and should foster entrepreneurship and self-employment

Brussels, 17th November 2017 – At the Extraordinary Meeting of the Gothenburg Summit between the EU Institutions and the European Social Partners, UEAPME President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller highlighted that UEAPME’s first priority for the European Pillar of Social Rights is to better integrate the economic and social dimension. Indeed, UEAPME supports the overall objective of the Pillar but believes the link between the two dimensions is not sufficiently present. Furthermore, UEAPME sees the Pillar as a new driver for reforms at national level and it should definitely aim at fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment. In the context of the future social dimension of the European Union, Ms Rabmer-Koller emphasised that the UEAPME priorities focus on fair distribution of positive effects of globalisation, better support in periods of change, and guaranteeing openness and fairness within the single market. The Pillar also demonstrates the European Union’s political commitment that social Europe matters, as is the case for UEAPME and its members. It is therefore vital that small businesses and self-employment are seen as highly contributing to social cohesion and stability.

The Extraordinary Meeting took place ahead of the Proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights to be signed by the three European Institutions. *“UEAPME supports the overall objective of the Pillar to achieve sustainable convergence in employment and social outcomes after the economic crisis,”* stated UEAPME President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller, *“yet UEAPME’s first priority for the Pillar is not sufficiently present, that is to better integrate the economic and social dimensions.”*

UEAPME sees the usefulness of the Pillar as a new driver for reforms at national level. *“UEAPME strongly support the reforms needed to create a friendly business environment in all Member States. This should lead to a good balance of flexibility and security, a true level playing field for SMEs, sustainable social protection systems, and acquisition of skills needed by businesses. A crucial aim of the Pillar should be to foster entrepreneurship and self-employment,”* said Ms Rabmer-Koller.

Ms Rabmer-Koller underlined that *“UEAPME’s priorities for a future social Europe are (i) ensuring a fair distribution of positive effects of globalisation and technological developments by investing in skills, (ii) modernising social protection systems and providing better support in periods of change to ensure social fairness, and (iii) guaranteeing openness and fairness within the single market.”*

[UEAPME reflection on the European Pillar of Social Rights](#)

[European Social Partners’ Joint Statement for Gothenburg Summit](#)

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EDITORS’ NOTES: UEAPME is the employers’ organisation representing Crafts and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 64 member organisations covering about 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner. For further information please visit <http://www.ueapme.com/> or follow [@UEAPME](https://twitter.com/UEAPME) on Twitter.

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