

UEAPME Newsflash

Juncker must not forget real economy in its final spurt

In a first reaction to President Jean-Claude Juncker's "State of the European Union" speech, UEAPME [welcomed](#) the fact that Juncker wants to focus on delivery for the last year of his Commission. Entrepreneurs especially need clear and reliable framework conditions to make their businesses fit for the future. Therefore, a crucial element for SMEs is a fast adoption of the next Multiannual Financial Framework and the related programmes, which are decisive in providing the needed support structures for SMEs to digitalise and innovate as well as to allow them to finance future investments. UEAPME also urgently asks politicians on both sides of the Channel to clarify the future relationship with the UK and its consequences on business relations. Close economic ties and swift decisions are needed, but without cherry-picking on market access. Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

UEAPME supports smart regulation in professional services

Secretary General Véronique Willems participated in the High-level Group on Competitiveness to share UEAPME views on the impact of regulation in professional services on SMEs. She emphasised the complexity of the issue. UEAPME is a strong advocate for a well-functioning single market and has always supported harmonisation as much as possible. Moreover, UEAPME is strongly for smart regulation and fitness checks of existing legislation and supports the regular update of regulation of professions. She requested to not only focus on research and analysis of costs but also on benefits stemming from regulation of professional services, also taking into account the cost of certification, standardisation and self-regulation when no regulations exists. Regarding the impact of regulation, it must be noted that SMEs will be both users and providers of these services. She concluded by stating that UEAPME is in favour of smart regulation to ensure fair competition. Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

Engineers are an important asset for SMEs

Secretary General Véronique Willems intervened at the event launching the Engineers Europe Advisory Group to speak about fostering cooperation. She underlined the overlap between engineers and SMEs: engineers often become entrepreneurs and SMEs need engineers to develop the necessary competences to make their companies grow. In digitalisation especially, STEM skills are more and more requested. She concluded by saying that there is a clear complementarity between engineers and SMEs, which should be further strengthened. Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

Cohesion policy post 2020 discussed at Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions discussed, with stakeholders, the Commission proposal for a common provisions regulation in the framework of the Cohesion Policy 2021-2027. EU Policy Adviser Birte Day presented the UEAPME priorities on simplification and governance, and underlined the fact that regional policy is the main tool for SME support. Furthermore, particularly in rural areas, SMEs are the key actors for social and economic integration. Ms Day also highlighted once again that decisions should be taken in real concertation with SME representatives. Actions that should be supported in EU funds are innovation, digitalisation, greening of the economy and access to finance. Earlier this year, UEAPME signed the Cohesion Alliance of the Committee of the Regions emphasising the importance of the multilevel and multi-actors governance. Contact: [Birte Day](#)

News from UEAPME Projects

Standardisation: SBS membership and call for experts

During the SBS Working Group on Membership, participants discussed the enlargement of the association's membership. All SME associations with an interest in standardisation are welcome to apply, specifically those in additional sectoral areas (those covered for 2019 are construction, digitalisation, lifts and respiratory protective devices). Moreover, SBS has launched the annual open [call](#) for experts to represent SMEs in standardisation. Contact: [Doris Rabetge](#)

Early Warning Europe: 1st half of project review meeting

At the second Review meeting of [Early Warning Europe](#), held at [EASME](#), an overview of the activities implemented during the first half of the project was presented and the lessons learnt were shared with the funding authorities. The four target countries (Italy, Greece, Poland and Spain) presented early warning mechanisms developed in their country and highlighted different methods and best practices that can be used for setting up a mechanism to support companies in distress in other European countries. The discussion put particular emphasis on the continuation of network development and on the awareness raising of early warning across Europe. Contact: [Kata Porganyi](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- Fairness & transparency for business users of online intermediation services - SME Intergroup (25.09, [Luc Hendrickx](#))
- Collaborative economy & new business models' challenges (16.10, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))

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