



## **“The Voice of SMEs in Europe”**

### **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Food and feed controls: Commission includes SMEs concerns in new proposal**

**Brussels, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003.** UEAPME, the European Association of Craft, Small & Medium-sized Enterprises, welcomes the Commission’s new proposal on food and feed safety issued last week. The proposed Regulation, which lays down the rules to be respected by the competent authorities responsible for carrying out official controls, will streamline, reinforce and make the existing control systems more effective.

UEAPME, who represented the interests of small businesses in the food sector during the pre-communication consultation procedure, is pleased that the Commission managed to find a solution, which strengthened necessary checks without endangering SMEs with excessive costs and red tape. The association is particularly pleased with the proposal for the calculation method of fees level applying to SMEs in case of additional controls. In its proposal the Commission has decided to take into consideration the importance of the turnover as well as the quality and intensity of the own checks already carried out by feed and food businesses. The decision reinforces the responsibility of small food businesses owners without jeopardizing product safety.

Furthermore, the Commission proposes to regard multiple official control activities that are carried out in feed and food establishments as a single activity implying the elimination of multiple fees for one type of safety control. This is a true success for SMEs who feared disproportioned costs for additional food safety checks.

“This proposal goes to prove that required controls on food safety can also be carried out properly through regulations that are effective and do not engender excessive burdens for SMEs” Ludger Fischer, UEAPME’s food policy specialist argued.

The new proposal will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council and will be adopted under the co-decision procedure. UEAPME hopes that the interests and concerns of European SMEs in the food and feed sector will continue to be taken on board in the next legislative stage.

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