
STATEMENT

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12th August 2004



“The Voice of SMEs in Europe¹”

UEAPME WELCOMES NEW EU COMMISSION TEAM

The European craft and SME association is pleased with the Commission’s line-up and in particular with the appointment of Vice President Verheugen to Industry portfolio.

The SME employers’ association, which represents over 10 million crafts and SMEs in Europe, is satisfied with Commission’s new line-up. In particular, UEAPME is content to see that the new Enterprise and Industry Commissioner, Günther Verheugen, will also have a prominent place in the new Brussels executive as the Vice president of the Commission.

“This is definitely a positive signal for the enterprises in the EU. This means that the new Commission is taking the challenges of the Lisbon Agenda seriously by placing the economic issues at the very heart of the EU executive” **Hans-Werner Müller**, UEAPME’s Secretary General said today.

UEAPME is now hopeful that the new Commission will upgrade the position of enterprise policy and give a stronger focus to SMEs, which represent no less than 99% of the total number of enterprises in the EU.

Note to editors: For further information, please contact Raphael Anspach on tel +32 2 230 7599

¹ UEAPME (**U**nion **E**uropéenne de l’**A**rtisanat et des **P**etites et **M**oyennes **E**ntreprises / **E**uropean **A**ssociation of **C**raft, **S**mall & **M**edium-sized **E**nterprises) is the European Social partner representing craft, trades and SMEs in Europe (EU and countries applying for accession to the EU). It represents, through 72 national and European sectoral federations, over 10 million small enterprises, which employ over 50 million people.