



“The voice of SMEs in Europe”

Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE

Services Directive: second reading Committee vote delivers a balanced text

Brussels, 24 October 2006. UEAPME, the European SME employers’ organisation, welcomed the text of the Services Directive as voted by the European Parliament’s Internal Market Committee yesterday (Monday). The EP Committee took a sensible stance by leaving the Council’s common position unchanged, paving the way for the adoption of the text at the Parliament’s Plenary in November.

“Further amendments at this stage would have jeopardised the delicate compromise behind the text”, said **Luc Hendrickx**, UEAPME Director for Enterprise Policy and External Relations. “Although not a perfect solution, the proposed Directive strikes a good balance, by opening up the services sector while ensuring workable procedures for SMEs, high quality of services and consumer protection at the same time”, he continued.

“We hope that the European Parliament’s Plenary will follow the vote of the Internal Market Committee and confirm the adoption of the Council’s common position. It is high time for the Directive to be implemented at Member State level – a swift approval of the text in Plenary would definitely facilitate this process”, concluded Mr Hendrickx.

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EDITORS’ NOTE: UEAPME is the employer’s organisation representing crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 78 member organisations, which represent crafts and SMEs across Europe, covering over 11 million enterprises with 50 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner.

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