

UEAPME Newsflash

SME Action Plan presented by SME Envoys

The SME envoys network gathered in Lisbon to discuss the COSME evaluation, the consultation on the SME definition, the Defence Action plan and the SME envoy Action programme. Secretary General Véronique Willems expressed UEAPME's support, as well as that from its member organisations, to disseminate and implement the action programme. The European Commission will map the actions that have already been taken and concrete steps forward will be discussed at the September meeting.

Contact: [Véronique Willems](#)

Businesses ask banks to improve SEPA remittance information

UEAPME and other business organisations representing users of payment services sent a [letter](#) to the European Payments Council and the European Commission requesting them to adapt SEPA remittance information to the needs of businesses. Indeed, for a credit transfer executed with the SEPA Credit Transfer Scheme, it is currently only possible to send either messages of 140 characters maximum or a structured message. This is not sufficient for businesses wanting to benefit from automatised end-to-end processing of payments. Therefore, the organisations ask the banking sector, organised within the Payments Council, to (i) extend the limit of characters, (ii) allow structured and unstructured information in one message, and (iii) ensure end-to-end messages from originator to the beneficiary without external databases.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

Social Partners kick-start discussions on employee training

The EU Social Partners launched their project 'Promoting Social Partnership in Employee Training' in a joint fact-finding seminar in Vienna. Austrian, Dutch, Czech and Spanish social partners attended the event. CEDEFOP presented their reflections on continuous training and experts presented the four national reports. The aim of the project is to better understand the current strategies at national, sectoral, and enterprise level on skills and qualifications development through social dialogue. Social Affairs Director Liliane Volozinskis explained that upgrading skills is more relevant than ever for SMEs' productivity and competitiveness but also for employability. Employers' obligations and workers' duties are two sides of the same coin. Among the main challenges, besides the need for return on investment, SMEs need training instruments/content which respect the reality of small companies (e.g. few staff members, need flexibility) and supportive financial incentives.

Contact : [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

How to digitalise successfully for SMEs

At a [conference](#) on SMEs and digitalisation, organised in Paris by member organisation CPME, Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx stressed that digitalisation should be mainstreamed for traditional enterprises. These enterprises need access to neutral and objective information about the wide range of digital solutions and offers on the market. He reminded the audience that only 44% of Europeans have the necessary digital competences. SME organisations will hence have to closely follow the developments in digital platforms as well as the data economy challenges for SMEs.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

----- News from UEAPME Sector Fora -----

Transport Forum meets DG Move on Mobility Package proposals

The Transport Forum met to discuss the new modifications of the Commission regarding road transport. A DG Move representative informed the participants that the main current concerns are the access to the market and the profession and the necessity to find new criteria to define companies' establishment. Indeed, cabotage cannot be controlled with the current rules and also applies in case of neighbouring countries. The enforcement of rules also remains very problematic despite the improvement of e-documents and tachographs. The Transport Forum members showed mixed reactions on new cabotage initiatives and restated the need of avoiding additional regulation and administrative burdens for SMEs.

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Dear readers, the next UEAPME Newsflash will be published on 20 July and will be the last one before the summer break.

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