

UEAPME Newsflash

Future of Europe needs focus on SME

UEAPME Board of Directors welcomed Herman Van Rompuy (President of the European Policy Centre and former President of the European Council) for a debate on the Future of Europe. During his speech, Mr Van Rompuy argued that Europe should put three priorities on its agenda: prosperity, security and fairness. He went on to say that for real progress formulating a big vision for the future will not be enough, Europe has to start changing now, even if it be only through smaller steps. As regards a future SME policy, Mr Van Rompuy said that Europe needs to focus on the needs of the more than 20 Million SMEs if it wants to increase competitiveness and create growth and jobs. His discussion with the Board members focused on problems with migration and fair access to the internal market.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)



Future social initiatives on the Social Partners' agenda

The main issues debated in the cross-industry Social Dialogue Committee (SDC) with EC Director General Michel Servoz (DG EMPL) were the revision of the Written Statement Directive and the new EU Labour Authority. On the Written Statement Directive, UEAPME restated its readiness for a social dialogue solution. On the future Labour Authority, announced by EC President Juncker, the exchanges aimed to clarify the Commission's intentions while UEAPME insisted on avoiding multiplication of EU bodies. Ahead of the SDC, the UEAPME Social Affairs Committee discussed in depth the Written Statement Directive, legal migration and Health and Safety issues.

Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

SG Véronique Willems meets MP Oksana Prodan

Secretary General Véronique Willems met Oksana Prodan (Ukraine Parliament & Head of SME Association) to exchange on challenges for SMEs and possible cooperation. They discussed the OECD Eastern Partner Countries SME Policy Index, the Small Business Act, and the Ukrainian Programme for SME development. They also covered the upcoming [Eastern Partnership Business Forum](#) in Tallinn as well as the position paper – developed by the East Invest 2 project – and to be presented by Ms Willems at the Forum.

Contact: [Doris Rabetge](#)

UEAPME reinitiates cooperation at EUIPO Plenary Meeting

Legal Affairs Advisor Chiara Aprea participated in the EUIPO Observatory 2017 Plenary Meeting on Infringements in Intellectual Property Rights in Alicante. The meeting was a great opportunity to reinitiate contacts between UEAPME and EUIPO (European Union Intellectual Property Office), get more acquainted with the Observatory's activities and discuss possible future cooperation with the Observatory's Director Paul Maier. A networking exercise focused on information regarding awareness raising activities for SMEs on intellectual property issues. Ms Aprea presented the results of these discussions at the plenary meeting. Ms Aprea also remarked that in order to reach SMEs it is essential to involve all stakeholders, especially SMEs organisations close to entrepreneurs.

Contact: [Chiara Aprea](#)

Retail challenges and evolution of the market

The French organisation "Saveurs commerce" organised their 57th Congress on "Tomorrow's retail beyond our landmarks and borders" in Sélestat (FR). The organisation is affiliated to UEAPME member organisation U2P and represents the retailers of fruits and vegetables and organic products. Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx gave an insight into the evolution of the retail market over the last decades as well as the recent tendencies: digitalisation, changing consumer behaviour, socio-demographic changes and the shortening of the retail chains. In order to revitalise city centres – increasingly abandoned by retailers – cooperation is needed between entrepreneurs (organisations) and decisive authorities.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

News from UEAPME Projects

CEN-CENELEC Technical Boards

Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx participated in the CEN and CENELEC Technical Boards held in Dublin as part of the SBS project. The main topics of interest for SBS were the Construction Products Regulation, the Action Plan for citation of harmonised standards, the CEN Focus Group on Healthcare Services, the Societal Stakeholder Organisation Opinion Mechanism, and the European Commission's general update.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- Regions & Cities for Sustainable & Inclusive Growth (10-13.10, contact [Birte Day](#))
- SBS Annual Conference (10.10, contact [Christel Davidson](#))
- CoR Workshop on Work-Life Balance (11.10, contact [Arnold de Boer](#))
- 4th Eastern Partnership Business Forum (26-27.10, Tallinn, contact [Doris Rabetge](#))

SUBSCRIBE / UNSUBSCRIBE / PAST ISSUES

To subscribe to, unsubscribe from or read and download all the issues of the UEAPME Newsflash, please visit the following link: <http://www.ueapme.com/spip.php?rubrique14>

UEAPME Newsflash
Compiled by: [Jenny Manin](#)
Press and communications officer
Phone: +32 2 230 7599
Mobile: +32 496 520 329