



EU needs stronger policy for small and medium-sized enterprises

Brussels, 18 November 2015

Ahead of the European SME Assembly in Luxembourg on 19-20 November 2015 BUSINESSEUROPE and UEAPME published a video message and a joint statement today calling for a **renewed and strengthened EU policy for craft and SMEs** (see below).

Small and medium sized enterprises (SME) would benefit from a revision of the EU SME policy framework in the following areas:

- better access to finance
- improved access to markets
- supporting entrepreneurship
- cutting unnecessary burdensome bureaucratic hurdles
- eliminating skills shortages

While supporting the European Commission's policy line to integrate SME issues into all EU policies, the Commission should rigorously respect its own smart regulation principles:

- "Think Small First" principle
- Principle of making a compulsory SME test in the impact assessment of any new EU policy initiative.

The basis for this European SME policy is the existing Small Business Act (SBA). **The SBA needs to be reviewed and revised to establish the future SME strategy of the European Union.**

Please find a **video message** of Markus J. Beyrer, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE and Peter Faross, Secretary General of UEAPME [here](#)

The **joint statement** is available [here](#).

***UEAPME** (Union Européenne de l'Artisanat et des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises) is the employer organisation representing the interests of European crafts, trades and SMEs at EU level.*

***BUSINESSEUROPE** is Europe's employer and industry organisation representing the interests of 40 national industry and employer federations and their members in Europe.*

ENDS

Contact:

Peter Sennekamp
Director of Communications
168 Avenue de Cortenbergh
1000 Brussels - Belgium
GSM : +32 496 919 315
p.sennekamp@businessseurope.eu

Peter Vertessy
Senior adviser, Press and media
168 Avenue de Cortenbergh
1000 Brussels - Belgium
Tel : +32 (0) 2 237 65 03
p.vertessy@businessseurope.eu