



SME UNION President Leitl: Flexicurity to gap increasing need of adaptability of enterprises and need for social protection

„Flexicurity is crucial to strengthen the competitiveness of enterprises, growth, employment and social cohesion in Europe. Due to globalization and technological progress companies have to steadily adapt the skills of their workers to stay competitive on the world market”, emphasized SME UNION President Christoph Leitl. The SME UNION, the business association of the European People's Party, therefore welcomes the launch of a European debate on flexicurity by the European Commission and the current discussion in the European Parliament and has just published its own position paper on its website www.sme-union.org.

“Flexicurity is an answer to gap the increasing need of adaptability of enterprises and the need to provide social protection”, said President Leitl. Flexicurity is an essential concept that unifies required flexibility and security on the labor market. The Flexicurity principle aims at encouraging Member States to implement more flexibility in national labor laws and to achieve a higher degree of security for employees.

“Especially small companies are often hindered in their growth by stringent labor laws. More flexible work contracts would enable and encourage them to hire additional workforce and therefore create more new jobs”, said President Leitl. Studies show that the high level of employment protection legislation in Europe does not mean that people have a high feeling of job security. Leitl pointed out that flexicurity could not be realized in one single approach for the whole European Union. But he cited “flexibility, social security, an active labor market policy, lifelong learning and involvement of social partners and relevant stakeholders” as the crucial basic elements for every national flexicurity approach.

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The SME UNION (Small and Medium Entrepreneurs Union) of the EPP (European People's Party) is the business organization of the EPP and network of pro-business Christian-Democrat, Conservative and Center Right politicians and political organizations. As officially recognized EPP Association its main objective is to shape EU policy in a more SME friendly way. www.sme-union.org