



## **Launch of “ERASMUS for young entrepreneurs” responds to SME UNION demand for real exchange program for employers/entrepreneurs**

“The new pilot project ERASMUS for young entrepreneurs can bring SMEs a great step forward and foster the entrepreneurial spirit of young European businesspeople”, welcomed SME UNION President Christoph Leitl the launch of the European Commission’s new program. It also means a big success for the SME UNION: The business organization of the EPP has already demanded a real exchange program for employers and entrepreneurs in its 10m+ Program in March 2006 asking the Commission to become active.

The new pilot project will facilitate training, networking and exchange of experiences among emerging young entrepreneurs by means of traineeships in small and medium-sized enterprises in another country. “This will promote internationalization and competitiveness of established SMEs and new start-up enterprises in Europe”, underlined President Leitl.

“Small companies tend to be national and stick to their home markets rather than going across borders. Therefore they are in need of support to become more international and be able to compete in a globalized market”, concluded SME UNION President Leitl. The new program will enhance mobility and exchange of best practices and will eventually lead to more growth and jobs for Europe by augmenting the effectiveness of the internal market.

The European Commission plans a stakeholder meeting and a consultation to be held next week in Brussels on 17 and 18 December 2007, where further details will be discussed. More information on the project and a link to the application tool to participate in the Stakeholders' Meeting can be found on the following Commission website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support\\_measures/erasmus](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/erasmus)

Further information: [sme@sme-union.org](mailto:sme@sme-union.org), [www.sme-union.org](http://www.sme-union.org); Tel: +32/2/233 38 38

**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](http://www.sme-union.org)