



SME UNION President Leitl urges speedy ratification of EU Reform Treaty

„The signing of the EU Reform treaty is a big step forward to make Europe more competitive, democratic and fit for the challenges of the future and globalization”, said SME UNION President Christoph Leitl. After the signature by the heads of state and government today in Lisbon, the treaty has now to be ratified by the 27 Member States as soon as possible, urges Christoph Leitl. “It must enter into force as from January 1, 2009 before the elections to the European Parliament.”

“The time is ripe that Europe puts all its energy in tackling the important issues of the future which preoccupy citizens and entrepreneurs”, emphasized Leitl. European business needs a better coordinated European economic policy: “Especially small and medium-sized enterprises need more attention from Brussels to face the challenges of globalization.” A stronger political framework, now provided by the Lisbon Treaty, should allow developing an active strategy to face these challenges and to make Europe a stronger global player. “We need more coordination in fields like energy, infrastructure or research”, summarized SME UNION President Leitl.

The SME UNION, the business association of the European People's Party, approves the key points of the reform treaty: The introduction of double majority-voting in the European Council, more rights for the European Parliament via an enhanced co-decision procedure and a permanent Council President will make the European Union more transparent, democratic and capable of acting quicker and according to necessity. On the other hand the SME UNION regrets that the political compromise misses an important chance to introduce essential uniting EU symbols and better streamlining of EU laws. A clear support and a stronger commitment for competition policy within the EU have to be undertaken much more in the future.

Further information: sme@sme-union.org, 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