



SME UNION President Leitl demands general strategic concept for EU energy policy

„The Commission proposals for the reduction of greenhouse gases and the expansion of renewable energies until 2020 pose a big challenge for European businesses”, said SME UNION President Christoph Leitl on the occasion of the presentation of the European Union energy and climate package planned for today. According to drafts, the proposals clearly overshoot the mark and could therefore lead to massive relocations of industries.

The Commission proposes an auctioning of the certificates of the emissions trading scheme. “This means big additional costs for the economy and could lead to a counterproductive expulsion of industry”, criticized Leitl. “This would especially hurt small- and medium-sized enterprises which often act as suppliers to the affected industries.”

The planned objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gases and the expansion of renewable energy ask for an all-embracing bundle of measures in areas such as building, living, mobility or energy business. Leitl demands a targeted, concrete overall concept based on the two pillars of energy efficiency and renewables. Solitary measures and actions will never lead to the desired goals and only mean an additional burden for the economy. “Nevertheless, especially for SMEs, immense business opportunities could open up in these new markets. This is the only way to translate the challenges into opportunities that the transition to a ‘low carbon economy’ could offer”, concluded the President of the SME UNION.

The SME UNION, the business organization of the European People's Party, already established years ago a separate internal Working Group called “SME Energy”, which deals exactly with these problems.

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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