



SME UNION's "Low" Level Group for Better Regulation starts its fight against bureaucracy

„The fight against bureaucracy is gaining new momentum“, emphasized SME UNION President Christoph Leitl after the first meeting of the “Low” Level Group for Better Regulation in Strasbourg today. To support and stimulate the Commission’s „High Level Expert Group” for Better Regulation, the SME UNION of the European People’s Party – together with EUROCHAMBRES (The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and Jade (The European Confederation of Junior Enterprises) - has set up a „Low Level Group” of real entrepreneurs („the grass rooters”).

“It is of the utmost importance that the Commission takes into account and responds to the actual concerns of European small businesses,” President Leitl pointed out. The core of the group consists of seven entrepreneurs and seven experts. It will detect the fields where quick action is needed and work out concrete measures. „They will complement the work of the Commission with their own hands-on experience.” Their task is

- to support the Commission with practical ideas,
- to support the High Level Group with expertise from the entrepreneurial SME level,
- to contribute to the reduction of administrative burdens for SMEs,
- to save time and money for all stakeholders,
- to reach concrete results after 6 months to accelerate the procedure.

“Among the 13 “priority areas for the Commission’s measurement of administrative burdens deriving from information obligations”, the LLG will specifically focus on statistics and company law. Moreover, the group will also look into the issue of e-commerce”, explained President Leitl. Until summer 2008, the group will provide 13 answers for EU level legislation and 13 recommendations to the Member States to free their national legislation from excessive regulations.

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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