



## **SME Parliamentary Coordination Group to enforce dialogue between SME organizations**

The concepts and working plans for the SME Parliamentary Coordination Group were discussed and outlined before the SME UNION Presidency in Strasbourg today. “The EP Coordination Group” will enhance the dialogue between SME UNION, SME Circle and the SME Intergroup. The SME Organizations Group will work on an enforced dialogue between business organizations and will work beyond the big fractions of the European Parliament”, explained SME UNION President Christoph Leitl after the meeting. “One of the priorities will be to support the “Low” Level Group in its fight for better and less regulation.”

“Beyond their different views on some topics, Christian Democrats, Social Democrats and Liberals all agree on one objective: That a better coordinated SME policy will help European small- and medium-sized enterprises to live up to their full potential of innovation and growth”, said President Leitl of SME UNION, the business organization of the EPP.

The most important topics for SMEs are at the moment: Small Business Act, Better Regulation/Cutting of red tape and European energy policy. Leitl underlined that “small is beautiful, but too small is often not helpful for receiving support. SMEs are often too small in Europe and they are sometimes less innovative, have less exports and employ less people compared to the US. A European Small Business Act is an important element for growth for SMEs.” Binding guidelines and provisions tailored especially for SMEs should draw together different existing provisions and introducing new ones for small businesses in various policies and laws with the aim of reducing administrative burdens for SMEs, increasing their participation in EU programs, insuring their share in public procurement, easier access to standardization and reducing obstacles to cross-border trade.

The EP Coordination Group will meet four times a year and will prepare, coordinate and set the agenda of European SME issues which will be implemented via the SME Circle and the SME Intergroup. The SME Organizations Group will meet twice a year.

It will brainstorm and discuss the priorities for European SMEs and coordinate and implement the issues prepared and proposed by the EP Coordination Group. SME UNION Secretary General Patrick Voller, SME Circle Political Advisor Tobias Linnemann and SME Intergroup Office MEP Othmar Karas comprise the operational and organizational level.

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