



## **SME UNION President Leitl and EPP-ED-President Daul vow for even stronger cooperation in run-up to European elections**

“The cooperation between the SME UNION of the EPP with the EPP-ED Group will be even stronger in the coming, decisive years”, emphasized SME UNION President Christoph Leitl after his meeting with Joseph Daul, President of the group of the European People’s Party in the EP, on Tuesday in Strasbourg. President Daul is a member of the French government party UMP. The MEPs will receive strong support from SME UNION, the business organization of the European People’s Party, in the run-up to the elections to the European Parliament in summer 2009.

„The EPP-ED welcomes the appointment of the 'Low' Level Group and vows to support it in every field where it can add a valuable contribution“, explained President Leitl. To complement 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. It will detect the fields where quick action is needed and work out concrete measures. „The cooperation with the SME dedicated MEPs will be crucial for this project”, explained President Leitl.

As Joseph Daul has managed his family’s farm and was the vice-chairman of the National Centre for Young Farmers, he knows from his own experience what challenges and obstacles small entrepreneurs have to face. “He knows how legitimate the concerns and wishes of European entrepreneurs are and he is serious in his vow to do his best to support them”, President Leitl emphasized.

“SMEs will be in the center of the attention of the French Presidency which will start on the first of July, 2008. The fight against red tape, the 'Low' Level Group and the European Small Business Act will be amongst the priorities of the EU in the second half of 2008”, concluded Mr Leitl.

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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)