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End spurt for SME „Low“ Level Group: Fine-tuning catalogue with concrete proposals to EU Commission on how to make life easier for SMEs

„The “Low” Level Group for Better Regulation (LLG) is now fine-tuning the results of its work to substantially reduce red tape and to work out according political demands. The whole package will be presented to EU Commissioner Günter Verheugen and other high-ranking representatives from the Commission and the High Level Group for Better Regulation on June 5 in Brussels”, explained SME UNION President Christoph Leitl two weeks before the third meeting of the “Low” Level Group in Vienna. The meeting will take place on Friday 23 May at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration hosted by Working Group member Univ. Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Franke, chairman of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department.

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 (Europe’s largest and most representative business organization) and Jade, the European Confederation of Junior Enterprises - has set up a „Low Level Group” of real entrepreneurs from the grass root level. The LLG has already met twice, once in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France and another time in Brussels.

“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 LLG has already detected another couple of fields where quick action to abolish bureaucratic burdens is needed, for example the Distance Contract Directive and the European Waste Catalogue:

- Distance contracts can be tricky for SMEs, since information requirements vary considerably across Member States. It is therefore of vital importance that information requirements for websites as well as periods of withdrawal from distance selling agreements are fully corresponding across the European Union in order to guarantee legal certainty for businesses and to remove disincentives for cross-border trade.
- According to the current practice several waste classification codes inter alia stemming from the waste shipment (based on the Basel Convention) or the waste statistics law is used at European and national level. That causes additional burdens for the businesses concerned, e.g. in waste shipment, in other foreign trade related procedures or in statistical reporting.

The Working Group will finalize the catalogue with practical oriented measures end of May.

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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