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SME UNION President Leitl: SMEs are the spearhead in the field of environmentally friendly and sustainable energy technology

„European small businesses have shown with their engagement at the annual Energy Globe Award (www.energyglobe.com/energy-globe-award) that they are up to compete with the world class regarding the development and the use of environmentally friendly and sustainable technology”, said SME UNION President Christoph Leitl after the ceremony which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels on Monday evening.

The “Energy Globe” is awarded annually in the realm of a huge television gala that is broadcasted worldwide to some three billion households and was launched in 1999. “The goal is to present successful sustainable projects to a broad audience. Projects are showcased that conserve and protect the world’s resources or that employ renewable energy”, explained President Leitl. This year 800 projects and initiatives from all over the world were submitted to compete for an award in the categories Earth, Fire, Water, Air and Youth.

The competition provides an excellent opportunity especially for SMEs which often do not have the necessary resources and contacts to promote their ideas and innovations. President Leitl therefore congratulated the Austrian company Fronius (www.fronius.com) which has won the award for “air” and the “International Energy Globe”: “Fronius acts as a spearhead for other medium-sized family businesses. Fronius shows that innovation and creativity lead to success.” A company with 650 employees, Fronius meets 90 percent of its energy needs for its site in Upper Austria with photovoltaic energy and biomass. Solar power moves its on-site fleet of vehicles, the required hydrogen for fuel cells is generated emission-free locally via electrolysis.

Environmentally related industries will reach a turnover of approximately 2.2 trillion EUR in 2020. In the field of renewable energies, up to EUR 250 billions will be invested until 2020. “This will be the new boom industry of the 21st century”, concluded President Leitl.

The SME UNION, the business organization of the European People’s Party highlights its priority in the field of energy. For several years now an own SME UNION Working Group, called SME Energy, works for the energy interests of European small businesses.

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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