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SME UNION President Leitl: EU emission trading scheme cannot punish those who have already invested in best environmental technology

“Against the warnings of business the European Parliament Environment Committee decided last week to burden European industry already from 2013 on with CO₂-fees which never can be carried out. Logical consequence is that businesses - including small and medium-sized enterprises - will be forced to move away from Europe. Enterprises, which will face massive burdens in a few years, will not invest in Europe anymore, but will shift their investments to other areas. We already feel the effects, because many concerned enterprises have suspended their investment plans for now, until the necessary disburdening signals come from Brussels”, underlined SME UNION President Christoph Leitl during the deliberations at the SME Parliamentary Coordination Group meeting held on Monday 13 October in Brussels. “It does not make any sense if we export employment and import CO₂ problems.”

Leitl would have preferred and suggested a benchmark system allocating to the most up-to-date producers that have the most current state of the art technology, free of charge certificates. “This system would not punish those who have already invested and would motivate the others to follow those examples” explained the President of the SME UNION.

The members of the SME Coordination group agreed that they were all in favor of climate protection, but the tools must be right. The SME Parliamentary Coordination Group works on the enforcement of dialogue between SME organizations. SME UNION takes part in it as the business organization of the EPP.

Further information: sme@sme-union.org, www.sme-union.org; Tel: +32/2/233 38 38

SME UNION (Small and Medium Entrepreneurs Union) of the EPP (European People's Party) is the network of pro-business Christian-Democrat, Conservative and Liberal politicians and political organizations. Its main objective is to help in shaping EU policy in a more SME friendly way. www.sme-union.org