



Brussels, 28 October 2008

**SME UNION President Leitl: Sarkozy should stay in the EU executive chair for another semester**

“French President Nicolas Sarkozy has shown, by managing the current financial crisis, that he is a true European leader. Therefore he should stay in the EU executive chair for another six months. We should not change this successful trouble-shooting team at this decisive moment for Europe’s future!” emphasized SME UNION President Christoph Leitl today. “The financial turmoil will not be over by the end of this year and Sarkozy managed very well to put the EU ahead of the United States pushing for solutions to address the international economic threats and setting the international financial agenda. Therefore, EU Council President Sarkozy should be allowed to stay on and to pursue his successful course” suggested Leitl today. “Yet this has to be based on a consensual basis including all the member states to pull on one string” urged the SME UNION President.

On the other hand President Leitl not only supports, but strongly urges the EU leaders to sustain the extension of a ‘unified economic government’ of the Eurogroup calling for more regular coordination at head of state and government level to better coordinate the EU responses to the global financial crisis. “This economic government could be the first step towards a deepening of a core group of European countries and a further necessary integration process on our continent. We do not need less, but more Europe, which is able to address the real problems of the economy and especially the entrepreneurs” concluded Leitl.

Further information: [sme@sme-union.org](mailto:sme@sme-union.org), [www.sme-union.org](http://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](http://www.sme-union.org)