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## **SME UNION President Leitl congratulates new SME Circle President Zsolt Becsey**

„In the name of the SME UNION family it is my great pleasure to congratulate the new President of the SME Circle of the EPP-ED Group, Zsolt Becsey MEP, for his election” expressed SME UNION President Christoph Leitl after yesterday’s ballot vote of the new SME Circle President in Strasbourg.

“Hungarian FIDESZ MEP Zsolt Becsey is not unknown to the SME UNION. Since several years he has been a very active member of the SME Circle, the SME UNION task force in the European Parliament. On many occasions MEP Becsey defended already the interests of SMEs and was a frequent speaker at SME UNION events. Currently MEP Becsey is Rapporteur of the Microcredit report and jointly organized this month a working breakfast with the SME UNION on this so important SME financing issue” summarized SME UNION Secretary General Patrick Voller the past collaboration with Becsey.

“As member of the European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the new SME Circle President Becsey is perfectly fit to address the upcoming challenges for European small businesses during the current financial turmoil,” underlined SME UNION President Leitl. “Furthermore, the SME UNION puts strong attention to south-east European countries and supports politicians and entrepreneurs on the road to EU membership. MEP Becsey as EP delegation member for relations with the countries of south-east Europe will be a loyal supporter in these joint efforts” explained Leitl.

As Becsey being a studied economist, coming from a new member state, and a person who played a key role in the preparation for the Hungarian EU accession, we are sure to be on the same line as regards the SME UNION motto “Open markets for an open Europe”, concluded Christoph Leitl.

SME UNION President Christoph Leitl also cordially thanked Alexander Radwan MEP who chaired the SME Circle for almost eight years. Radwan will resign as Member of the European Parliament by end of November due to his election as Member of the Bavarian Parliament. “What is known today as ‘Think Small First principle’ has been Radwan’s key motivation from the very beginning of the SME Circle. To create legislation in a manner that even the smallest firm can handle its implementation was his credo” continued Leitl. “Being the only political group in the European Parliament to have a dedicated SME structure, the SME Circle enforced noteworthy successes for a better legislative environment for European small and medium-sized enterprises in close dialogue and cooperation with the SME UNION”, stated the SME UNION President. Leitl concluded reminding that “this will be the challenge as well for the new team.”

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**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)