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SME UNION President Leitl welcomes climate package compromise

“The EU – chaired by France - has understood that we must not forget Europe as a business location. In the future, best-practice enterprises of energy intense industries will get emission certificates for free. The worst case scenario – Europe’s energy intense enterprises migrate due to exorbitant CO2 costs – is prevented”, commented SME UNION President Christoph Leitl on the result of the EU summit of heads of state and government and the following triologue.

To hammer out the last details of the climate and energy package, MEPs led by Avril Doyle MEP met with the French Presidency and Commission experts in Brussels Saturday morning for the final climate change triologue negotiations. These amendments will be integrated into the text and presented to the European Parliament in Strasbourg this week for debate and vote.

“If European enterprises were forced to outsource their production to third countries with considerably fewer charges, this would have hindered other EU efforts to reanimate the economy without any positive climate effects”, Leitl pointed out. “After all, the EU’s heads made the right decision”.

The summit’s compromise leads to more legal security which is especially important for SMEs, as important details of the climate package are now already fixed in the directive and not later on by an EU commission’s expert committee.

No understanding for those who are regretting a watering down of the EU climate package showed SME UNION President Leitl: “The EU stays an exemplary innovator in terms of environment and climate protection. Europe’s enterprises really did a great job, which is not so easy to copy.” It’s obvious that one continent alone cannot stop climate change. “This is not possible without international agreements. Also other industrial and emerging countries have to be convinced”, Leitl claimed.

“It is crucial that the compromise will be adopted by the Council and Parliament soon: companies have to know what they will have to expect in the future”, concluded the SME UNION President.

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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