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**President of SME Region Franz Schausberger met representatives of SMEs in Vojvodina: “Lack of investments is the main problem of SMEs in Vojvodina”**

When meeting with Franz Schausberger, president of the SME Region, on the 2nd of March in Novi Sad, Ratko Filipovic, vice president of Chamber of Economy of Vojvodina, declared the biggest problem the small and medium sized businesses in independent province Vojvodina (Serbia) are facing is the almost complete lack of investment.

On part of the government, the province or the municipalities there is almost no investment at all. These days cities and municipalities are in desperate struggle just to keep their head above water. At present they can barely maintain public supply.

Independent province Vojvodina is counting roughly 2 Million people, with 50.000 incorporated companies, although only about 20.000 are active. About 90 percent of these are SMEs (up to 50 employees). Compared to the nineties, bureaucracy has been noticeable reduced for the small and medium sized businesses, and is no hard obstacle to overcome for economy. Also a tax of 10% on profit is extremely low. The most interesting fields for foreign investors are farming, food production and clothing industries.

Franz Schausberger promised, to mention the great possibilities for investors in the province of Vojvodina within the SME Union network, to also improve chances of local SMEs throughout foreign investments.

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)