



Brussels, 9 October 2008

## **SME UNION President Leitl congratulates MEP Rübige for being awarded MEP of the year**

“MEP Paul Rübige, a convinced European and persistent fighter for the concerns of small and medium-sized enterprises in Europe, was awarded as MEP of the year in the category research and innovation. SME UNION board member, former SME UNION President, current President of SME Global and active participant of the SME Circle of the EPP-ED Group, MEP Rübige absolutely deserved this vote and I congratulate him cordially in the name of SME UNION and European business”, announced Christoph Leitl, SME UNION President.

In his twelve years as Member of the European Parliament, Rübige has set countless initiatives for SMEs and fought for important ameliorations: “If it was Basel II, Better Regulation, access to finance for SMEs or energy issues or the creation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology: Paul Rübige always raised his voice for the business world”, underlined President Leitl.

The Upper Austrian has been chosen in a secret poll among all Members of the European Parliament: “This shows that he enjoys high appreciation and confidence even beyond the borders of his own country and party.”

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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)