

# UEAPME Newsflash

## ETF and UEAPME discuss cooperation opportunities

Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx participated on 10 September to a meeting organised by the European Training Foundation (ETF), an agency based in Torino, Italy, which supports education and training in countries surrounding the EU. The aim of the meeting was to gather feedback from international organisations, including UEAPME and the World Bank, on the ETF's mid-term perspectives and its 2010 work programme, as well as to discuss cooperation opportunities. Speaking at the meeting, Mr Hendrickx stressed the importance of lifelong learning, education and training for SMEs, which rely heavily on qualified staff in their operations. He also stressed the importance of social dialogue and the need to involve social partners in devising adequate education and training programmes. Finally, Mr Hendrickx praised the work of the ETF in providing country-by-country indicators and regularly assessing progress, a much needed activity that was very effective during the implementation of the EU Charter for Small Enterprises in the same countries. Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

## MKB staff visit UEAPME as part of EU study programme

A delegation of staff members of the Dutch SME organisation MKB, a member of UEAPME, visited our offices this week. The visit was part of a training programme organised by MKB's Brussels office and aimed at giving participants a closer view of the decision making process in Brussels, including the European Commission and other stakeholders' offices. Secretary General Andrea Benassi welcomed the delegation and gave a brief overview of the main policy dossiers on the table at the moment. UEAPME Directors then expanded on this subject in their policy areas. The visit also aimed at giving MKB staff a chance to establish personal contacts with UEAPME staff working on the same dossiers, as well as to explain how they can contribute to UEAPME's decision making process and be better informed about it.

## SMEs to be involved in the fight against counterfeiting

Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx participated last week to the first meeting of the European Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy, a new body that aims to foster stronger collaboration and regular exchanges of ideas between Member States' authorities and all stakeholders engaged in the enforcement of intellectual property rights, allowing the latter to formulate policy recommendations and provide data as well as comments. Speaking at the event, Mr Hendrickx stressed the need for more awareness raising activities on the issue, both among exporting and non-exporting companies that tend to underestimate the impact of counterfeiting on their business. Moreover, public-private partnerships and administrative cooperation have proved their worth as means to fight counterfeiting, an area in which some Member States are unfortunately lagging behind, he continued. Involving SMEs in all stages is crucial in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy, he concluded. Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

## From Andrea Benassi's agenda: back in Brussels

**04/09:** Secretary General Andrea Benassi welcomed a delegation of Board members of our Finnish member **Suomi Yrittajat**, the Federation of Finnish Enterprises, to discuss a stronger involvement of SY in UEAPME committees and working groups.

**08/09:** Mr Benassi met a representative of the Italian association of enterprises in the nautical sector, linked to our Italian member **CNA**. This emerging sector needs to be duly represented in Brussels. UEAPME will search for possible partners to join the Italian organisation and launch a European federation for the sector.

**09/09:** The Secretary General welcomed a delegation from **MKB**. They exchanged ideas on the future of the EU and on how to improve mutual cooperation (*see above*).

**10/09:** Mr Benassi met the European Parliament's Vice President and Bureau Member [Gianni Pittella](#) to discuss UEAPME's concerns in the present economic crisis and to define possible new lines of action to be launched by the EP.

**10/09:** On the same day, the Secretary General met **Xavier Durieu**, his counterpart from Eurocommerce, to discuss the main policy priorities of the two organisations and the main dossiers to be dealt with by the next Commission and the new Parliament.

➤ For questions on Mr Benassi's agenda, please contact the [UEAPME Secretariat](#)

### KEY EVENTS AHEAD:

- [CSR workshop on disclosure](#) (18/09, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))
- [CEBRE business breakfast on late payments](#) (30/09, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))
- ["From the European Charter for Small Enterprises to the Small Business Act"](#) (05-06/10, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))
- [Seminar: local employment development and CSR](#) (06/10, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))
- [Open Days - European Week of Regions and Cities](#) (05-08/10, contact [Birte Day](#))
- [EPO workshop on patents](#) (15/10, contact [Maria Cimaglia](#))

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