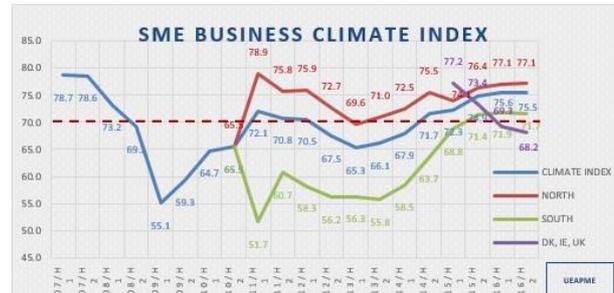


# UEAPME Newsflash

## SMEs recovering across Europe, but negative impact from Brexit

UEAPME published its biannual [EU Craft & SME Barometer 2016/H2](#) ahead of the Autumn Tripartite Social Summit, with the following outcome: the SME Business Climate Index reaches 75.5, reflecting a stable and positive situation for European SMEs. The trends in North and South Europe are similar. In the North, the countries dependent on the UK's economy have been negatively affected by the Brexit, while in the South, the negative but improving Greek situation and the complex economic and political situation in Italy have slowed down the recovery. Moreover, the internal demand has finally affected the construction sector as well after already having pushed the recovery in the services sector. The expectations for the current semester draw a very positive picture reflecting the economic growth of SMEs, despite a still low level of investments.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)



by several MEPs. In preparation of the upcoming vote, UEAPME drew up [voting recommendations](#) on specific provisions of this legislative project and disseminated them among its members and network. With these voting recommendations, UEAPME wants the ENVI Committee to agree upon amendments that establish a fully functioning circular economy that simultaneously strengthens SMEs' competitiveness.

Contact: [Guido Lena](#)

## Energy Efficiency Directive: obligations and opportunities

Secretary General Peter Faross gave an opening speech at an event on opportunities from energy saving obligations and alternative measures, organised by the European Builders Confederation (EBC) and the International Union of Property and Owners (UIPI). The discussion mainly focused on incentives and measures offered by the energy efficiency directive to increase energy efficiency of buildings. Mr Faross emphasised that energy efficiency is a very important issue for UEAPME, which is also why the association is currently closely following the revision of the energy efficiency package. He added that it would be good to keep the flexibility provided by the energy saving obligations schemes and alternative measures of Article 7 in the upcoming revision of the directive, enabling SMEs to improve energy efficiency in buildings.

Contact: [Guido Lena](#)

## Eurostars programme supports research intensive SMEs

"SMEs aim higher with Eurostars" was the name of an event, organised by [EUREKA](#), to discuss the role of the [Eurostars](#) programme for research intensive and innovative SMEs. SME owners profiting from Eurostars proved that the programme is relatively easy to handle and it really supports break-through innovation, growth and internationalisation of SMEs. Economic Policy Director Gerhard Huemer explained the success with three features of the programme: (i) it is SME driven, (ii) it uses a bottom-up approach, and (iii) the time to contract is about 7 months. According to Mr Huemer, improvements could be made as regards the number of participating countries, better support services at national level and better integration with other programmes (like Horizon or national programmes) to support the companies in successfully bringing their ideas to markets.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

## Better Regulation discussed at the College of Europe

At a [workshop](#) on "The EU Better Regulation Agenda: Critical Reflections", organised by the College of Europe, Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx reminded the audience that the main objective of the better regulation agenda has been and should remain the reduction of red tape and administrative burdens for the smallest enterprises. He highlighted that SMEs in general do not have a problem with the objectives of legislation but with the way they have to implement it. Lawmakers should therefore apply the real "Think Small First" principle, meaning drafting legislation bearing in mind the characteristics and means of the smallest enterprises. Last but not least, Mr Hendrickx criticised the Commission's non-acceptance of UEAPME in some major stakeholder groups.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

### News from UEAPME Projects

## Business Makeover as supporting tools for SMEs

As a partner of the ENVISION project, UEAPME invited ENVISION representatives to present the project at the meetings of the Board of Directors and Enterprise Policy Committee. ENVISION aims at activating small businesses to innovate their business models. UEAPME member organisations will be invited to the project's annual conference in December and will be able to use its tools (available in several languages) for their own services for SMEs. Furthermore, and as requested by the participants, the project will also be presented in other UEAPME Committees.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

## UEAPME is recruiting an Internal Accountant & Project Coordinator

UEAPME is seeking to fill the position of Internal Accountant & Project Coordinator. For the internal accounting side, proven knowledge of accountancy as well as of the obligations of the Belgian legislation in this field are required as well as close collaboration with the external accountant UEAPME is working with to formally review and validate its accounts. For the project coordination side, the person to be selected will have to work with the UEAPME employees responsible for project execution and the job therefore requires detailed knowledge of European project management, be it as coordinator or participant. For the full details of the job offer, visit the [ad online](#).

Contact: [Jenny Manin](#)

### EVENTS AHEAD:

- SBS Annual conference (19.10, contact [Tessa Delville](#))
- European Forum on eco-innovation - Tallinn, Estonia (26-28.10, contact [Guido Lena](#))
- East Invest 2 Annual Conference - Yerevan, Armenia (27.10, contact [Doris Rabetge](#))
- Co-operative banks & innovation in SME Financing (09.11, contact [Gerhard Huemer](#)) - ([Registration](#))

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**UEAPME Newsflash**  
Compiled by: [Jenny Manin](#)  
Press and communications officer  
Phone: +32 2 230 7599  
Mobile: +32 496 520 329