



“The Voice of SMEs in Europe”

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UEAPME’s new President: Paul Reckinger, a true European entrepreneur

New president says “internal market has to become reality for SMEs”

Brussels, November 14th, 2002. UEAPME General Assembly, elected **Mr. Paul Reckinger**, an experienced small business owner from Luxemburg, as the organisation’s new President. In his acceptance speech Reckinger set the realisation of the internal market for SMEs as the main target for his presidency. “As an entrepreneur in Luxemburg, where trans-border trade is vital to almost every business, I have been able to observe the advantages of an integrated market. I also noticed what deficits the European internal market still entails. We have to continue to work towards a full implementation of the internal market and this implies an economic reform, the further liberalisation of product, services and labour markets and the establishment of a more favourable environment for entrepreneurs” he argued.

Reckinger explained that it is essential for SMEs to work in a climate, which is favourable to entrepreneurship, and this would imply a simplification of EU regulations and a considerable reduction of administrative burdens. Reckinger stated that in view of an increase in trans-border activities, an improvement of the fiscal environment notably through the elimination of the fiscal barriers remain a crucial point for SMEs. Furthermore, he pleaded for an update of the current legal framework so as to further open public procurement markets.

During his speech UEAPME’s new president also stressed the social responsibility of entrepreneurs. “Through the realisation of projects, creation of added value and hiring of employees the manager owner does not only carry out a commercial activity but he/she accomplishes a true social mission” Reckinger affirmed. According to him this non-profit social aspect is often overseen by great parts of the society. Therefore, an awareness raising effort has to be done.

Reckinger, who is also the president of the Luxemburg Craft Association, will be entering his new functions in January 2003. The 66 year old, owner of a heating and ventilation equipment company has worked with UEAPME for several years.

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