



## **“The voice of SMEs in Europe”**

### **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Employment Guidelines: UEAPME deplores insufficient encouragement for entrepreneurship and job creation**

**Brussels, 20th May 2003.** UEAPME, the European SME and Crafts employers association, criticizes the absence of a concrete framework of actions in favour of entrepreneurship and job creation in the Commission’s new guidelines for employment policies.

"It is not with simple declarations of good intentions that one will support entrepreneurship and job creation. Employment cannot be decreed! Promoting job creation requires a favourable environment, accompanied by concrete measures and continuity" **Hans-Werner Müller**, UEAPME’s Secretary General declared today.

UEAPME welcomes the fact that the new guidelines are effectively simplified, that they are programmed for the medium term (2003-2006) and that they are better co-ordinated with the broad economic policy guidelines. However, because the guidelines are supposed to be applied for a three-year time span, –including the period in which the enlargement will become effective– UEAPME would have liked the guidelines to give more emphasis on carrying out the necessary structural reforms in the labour market instead of simply tackling current unemployment.

UEAPME also deplores that no quantified target has been proposed at European level, nor even encouraged at national level with regard to the guideline promoting entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, UEAPME considers that the guidelines do not emphasize sufficiently on key factors that contribute to productivity and better quality of jobs such as promoting innovation, knowledge, encouraging investment, reforming social protection systems, etc ...

Finally, UEAPME argues that the guidelines do not stress enough on the need for fiscal reforms in favour of employment. UEAPME welcomes the purpose of significantly reducing the fiscal burden on low salaries but regrets the absence of quantifiable objectives in terms of reduction non-wage costs for labour intensive services. Such quantifiable goals would contribute to the fight against undeclared work, which constitutes a major challenge for the funding of the social security system and for SMEs across Europe in terms of unfair competition.

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