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**Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Foodstuff legislation: UEAPME welcomes Commissioner Byrne  
consideration for small and micro food producers**

**Brussels, 04th June 2003.** UEAPME, the European SME employers association, welcomes Commissioner Byrne’s commitment not to disadvantage small local and traditional food manufacturers with too burdensome and expensive regulations during a speech on the promotion of food safety throughout the enlarged EU in Corfu.

“This is a first good step in the right direction” UEAPME’s Secretary General **Hans Werner Müller** commented today “it gives us hope that the Commission will set food safety guidelines that will ensure quality and hygiene and allow small manufacturers to continue to produce foodstuffs in a traditional way.”

UEAPME further asks that the legislation proposed by the Commission should make sure, that small food producers, who often reduce the risk of big food scandals, will be given a chance to survive. In that perspective, small enterprises association supports the idea that feed and food controls should be strict but reminds the authorities that the fees for carrying out the controls must be adequate. Additionally, UEAPME calls for an explicit labelling regulation, which is also manageable for small enterprises.

UEAPME’s members involved in food production have expressed satisfaction with Mr. Byrne’s rhetoric commitment and have announced that they will now closely monitor the measures the Commission will take in this field.

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