



“The voice of SMEs in Europe”

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UEAPME holds conference on the future of Social Dialogue for European SMEs

Brussels, 29th September 2003. The future of Social Dialogue in European SMEs will be at centre stage of debates at the conference that the European SME employers association - UEAPME – will hold on the 2nd & 3rd of October in Brussels. The conference will be the final event of a 2-year European Commission funded project in which SME associations from all EU countries participated.

One of the main focus of the project was to deepen the content of the Social Dialogue at different levels so as to support SME employers’ aptitude for adaptability to the new economic framework and promote the employability of the work force. Another major goal of the work was to widen the scope of Social Dialogue for SMEs by involving SME organisations which are not officially recognised Social Partners in order to better reflect the economic reality in the Dialogue.

Over the past decade, European SMEs have recognised that a new approach was required to face the challenges arising from globalisation, economic structural changes, the necessity for further market labour flexibility whilst maintaining job security. The Social Dialogue at national, regional and sectorial level can contribute significantly to help SMEs elaborate such a new approach.

The results of the project will be examined at the final conference. This final conference will give an opportunity to SME representatives from all Member States to meet with representatives from Trade Unions, the European Commission and Parliament to exchange their views on new developments in Social Dialogue and SME policies.

For more information and registration forms please visit: www.ueapme.com/futurisme

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