



“The voice of SMEs in Europe”

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European SMEs need a branch-focused impact assessment of REACH

Brussels, 20th October 2003. In a letter sent today to Commissioners, Prodi, Wallström and Liikanen, UEAPME, the European association of crafts and SMEs, demands a more branch directed impact assessment study while reiterating its concerns as to the effects the revision of the EC Chemicals regulation will have on European small businesses. The association says the study recently presented by the European Commission does not allow downstream users to have an estimation of the costs their branch will have to bear.

“From the latest assessment, it can be inferred that downstream users, which are mostly SMEs, risk bearing the vast majority of the costs of the upcoming system. However, the study remains too general failing to give a breakdown of costs according to the different sectors” **Hans-Werner Müller**, UEAPME’s Secretary General said.

Yet, sector specific impact assessments are essential for SMEs in order to better prepare and adapt to the new system. Indeed, it seems clear that some sectors will be more affected than others and so will the incumbent costs. Hence, SMEs in the different sectors concerned have a need for information that is still not available.

UEAPME does not oppose a revision of the current EC legislation on chemicals, but would like the Commission to postpone the adoption of the new proposal, scheduled for October 29th, until a new study is carried out. The new study UEAPME proposes consists in analysing the costs and impacts of the new Regulation on the most sensitive sectors for downstream users, followed by a consultation with representatives of the different sectors.

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