



“The voice of SMEs in Europe”

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UEAPME welcomes Irish presidency SME policy agenda

Brussels, 22nd October 2003. Mr. Frank Fahey, Irish Minister of State for Enterprise Trade and Employment has presented the Irish Presidency SME policy agenda to UEAPME, the European SMEs employers association, in a meeting today. The Minister explained that the Irish Presidency would give special focus to the Lisbon targets, the competitiveness agenda and the Charter for Small businesses.

Hans-Werner Müller, UEAPME’s Secretary General, expressed his full support to the agenda put forward by the Minister and stressed the importance of the political role the Irish Presidency will have to play especially due to Enlargement and the forthcoming European Elections.

Mr. Müller said "The Irish presidency will be under a lot of pressure, as they will have to deal with three extraordinary events at once: the Enlargement of the EU, the elections for a new European Parliament and the constitution of a new College of Commissioners."

“If the Irish Presidency is able to assist UEAPME in delivering concrete results for European SMEs during these rather eventful six months it would already accomplish a lot” he commented.

Amongst the actions proposed, UEAPME asked the Irish Presidency to pay specific attention to small enterprises when developing measures to increase the competitiveness of EU businesses. The association also called on the Presidency to work towards granting a legal status to the Charter for Small Enterprises and to continue to develop measures to help fight undeclared work.

***** End *****

Note to editors: For further information, please contact Victoria Carson on tel +32 2 230 75 99

Raphael Anspach, Press officer
Tel: +32 2 230 7599/ Fax: +32 2230 7861
Email: pressoffice@ueapme.com
Web: www.ueapme.com/pressroom