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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UEAPME asks Commission to further efforts to include service sectors in eco-label scheme

Brussels, 12th October 2004. UEAPME, the European crafts and SMEs employers' association asks the European Commission to strengthen its effort to extend the eco-label scheme to the service sector, which is predominantly composed of SMEs and micro enterprises.

The request comes one week after the Commission's decision to award eco-label certificates for campsites in the framework of the EU eco-label scheme. The sector of campsites is only the second service sector to have the opportunity to award eco-label certificates to businesses after tourist accommodation.

“The decision to award an eco-label to campsites, is an additional step towards the full recognition of the contribution of the service sector- and in particular of micro-enterprises in this sector- to innovative and environment friendly business operations” declared Mr. **Guido Lena**, UEAPME's director for environmental affairs.

The decision to award an eco-label to campsites will allow the numerous SMEs in the sector to underline their commitment to the safeguarding of the environment.

In order to increase even more the participation of small and medium sized businesses in the eco-label scheme, UEAPME urges the Commission to adopt a series of measures that would facilitate the entry of SMEs. Among the measures the association proposes are:

- introducing a graded label;
- adopting criteria for products manufactured by SMEs and services in line with the prioritisation study;
- ensuring that the number and price of technical tests to prove compliance with the criteria are kept to a minimum.

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