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“The Voice of SMEs in Europe¹”

UEAPME’S STATEMENT ON COMMISSION’S EVENTUAL RECOURSE TO JUSTICE IN STABILITY PACT ROW WITH ECOFIN

The European craft and SME employers’ association warns against appeal to ECJ

UEAPME, the European SME employers’ association advises the Commission not to start legal proceedings against the Council for the breach of Stability Pact rules. “Such a decision would make the current situation more difficult as it would only add hurdles to an effective collaboration between the Commission and Member States with regard to economic governance” said **Hans-Werner Müller, UEAPME’s Secretary General** today.

Indeed, such a decision would prove to be counter-productive to the European Commission, as it would give an extra argument to some Member States to advocate against giving additional competencies to the EU with regard to economic governance.

UEAPME further argues that such a decision would also render common interpretations by the ECOFIN and the Commission on the way that the Pact should be implemented very difficult. “It is widely accepted that the Stability Pact has to be interpreted in a flexible way, but this interpretation can only be done jointly by the Commission and the ECOFIN. If the Commission decides to appeal to the ECJ then such an interpretation will be near impossible, until the end of the proceedings at least” Müller argued.

“In this whole controversial debate we would have liked the Commission to have taken the lead in proposing ways to improve the Stability Pact rather than stubbornly defending the old one.” Müller concluded.

Note to editors: For further information, please contact Gerhard Huemer on tel +32 2 230 7599

¹ UEAPME (**U**nion **E**uropéenne de l’**A**rtisanat et des **P**etites et **M**oyennes **E**ntreprises / **E**uropean **A**ssociation of **C**raft, **S**mall & **M**edium-sized **E**nterprises) is the European Social partner representing craft, trades and SMEs in Europe (EU and countries applying for accession to the EU). It represents, through 75 national and European sectoral federations, over 10 million small enterprises, which employ over 50 million people.