



“The voice of SMEs in Europe”

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE:

Commission’s legislative clean-up list no panacea

- **Better regulation and simplification initiatives must cover all legislation**

Brussels, 22 September 2005 The European Commission’s list of legislative proposals to be withdrawn is far from exhaustive and should not be viewed as the ultimate solution to the better regulation process, according to UEAPME, the small and medium-sized business organisation, in advance of the list’s anticipated publication on 27 September.

“This list of laws for withdrawal must not be regarded as a panacea for the better regulation agenda. For one thing it is fairly limited – most of the texts mentioned are anachronisms that would have been shelved anyway. More importantly, better regulation must not merely be about withdrawal of outdated texts but must be a more comprehensive process, aiming to improve both laws in the pipeline and in force,” said **Hans-Werner Müller**, UEAPME Secretary General.

Of the roughly 70 legislative texts included on the list, the decision to revise the proposals on temporary workers and optical radiation is particularly welcome. This shows the screening process is not just about withdrawing outdated laws. UEAPME is calling on the Commission to forge ahead with its screening process and expand it to cover all legislation currently in the pipeline, citing REACH and the Services Directive as particular examples that should be revisited.

“While this initial screening process and the legislative clean-up list represents an important concrete step by the Commission, demonstrating its commitment to better regulation, it must be viewed as a first step in a much wider process,” continued Mr Müller.

Looking to the upcoming Communication on legislative simplification, under Commissioner Verheugen’s initiative, UEAPME has called for a change of culture both at EU and national level with regard to regulation. This will mean not just focusing on the legislative simplification but on the overall realm of bureaucracy and excessive red tape.

“Better regulation does not mean no more regulation however. Clearly there is a need for new legislation in some areas, such as environmental protection. In these areas it is key that the principle of simplification prevail,” concluded Mr Müller.

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EDITORS’ NOTE: UEAPME is the employer’s organisation representing the interests of crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 78 member organisations, which represent crafts and SMEs across the whole of Europe, covering over 11 million enterprises with nearly 50 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner.

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