



“The voice of SMEs in Europe”

Press Release

IMMEDIATE ISSUE:

Mixed feelings on the REACH vote in the EP Environment Committee

Brussels, 6th October 2005 UEAPME, the European small and medium business organisation, has welcomed the decision of the EP Environment Committee to introduce the OSOR proposal (one substance – one registration) and, particularly, compulsory data sharing on all test data during its vote in first reading on REACH last Tuesday. “If this trend is confirmed by the plenary in November and the opt out clause is strictly implemented SMEs downstream users will get all the data they need to stay on the market and comply with the requirements of REACH” said **UEAPME Secretary General Hans-Werner Müller**.

On the contrary, UEAPME opposed the outcome on most of the other important issues. “It is definitely positive that registration requirements for low volume substances, mainly manufactured by SMEs, have been made lighter in order to defend their competitiveness. However, the whole of the registration system needs to be made less bureaucratic and costly for all substances linking it to their real level of hazard and risk for people and the environment. This is the only way compatible with the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy,” continued Mr Müller.

UEAPME also criticises the modifications voted on substances in articles, which make the original proposal much more complicated and harder for manufacturers and importers to comply with, particularly as far as the reference to the exposure during the whole life cycle of a product is concerned as well as the decision to limit authorisation to a maximum of 5 years. “This decision will oblige businesses to undergo the ordeal of the authorisation procedure again and again with all the costs and the red tape linked to that,” concluded UEAPME’s General Secretary.

*** End *****

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.

Further information: **Richard More O’Ferrall, Press and Communications Officer**

Tel: +32 2 230 7599/ GSM: +32 477 44 38 42

Email: pressoffice@ueapme.com Web: www.ueapme.com/pressroom