



## ***“The voice of SMEs in Europe”***

### **Press Statement**

FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE

#### **Revised Services Directive is now closer to the reality of Europe’s SMEs**

**Brussels, 4 April 2006.** UEAPME, the European SME employers’ organisation, welcomed the revised text of the Services Directive as presented by the European Commission today (Tuesday). By abiding largely to the wording voted by the European Parliament, the Commission showed respect for the changes made to the text on 16 February.

“The text of the Services Directive, as it stands now, is much closer to the reality of Europe’s SMEs”, said **Hans-Werner Müller**, UEAPME Secretary General. “We are pleased to notice that the European Institutions took note of our remarks and concerns during the legislative process, and now the end result is a text which follows the spirit of the initial proposal through a much better set of concrete measures.”

“We are particularly satisfied to see that requirements related to professional insurance have been watered down, thus easing the administrative burden on SMEs”, continued Mr Müller. “This Directive strikes a good balance, by opening up the services sector while ensuring workable procedures for SMEs, high quality of services and consumer protection at the same time.”

“We hope that the European Council will take stock of the revised text and promptly adopt it, so that nothing can stand in the way of a quick implementation of this text in national legislations”, concluded Mr Müller. “It is now time for action: proposals for simplification date back to a Commission Recommendation in 1997, and the provisions concerning freedom to provide services were already suggested in the Commission’s Internal Market Strategy for Services in 2001.”

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

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