

UEAPME Draft Working Programme 2015¹

UEAPME Economic and Fiscal Policy Committee

Meetings

- Wednesday, 15 April 2015
- Wednesday, 21 October 2015

Priorities:

- **Investment Package of Juncker Commission**
- **Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy:**
Ensuring coherency with new Small Business Act and improving implementation at all levels
- **Local Bank Initiative:**
Small local banks are the backbone of SME finance and they financed SMEs also throughout the current crisis, but they suffer from overregulation. The initiative should support the establishment of small local banks by providing them with a simplified regulatory environment.

Other files to be followed:

I) **Economic Policy**

- Economic governance in the EU and the Euro zone / Macro Economic Dialogue
- Social Dimension of the European Monetary Union – economic policy aspects
- Industrial Renaissance

II) **SME finance**

- Evaluation of the implementation of new SME finance instruments (COSME, Horizon 2020, Structural Funds)
- Payments package (MIF Regulation and Payment Services Directive 2)
- Co-operation with co-operative banks, saving banks and promotional banks

¹ Due to the fact that the new European Commission will only present its work programme by the middle of December 2014, this draft programme only contains own initiatives and elements from the Commission's work which are already known

III) State Aid regulations

- Evaluation of the functioning of the new State aid rules (GBER, de-minimis, R&D&I Framework)

IV) R&D and Innovation

- Implementation of SME relevant parts of Horizon 2020 – SME Instrument, Eurostars 2, Financial Instruments
- SME Innovation at regional level – Smart Specialisation Strategy (co-operation with WG Regional Policy)

V) Taxation

- Standard VAT declaration
- EU VAT Forum
- Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB)
- Consultation on a Commission proposal for a definitive VAT System

VI) Study Group

- UEAPME SME Business Climate Index and EU Craft and SME Barometer
- Preparation of a New Scoreboard on SME Policy related to the SBA II
- Co-operation with DG Enterprises and OECD

UEAPME Enterprise Policy Committee

Meetings

- Tbc First half 2015
- Tbc First half 2015

Priorities:

- **Review Small Business Act**
- **Functioning of internal market of services**
- **Internationalisation: TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement between the EU and the US)**
- **Digital Agenda (including Cloud computing project)**

Other files to be followed:

- SME envoy meetings
- New Communication on CSR and Multi-stakeholder Forum February 2015
- East-Invest II
- Geographical Indication Protection for Non-Agricultural products
- Internationalisation website EC
- Retail
- Standardisation
- Second chance for entrepreneurs
- Unfair Practices in supply chain

UEAPME Legal Affairs Committee

Meetings

- Tbc First half 2015
- Tbc First half 2015

Priorities:

- **Better Regulation Agenda REFIT (work programme of Commission will probably contain concrete proposals)**
- **Data Protection**
- **Late Payment Directive**
- **Misleading Directories**

Other files to be followed:

- Commercial Agents
- Contract law
- Review Company Law Directives
- Business Secrets
- Permits/Licences
- Industrial Designs
- One Person Company Statute Directive
- Unity patent
- Copyrights
- Small Claims

UEAPME Social Affairs Committee

Meetings

- Tuesday, 24 February 2015
- Tuesday, 23 June 2015
- Monday 21 or Tuesday 22 September 2015 (tbc)

1 - Priorities initiated by the EC:

- Investment Package of the Juncker's Commission
- Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy
- Social Dialogue in the EU and the Euro area countries
- Social dimension of Economic and Monetary Union and follow-up of the EU social partners joint declaration on macro-economic governance

2 - Autonomous activities of EU social partners

- Negotiations of the EU social dialogue work programme 2015-2017
- Follow-up of the EU social partners joint activities:
 - Follow-up of the results of the negotiations of "In-depth Employment Analysis"
 - Seminars for a better implementation and impact of social dialogue instruments
 - Project on the cost-efficiency of apprenticeship
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3 - Other important files notably EU legislation to be followed

- European Platform to fight undeclared work: adoption and setting-up
- Posting of workers directive: initiation of a targeted review
- Information and Consultation: Recast of 3 directives as part of REFIT- EU Social Partners consultation
- Working time: revision of the directive
- Maternity leave: possible reactivation of the revision of the directive
- Health and Safety at work: General evaluation of EU legislation as part of the new Strategic Framework and REFIT initiative

- Youth Employment: Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative implementation and follow-up of the EU social partners Framework of action on Youth Employment
- Mobility and migration: Review of social security rules regulations and new EU policy on legal migration
- EURES - EU instrument for mobility. First reading in EP, discussion between EP and Council to be followed
- Non-discrimination: possible reactivation of directive on access to goods and services

Sustainable Development Committee

Meetings:

Spring 2015

Autumn 2015

Priorities:

- Implementation of the Communication on “Green Action Plan for SMEs” and opinion of some EU institutions (EESC, Committee of Regions)
- Waste Revision: legislative procedure of the Proposal for a Directive amending Directives 2008/98/EC on waste, 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste, 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment
- Follow up of the Review of the REACH Regulation and preparation for the next REACH registration deadline
- Possible legislative proposals deriving from the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework

Other files to be followed:

I) Environment Policy

- Clean Air Package: (legislative procedure of the Proposal for a Directive on air limit values for Medium Combustion Plants)
- Review of Directive 2004/35/CE on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage
- Monitor the proceedings of the testing phase of the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) and Organisation Environmental Footprint (OEF)
- Follow up of the project “Joint Tender to draft a practical guide for SMEs on Consortiums, Letter of Access and Data sharing regarding the Biocides Product Regulation”

II) Energy Policy

- Review of implementation of article 6 “Purchasing by public bodies” of the Energy Efficiency Directive by December 2015 (report to be submitted to the Parliament and Council)

III) Environment/Energy policy

- Eco-Design Directive: implementation measures on 'energy-related' products (Working Plan 2015-2017)
- Review of Directive 2010/30/EU on Energy Labels

IV) Climate Change Policy

- Impact of Climate Change on Employment – green jobs: possible various initiatives on this file

Training Committee

1 meeting

Priorities

- **Developing and implementing Quality worked-based learning including apprenticeship in Europe** for serving the skills needs of Crafts and SMEs and facilitating young people's transition from school to work.
This should be done with a particular focus on the specific role of Intermediate Bodies to support Crafts and SMEs in the Governance of VET (Vocational Education and Training) systems along the lines of the **European Alliance for Apprenticeships** and the **Framework of Actions on Youth Employment**.
- **Developing Higher VET and strengthening the knowledge transfer between Craft and SMEs and Higher Education systems including universities**
This should take into account Crafts and SME needs for higher and more relevant qualifications **by** making best use of the **EU transparency tools**: European Qualification Framework, European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training
- **Developing continuous VET and ensuring cost-efficient investments in continuous training** to match Craft enterprises and SMEs skills needs taking into account the streamlining of EU instruments notably the Copenhagen process and EU Semester with the Country Specific Recommendations.

The learning mobility dimension, entrepreneurship education and digital agenda should be adequately integrated in each of the three priorities.

Other files to be followed:

Expert group on Regulated Professions

- Mutual evaluation of regulated professions: EU screening and mapping exercise of regulated professions and its follow-up.

Food Forum

Meetings:

- January/February depending on the ENVI committee of the EP
- 30 June 2015
- Second half of 2015

Supported by additional ad hoc coordination meetings in Brussels.

Priorities

- **Official Controls Regulation**
- **Labelling (Food Information Regulation implementation)**
- **Hygiene package**
- **REFIT food law**

Cooperation with EU Institutions

- Continue and develop discussions with DG SANCO and DG AGRI
- Continuing participation and discussion within the EC working groups (e.g. Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health – *if continued in 2015*)
- Continuing discussions in the Stakeholder platform of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Other files to be followed

- Commercial agreements (e.g. TTIP) and effects on SMEs in the food sector (with UEAPME Enterprise Committee)
- Unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food supply chain in Europe (with UEAPME Enterprise Committee)
- Voluntary supply chain initiative and participation in the Governance Group of the Supply Chain Initiative.
- Novel food
- Food fraud
- Quality scheme and rural development (with UEAPME working group regional policy and cohesion of cohesion)
- *'Better knowledge of small food businesses in Europe'*, continuing UEAPME study of first survey.

Working Group Regional Policy and Cohesion of Territories

Meetings:

- March /April 2015: working group meeting with EU Commission DG REGIO, DG EMPL and DG AGRI
- October: seminar with Committee of Regions –CoR during the Open Days.

Priorities

- **Designing and setting up of SME Helpdesk for ESIF**
- **Cooperation with Committee of Regions and follow up of the seminar 18th November 2014**
- **SME in partnership governance and Code of conduct on Partnership**
- **Practical application of administrative simplification, including discussions on creation of alternative dispute resolution systems for ESIF.**

Cooperation with EU Commission and Parliament

- Establishment of close relations with Commissioner Cretu and her Cabinet and with REGI Committee in Parliament
- Follow up of NPA and OP and consideration of SME and microenterprises priorities;
- Preparation of a “User friendly note” on ESIF rules and delegated acts
- Resumption of discussions with DG AGRI on rural development
- Participation to EU Committees and working groups on ESF, Structured Dialogue, Common agricultural policy, Rural development
- Participation to the preparation of the mid-term review ESIF 2014-2020 and to the strategic group on Cohesion policy after 2020.

Cooperation with EU Social partners (with SAC Committee)

- Partnership governance with economic and social partners at regional level
- Regional social dialogue

Other files to be followed

- SME Innovation at Regional level- RIS 3 Regional Smart specialisation Strategies (with EcoFis Committee)
- Access to financial instruments at regional level and the initiative Local bank (with EcoFis Committee)
- Macro regional, regional and trans-border cooperation, e.g. the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region
- Social dialogue at regional level (with SAC Committee)
- SBA and EU 2020 policy at regional level (with Enterprise Committee and EcoFis Committee)
- Role of SME organisations in Cohesion policy (with Enterprise Committee)
- Regional dimension in UEAPME positions (with UEAPME Committees and working groups)

Working Group Tourism

Meetings:

No meetings foreseen

Priorities:

- Consultation on the European Tourism of the future
- Open consultation on regulatory and administrative framework on tourism businesses, public administrations, and other tourism stakeholders in the EU

Other files to be followed:

- European tourism conference

Cosmetic Forum

Meetings

- 20 January: Conference
- Second half 2015

Priorities

- Endocrine interrupters
- Preservatives
- Allergens resulting of fragrances in cosmetic products
- Correction Annexes 2 to 5 of the Cosmetic Products Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 (Cosmetics Regulation)

Continued priorities

- Claims in relation to cosmetic products
- Substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (CMR)
- Cosmetic Products Notification Portal (CPNP): the online notification system created for the implementation of the Cosmetics Regulation

Cooperation with EU Commission and Parliament

- Continuing discussions in the working groups on cosmetic products, claims, borderline products, CPNP, *Cosmetovigilance* and skin allergens (DG SANCO)
- Consultation with DG ENVI on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization (Nagoya Protocol)

Other files to be followed

- Commercial agreements (e.g. TTIP) and effects on SMEs in the cosmetic sector (with UEAPME Enterprise Committee)

Brussels, November 2015