



EUROCHAMBRES



I Press Release

Brussels, 5 June 2008

Better Regulation: “Low” Level Group presents concrete measures to fight red tape

The SME “Low” Level Group (LLG) to fight administrative burdens presented today its package of concrete measures and political demands to substantially reduce red tape: 21 proposals, representing a saving potential for companies of approximately EUR 2.5 to 3.5 billion were hammered out by the LLG.

“The LLG suggestions come from the grassroots entrepreneurial level and were developed in a cost-efficient and quick way,” explained Christoph Leitl, President of the SME UNION. *“Concrete results have been obtained in only six months and are a big step towards our goal of 25 percent less red tape, allowing SMEs to prosper and grow.”*

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“The efficient and constructive work of the Low Level Group shows that, even with a tight budget and in a short time, grassroots experience allows tangible results to be obtained.”*

The whole package will be presented to Enterprise Commissioner Günter Verheugen this afternoon. *“It is of the utmost importance that the Commission takes into account and responds to the concerns of European small businesses and especially start-ups,”* pointed out Jade President Tanya Müller-Borges.

21 concrete suggestions

The work of the LLG concentrated in part on the 13 Commission priority areas of information obligations, but went further in order to fight red tape in a bigger context. Out of the 21 proposals made, for instance, 8 refer to environmental policy, 2 concern e-commerce and 2 relate to transport. Measures refer both to existing and forthcoming EU legislation.

The LLG also addressed the Small Business Act (SBA) as part of the solution to the ‘red tape issue’. For this, however, the SBA needs to be more than a replicating exercise of what already exists: it must be a wide-reaching and rigorous proposal.

About the “Low” Level Group

The “Low” Level Group was created at the end of 2007 to support and stimulate the Commission’s “High Level Expert Group” to fight against administrative burdens. It was set up by the SME UNION of the European People’s Party, EUROCHAMBRES (the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and Jade (the European Confederation of Junior Enterprises). It is made up of 7 SME entrepreneurs from the grassroots level and 7 SME experts for background support.

The full package of measures proposed by the “Low” Level Group can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=1050 and www.sme-union.org/docs

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