

UEAPME Newsflash

Capital requirements: SMEs call for impact assessment

UEAPME replied this week to a consultation launched by the European Commission on a new directive on capital requirements for banks. Capital requirements should be increased for the financial products that caused the current crisis, such as the trading book and sophisticated products, but certainly not for normal retail or SME loans, wrote UEAPME, which also called for an all-encompassing and independent impact assessment to be carried out prior to any legislative initiative. UEAPME also spoke against the introduction of a “general leverage ratio”, which would hold back lower-risk financial products that are widely used by SMEs, and stressed that the pro-cyclical effects of Basel II rules and IFRS accounting standards must be reduced. Finally, UEAPME praised cooperative banks and savings banks for their role in providing access to finance for SMEs, warning that the typical own resources of these banks should not be excluded from “tier 1” capital. [Read more](#) or contact [Gerhard Huemer](#)

UEAPME speaks against the introduction of IFRS for SMEs

UEAPME replied this week to a [consultation by the European Commission](#) on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for SMES. According to UEAPME, IFRS for SMEs are not suitable for widespread use within Europe, as they are based on standards written for larger companies that were subsequently adapted to SMEs without taking into account their specific needs and features. This approach is against the “Think Small First” principle, wrote UEAPME, which also stressed that the latest draft IFRS for SMEs remain too long and complex and may require changes to Member States’ fiscal systems. UEAPME therefore urged the European Commission to come up with accounting rules that respect the final users of accounts and their needs, and to provide a simplification of the requirements for SMEs in the framework of the 4th and 7th directives. Introducing IFRS for SMEs at this stage would have a negative impact on SMEs, concluded UEAPME. [Read more](#) or contact [Luc Hendrickx](#)

End users comment on end dates for SEPA migration

The Payment Systems End-User Committee (EUC), of which UEAPME is a member with Eurocommerce, other trade organisations and consumers’ organisation BEUC, published this week a [position paper](#) on the issue of end dates in the framework of SEPA, the Single Euro Payments Area that aims to introduce Europe-wide rules for credit transfers, debt transfers and payment card services. In reply to a discussion paper by the European Commission, the EUC stressed that end dates for SEPA credit transfer (SCT) and SEPA direct debit (SDD) should be considered separately. After commenting extensively on each of the options proposed by the Commission, the EUC concluded that it would not be against a one-off regulatory solution for end dates, as long as a binding community instrument sets the overall requirements, SCT and SDD are separated, end users are fully involved and consulted and the recently set up SEPA Council is an integral part of the process. Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

Construction Forum tackles standardisation and CE marks

The UEAPME Construction Forum took place this week in Brussels. Participants in the meeting had a chance to discuss several questions of high importance for the construction sector in Europe. The Construction Products Regulation (CPR), which is currently being examined by a working group of the Council, was one of the main issues raised at the Forum. Participants took as well the opportunity to debate on NORMAPME’s reply to the European Commission’s consultation on the revision of the standardisation package. Other items for discussion included the QualiCert project on the accreditation of installers of renewable energy systems, which was presented by Christine Lins, Secretary General of the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC), and the Eco-design directive, which was discussed with Jeanine Bucherer from our member ZDH. For more information contact the [EBC](#), Chair of the Forum.

KEY EVENTS AHEAD:

- [8th European Eco-Innovation Forum](#) (20-21/04, Bilbao, contact [Rosa Solanes](#))
- [“SME – TraiNet” conference](#) (05-07/05, Helsinki, contact [Ludger Fischer](#))
- [ECRI breakfast meeting on late payments](#) (11/05, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))
- [“Getting SMEs on the road to recovery” conference](#) (31/05, Madrid, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))

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