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SME UNION President Leitl: 6 months later SME “Low” Level Group proposals partially implemented

“Half a year after the presentation of the 21 proposals for the reduction of administrative burdens, we can announce our first achievements”, said SME UNION President and initiator of the LLG Christoph Leitl today, exactly six months after handing over the suggestions to the European Commission. “Our proposals, representing a saving potential for companies of approximately 2.5 to 3.5 billions of Euros, were hammered out this year by our experts only within a view months” underlined Leitl.

After six months, 1 suggestion was already fully implemented (EU Battery Waste Directive), and 3 suggestions were taken over by the High Level Group for Better Regulation (HLG) set up by the EU Commission for implementation (European Waste Catalogue, Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and Public Procurement)”, explained President Leitl. 14 LLG suggestions are currently in the process of implementation.

In a speech at the Commission’s Conference “Cutting Red Tape for Europe” this year, Commissioner Günter Verheugen has referred to our catalogue of the LLG as “very interesting proposals for simplifying life for SMEs.” Verheugen called the proposals “concrete, practical, innovative and quickly realizable”. The full package of measures proposed by the LLG can be downloaded from www.sme-union.org/docs.

In the near future, the High Level Group in cooperation with the Commission will continue the selection of proposals possible for quick implementation out of the remaining contributions. “The LLG will continue to push for the implementation of all of our proposals on all legislative levels to reach the goal of minus 25 percent red tape until 2010”, continued the SME UNION President.

The European Commission has announced to present a report on Better Regulation end of January 2009 which shall comprise the planned measures for the next two years. “This will be the time we also will put forward our mid term review and present next steps, concluded the SME UNION President.

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SME UNION (Small and Medium Entrepreneurs Union) of the EPP (European People’s Party) is the network of pro-business Christian-Democrat, Conservative and Liberal politicians and political organizations. Its main objective is to help in shaping EU policy in a more SME friendly way. www.sme-union.org