



Athens, 02 July 2009

Peter Jungen elected as the new SME UNION President

The General Assembly of the SME UNION the business organization of the European People's Party elected Peter Jungen as its new President during its Congress in Athens. Peter Jungen, Chairman of Peter Jungen Holding GmbH, is a German Entrepreneur and Business Angel Investor in start-ups in Europe and USA. He is also Co-Chairman of the Economic and Social Policy Committee of the EPP.

Peter Jungen declared:

"It is to be well understood that the way out of the global economic and financial crisis will only be successfully achieved by enhancing innovation, strengthening entrepreneurship and encouraging start-ups. This is the time of entrepreneurs, Europe needs a Renaissance of entrepreneurship. Therefore, politics have to concentrate on improving framework conditions for making it easier to grow businesses and to start them, as SMEs will be part of the solution. It is also important for the entrepreneurs to actively participate in the debate regarding the Social Market Economy in Europe. We will increase our efforts for an even closer cooperation with the newly elected European Parliament particularly with the SME Circle, with the incoming European Commission, particularly with the Commissioner in charge of SMEs and with the incoming Swedish EU Council Presidency.

The outgoing President Christoph Leitl was elected Honorary President.

Further to the election of the new President Peter Jungen, the Vice-President and the leader of the parliamentary group of the Austrian People's party ÖVP, Karlheinz Kopf, as a member of the Presidency, was elected Co-President.

More information on Peter Jungen:

- Peter Jungen, chairman of Peter Jungen Holding GmbH, is an entrepreneur and angel investor.
- He is Co-Founder of several start-ups in Europe and in USA, including Idealo Internet GmbH, the leading German prize comparison shopping platform, Berlin. He is a Partner of the Halo Fund, Palo Alto.
- He is Co-Founder and President of European Business Angels Network (EBAN) (2001-2004), a member of the New York Angels, a founding board member of the China Business Angels Network (CBAN), Beijing. He is a board member of several companies and institutions i.e. like New York Philharmonic and Member of the Advisory Council of Deutsche Bank AG Frankfurt.
- He is Founding-President of the European Enterprise Institute (EEI).
- He is a member of the International Advisory Council and Chairman of the Center on Capitalism and Society of Columbia University, New York and a member of the International Josef Schumpeter Society.
- In September 2000 the leading German business magazine "Wirtschaftswoche" named Peter Jungen one of the most important personalities who shape the future of the „New Economy“.
- In August 1999 Peter Jungen was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany.

More information on Karlheinz Kopf

- Karlheinz Kopf is entrepreneur in his home-town in Altsch, Austria. The enterprise "Sportbau Walser" is specialized in equipping and building gyms and sporting fields.
- He is member of the Austrian Parliament (National Council) since 1994 for the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP). During his membership in the National Council he was spokesperson of the ÖVP for sports, environment and energy.

- In 2000 he became Secretary General of the Österreichischer Wirtschaftsbund (SME-Union Austria). The Wirtschaftsbund is the biggest political interest group for SMEs in Austria.
- In November 2008 he was elected as leader of the parliamentary group of the Austrian People's Party and he currently is Vice-President of the ÖVP.

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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