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Peter Jungen, SME UNION President: Otto Count Lambsdorff was one of the most important economic ministers of post war Germany and a great supporter of the Social Market Economy concept

At the occasion of the passing away of Otto Count Lambsdorff Peter Jungen, SME UNION President stated: "Otto Count Lambsdorff was one of the most important economic ministers of post war Germany and a great supporter of the Social Market Economy concept.

He was steadfastly proclaiming and fighting for the Social Market Economy in Germany and in Europe. Otto Count Lambsdorff believed in the strength and the personal responsibility of individuals in an open society. He was instrumental in bringing about the Kohl Government, laying the foundation for the coalition between CDU-CSU and the Liberal Party FDP in 1992. Without him, the proponents of free market and free enterprise in Europe would have been much weaker.

Thus Otto Count Lambsdorff contributed substantially to the completion of a single market in Europe and to the creation of a more competitive Europe.

His passing away is a great loss for all those in Europe who believe in Social Market Economy as a base for economic dynamism and inclusion giving equal chances to everyone and solving the most pressing social problems in particular access to employment. We will miss his voice in the public debate for individual and economic freedom in Europe."

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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