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Strong EPP will help Europe to emerge stronger from the crisis

The European People's Party has successfully defended its position as the leading party of Europe. Especially in times of crisis and uncertainty, Europeans know their best advocate for their demands and rights, said SME UNION President Christoph Leitl after the third victory in a row of the EPP in the European Parliamentary elections. Leitl especially congratulated all the re-elected members of the EPP's SME Circle who fight alongside the SME UNION for European small and medium-sized enterprises and is looking forward to an even stronger and more fruitful cooperation in the upcoming 5 years.

"Politics don't create jobs, it is the entrepreneurial spirit of the people that do so. Politics create the economic, fiscal and logistic environment in which entrepreneurial initiative can prosper. This is the understanding of the role politics have to play by the European People's Party", emphasized President Leitl. European businessmen have voted for the EPP because it is fighting for:

- Less and better regulation: The EPP and its business organization, the SME UNION, strongly fight against bureaucratic burdens for business. The SME UNION Working Group hammered out within a few months valid and concrete measures pushing the Commission, Parliament and Member States to act.
- Lower prices and fighting inflation: As the EPP has always been in favor of the opening up of national markets, it strongly believes in the effects of free competition bringing down prizes in various areas like internet access, air travel, postal services, energy markets.
- More funding on regional level for regional SMEs
- Lower taxes and simpler tax systems through tax competition
- Open markets for an open society
- Better financing for SMEs: The Models we consider the most helpful for SMEs are microcredits, venture capital as well as EIB funds available at regional level.

"More than ever, Europe has to speak with one voice to overcome the impacts of the American economic crisis from which it is suffering terribly. It has to show that it is a strong player on the global stage which defends the rights of its entrepreneurs and citizens", emphasized President Leitl. A strong EPP -alongside the European Commission and Member States - is what Europe needs to overcome this challenge: "The deepening of Europe can no longer be considered as an opportunity or a possibility. It is a matter of survival. Europe will not allow to be pushed out of the world stage. Leitl concluded that "only with joint forces without national and shortsighted egoism we will be able to solve our problems on the EU level."

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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