

THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2009

VENUE: CLARION CONGRESS HOTEL, PRAGUE

Conference: "The Small Business Act for Europe: business without barriers"

09:00–10:45 Opening Session: "How does the Small Business Act for Europe reduce the barriers to business?" *Meridian meeting room*

Joint plenary session with delegates from EUROCHAMBRES' Annual Congress

Welcome: Czech Minister of Industry and Trade

Opening speeches:

Günter Verheugen, Vice President of the European Commission

Pierre Simon, President of EUROCHAMBRES (The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

Petr Kužel, President of Czech Chamber of Commerce

Panel discussion: "How does the Small Business Act for Europe reduce the barriers to business?"

Moderator: **Françoise Le Bail**, Deputy Director General of DG Enterprise & Industry, European Commission

Andrea Benassi, Secretary General of UEAPME (European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises)

Hugh Morgan-Williams, Vice-Chairman of BUSINESSEUROPE's Entrepreneurship & SME Committee; CEO of Canford Group plc

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES (The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

Questions and Answers

10:45–11:15 Coffee Break *Conference lobby*

Screening of the winners and runners-up of the European Entrepreneurship Video Award 2009 *Zenit and Nadir meeting rooms*

10:45–11:15 Press conference for VIPs *Quadrant press room*

11:15–13:00 Plenary Session: "Think small first – better regulation for SMEs" *Zenit and Nadir meeting rooms*

Moderator: **Françoise Le Bail**, Deputy Director General of DG Enterprise & Industry, European Commission

Dr Edmund Stoiber, Chairman of the High Level Group of independent stakeholders on Administrative Burdens

Edit Herczog, Member of the European Parliament

Karel Machotka, General Director for Entrepreneurship, Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade

Michael Gibbons CBE, Member of the High Level Group of independent stakeholders on Administrative Burdens;

Member of the UK Better Regulation Commission

13:00–14:30 Lunch *Restaurant and Conference lobby*

14:30–16:00 Workshop A: "Removing barriers to markets"
Zenit meeting room

Workshop B: "Removing barriers to entrepreneurship"
Nadir meeting room

Chair: **Mechthild Wörsdörfer**, Head of Unit, SME policy development, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission

Chair: **Štěpán Hošna**, Director for Business Environment, Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade

Ingmar Vali, Head of Department of Court Registries, Centre of Registers and Information Systems, Estonia, and **Carlos Miguel Brito**, Instituto das Tecnologias de Informação na Justiça, Portugal, Portuguese-Estonian company registration portal

Ivana Řápková, Mayor, Chomutov, Runner-up EEA 2006 Red Tape Reduction Award

Björn Olanders, Move or Stay and Improve, ALMI Development Agency, Sweden

Frans Heessels, Eigen Werk, Runner-up European Enterprise Awards 2007, Investment in People category, The Netherlands

Pascal Rogard, Director in charge of European and international affairs, DG Competitiveness, Industry and Services, Ministry of the Economy, Finances and Industry, France

Thomas Cooney, Social Entrepreneurship and the Student, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland

Rapporteur: **Soňa van Deelenová**, CEO of the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives

Rapporteur: **Luc Hendrickx**, Director of Enterprise Policy and External Relations, UEAPME (European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises)

Questions and Answers

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16:00–16:30 Coffee Break *Conference lobby*

16:30–17:30 Closing session: "Conclusions" *Zenit and Nadir meeting rooms*

Analysis and recommendations

Chair: **Maive Rute**, Director, Promotion of SMEs' competitiveness, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission

Rapporteur workshop A: **Soňa van Deelenová**, CEO of the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives

Rapporteur workshop B: **Luc Hendrickx**, Director of Enterprise Policy and External Relations; UEAPME

1st European SME week: a success to be continued

Françoise Le Bail, Deputy Director General of DG Enterprise & Industry, European Commission

Closing: **Karel Machotka**, General Director for Entrepreneurship, Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade

Official close of the conference