

SME Intergroup

2004-2009

Abstract of the first SME Intergroup Meeting
Strasbourg, Wednesday, 9th March 2005

chaired by

President Othmar Karas (EPP/ED),
Vice-President Edit Herczog (PSE) and
Vice-President Wolf Klinz (ALDE)

List of MEPs participating the Meeting

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|--------|----------------|-----------|--------|
| Karas | Othmar | EPP/ED | Harbour | Malcolm | EPP/ED |
| Herczog | Edit | PSE | Hudacky | Jan | EPP/ED |
| Klinz | Wolf | ALDE | Kaczmarek | Filip A. | EPP/ED |
| Andrikiene | Laima | EPP/ED | Mann | Thomas | EPP/ED |
| Brejc | Mihael | EPP/ED | Mayer | Hans-P. | EPP/ED |
| Bushill-Matthews | Philip | EPP/ED | Panayotopoulos | Marie | EPP/ED |
| Douay | Brigitte | PSE | Radwan | Alexander | EPP/ED |
| Doyle | Avril | EPP/ED | Resetarits | Karin | NI |
| Ebner | Michl | EPP/ED | Rübig | Paul | EPP/ED |
| Ek | Lena | ALDE | Seeber | Richard | EPP/ED |
| Fourtou | Janelly | ALDE | van den Burg | Ieke | PSE |
| Geringer de | | | Whitehead | Philip | PSE |
| Ödenberg | Lidia J. | PSE | Wortmann-Kool | Corien | EPP/ED |
| Gierek | Adam | PSE | | | |
| Handzlik | Małgorzata | EPP/ED | | | |

Excused MEPs

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|------------|---------|--------|
| Evans | Jonathan | EPP/ED | Tarabella | Marc | PSE |
| Niebler | Angelika | EPP/ED | Wuermeling | Joachim | EPP/ED |

Assistants of MEPs

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|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Damiani | Davide | Ass. P. Toia |
| Debra | Edouard | Ass. D. Vlasto |
| Feitberg | Louise | Ass. K. Riis-Jorgensen |
| Gutmann | Michaela | Ass. O. Karas |
| Hilser | Michael | Ass. K. von Wogau |
| Knott | Lauren | Ass. P. Bushill-Matthews |
| Kosiniska | Sylwia | Ass. M. Handzlik |
| Krafcik | Heribert | Ass. Z. Plestinska |
| Martinek | Matthias | Ass. P. Rübig |
| Matuszewska | Katarzyna | Ass. A. Gierek |
| Nyman | Markus | Ass. H. Goudin |
| Salek | Magdalena | Ass. J. Buzek |
| Santamaria | Maria Sol. | Ass. L. Rudi Ubeda |
| Skarja | Daniel | Ass. R. Jordan Cizelj |

Observers

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|------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| Deptula | Monika | SME UNION | Sagmeister | Susanne | EuroCommerce |
| Föhehrer | Cindy | Eurochambres | Schweighofer | Barbara | SME UNION |
| Lee | Sarah | Eurochambres | White | Chris | EU-Reporter |
| Linnemann | Tobias | Adv. SME Circle | | | |
| Müller | Mario | EuroCommerce | | | |
| Pellegrino | Patrice | EuroCommerce | | | |
| Prime | B.A. | ESBA | | | |

Members of the SME Intergroup

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|-------------------|------------|--------|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Karas | Othmar | EPP/ED | Langendries | Raymond | EPP/ED |
| Herczog | Edit | PSE | Lehideux | Bernard | ALDE |
| Klinz | Wolf | ALDE | Leinen | Jo | PSE |
| Andrikiene | Laima | EPP/ED | Liese | Peter | EPP/ED |
| Ashworth | Richard J. | EPP/ED | Locatelli | Pia-Elda | PSE |
| Barsi-Pataky | Etelka | EPP/ED | López-Istúriz White | Antonio | EPP/ED |
| Bauer | Edit | EPP/ED | Lulling | Astrid | EPP/ED |
| Brejc | Mihael | EPP/ED | Lynne | Elizabeth | ALDE |
| Brepöls | Frederika | EPP/ED | Matsis | Yannakis | EPP/ED |
| Brezina | Jan | EPP/ED | Mayer | Hans-P. | EPP/ED |
| Brunetta | Renato | EPP/ED | McCarthy | Arlene | PSE |
| Bushill-Matthews | Philip | EPP/ED | McDonald | Mary Lou | GUE/NGL |
| Buzek | Jerzy | EPP/ED | Mikolasik | Miroslav | EPP/ED |
| Calabuig Rull | Joan | PSE | Mitchell | Gay | EPP/ED |
| Caspary | Daniel | EPP/ED | Muscat | Joseph | PSE |
| Chichester | Giles | EPP/ED | Paleckis | Justas V. | PSE |
| Corbey | Dorette | PSE | Pálfi | István | EPP/ED |
| del Castillo Vera | Pilcy | EPP/ED | Panayotopoulos | Marie | EPP/ED |
| Didziokas | Gintaras | UEN | Peterle | Alojz | EPP/ED |
| Dombrovskis | Valdis | EPP/ED | Pittella | Giovanni | PSE |
| Doorn | Bert | EPP/ED | Podesta | Guido | EPP/ED |
| Douay | Brigitte | PSE | Podkanski | Zdzislaw | EPP/ED |
| Doyle | Avril | EPP/ED | Purvis | John | EPP/ED |
| Ebner | Michl | EPP/ED | Radwan | Alexander | EPP/ED |
| Ehler | Christian | EPP/ED | Reul | Herbert | EPP/ED |
| Ek | Lena | ALDE | Rübig | Paul | EPP/ED |
| Evans | Jonathan | EPP/ED | Sartori | Amalia | EPP/ED |
| Fourtou | Janelly | ALDE | Seeber | Richard | EPP/ED |
| Geringer de | | | Silva Peneda | José A. | EPP/ED |
| Ödenberg | Lidia J. | PSE | Spautz | Jean | EPP/ED |
| Gierek | Adam | PSE | Stastný | Peter | EPP/ED |
| Gill | Neena | PSE | Sturdy | Robert | EPP/ED |
| Griesbeck | Nathalie | ALDE | Thomsen | Britta | PSE |
| Guy-Quint | Catherine | PSE | Titely | Gary | PSE |
| Harbour | Malcolm | EPP/ED | Toubon | Jacques | EPP/ED |
| Hennicot-Schöpges | Erna | EPP/ED | Ulmer | Thomas | EPP/ED |
| Hökmark | Gunnar | EPP/ED | Vakalis | Nikolaos | EPP/ED |
| Honeyball | Mary | PSE | van den Burg | Ieke | PSE |
| Hudacky | Jan | EPP/ED | van Nistelrooij | Lambert | EPP/ED |
| Itälä | Ville | EPP/ED | Weiler | Barbara | PSE |
| Jäätteenmäki | Anneli | ALDE | Weisgerber | Anja | EPP/ED |
| Jeggle | Elisabeth | EPP/ED | Wortmann-Kool | Corien | EPP/ED |
| Jordan-Cizelj | Romana | EPP/ED | Wuermeling | Joachim | EPP/ED |
| Kaczmarek | Filip A. | EPP/ED | | | |
| Kauppi | Piia-N. | EPP/ED | | | |

Aim of the SME Intergroup

The objective of the Intergroup is the promotion of the SME interests to support the Lisbon Agenda goals at a cross-party level in the European Parliament. Over the next five years the SME-Intergroup within the European Parliament will focus on relevant SME issues like SMEs and the Lisbon Agenda, Services Directive, REACH, Basel II, Patents, Regional Development, etc on a cross-party level in order to show the importance of small and medium sized enterprises for economic growth and full employment in Europe.

Board of the SME Intergroup

- **President** : Othmar Karas (EPP/ED)
- **Vice-Presidents** : Edit Herczog (SPE), Wolf Klinz (ALDE)
- **Membership**: open to all MEPs

SME Intergroup Meetings (16.30-17.30h, European Parliament Strasbourg)

- 9th of March 2005: Services Directive
- 11th of May 2005: Lisbon Agenda and SMEs
- 6th of July 2005
- 28th of September 2005
- 16th of November 2005

SME Intergroup press, media & communication

All members of the Intergroup are welcome to put this information on their websites and use it in their press and media work.

SME Intergroup topics

All members of the Intergroup are warmly invited to point out their fields of interest and possible topics for the SME Intergroup meetings. For this purpose please contact the office of Othmar Karas MEP.

Contact

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Services Directive & SMEs

After the opening and a short introduction of the SME-Intergroup by **Othmar Karas**, President of the SME Intergroup, the invited speakers gave impulse-statements.

Margot Fröhlinger from the European Commission presented the proposal Services Directive and its impact on SMEs. According to Fröhlinger, the Services Directive aims at reducing the complexity of legislation and regulation. She pointed out that cross boarder activities are worst off. Therefore for setting up a business there should be one single rule of the game all over Europe. For cross-boarder provision of services the country of origin principle should be the main principle. At the moment because of the complexity and the interference of different directives with the Services Directive there is a lot of misunderstanding in the debate.

Hans-Werner Müller, Secretary General of UEAPME the European Association of Craft, small and medium-sized Enterprises underlined the importance of having a Services Directive in general. But he made general reservations concerning the country of origin principle as the main principle in the Services Directive. He proposed to determine a positive list. From his point of view the Services Directive in general should become a “minimum standard directive”.

Evelyne Gebhardt, Rapporteur of the Services Directive in the leading Committee Internal Market and Consumer Protection, reported about the status of the legal process concerning the Services Directive. The European Parliament is ready to meet the European Commission’s demands and the institutions should work together but within the legal procedures foreseen for the institutions. She stressed it is vital to overcome the anxiety of people towards the Directive and the European people should be convinced that the free services market is achievable.

Conclusion

The Services Directive is necessary and very important, but there have to be and will be major changes in the directive during the legal procedure in the Parliament.

The Commission will not withdraw the Services Directive but will participate actively in the legal procedure.

The country of origin principle should become the main principle for cross-boarder provision of services, excepting the fact there is another detailed regulation which has to be defined very clearly. It is important to specify the coverage of the Services Directive to avoid legal uncertainty and to make sure that the existing national standards are not overruled.

The posting of workers Directive and the Directive on mutual recognition of diplomas interfere with the Services Directive. The classification has to be done precisely to decrease legal uncertainty.

As far as the competences and responsibility of control for the regulation of cross-boarder provision of services are concerned, the discussion has to go ahead. It has to be ensured that the existing local and national possibilities of control remain in power.

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| Preview |
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The next meeting will take place on the 11th of May 2005 from 16:30 to 17:30. The topic will be "SMEs and the Lisbon-Agenda".