



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY & HEALTH

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update

28.05.10



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European SME Week 2010 Promoting and supporting entrepreneurship

This pan-European campaign is designed to promote and support entrepreneurship. Over 3 million people are estimated to participate in the some 1261 events and activities that are being organised in 37 countries across Europe. It will showcase the support available to business at the European, national, regional and local level. At events, SMEs and micro-firms can share experiences and develop their businesses. There is also a special focus on promoting entrepreneurship as a career option, especially for younger people. Some countries will run company open days, which will provide an insight into the challenges and rewards of running a business.

During this week, the European Commission will showcase the support available to business at the European, national, regional and local level and the important role that the **Enterprise Europe Network** plays in each country with its 600 partner organisations which provide information and advisory services to SMEs and help them find business partners.

The European Commission's **Small Business Act for Europe** (SBA), adopted in 2008, is the key policy instrument which sets out an ambitious agenda for action both in the Member States and at the EU level in favour of entrepreneurship and SMEs. It aims at developing an environment within which entrepreneurship is rewarded, such as:

- Introducing **entrepreneurship education** as an integral part of the curriculum at all stages of education in Member States.
- Stimulating exchange of skills and mutual learning among young entrepreneurs through the **Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs** scheme
- Promoting female entrepreneurship through the **network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors**.

The swift implementation of the actions of the SBA is of utmost importance to help SMEs resuming their role as job engines of our economies as quickly as possible. European SME Week 2010 will offer the possibility to highlight the actions that each country has taken to implement the SBA and make life easier for SMEs.

First held in 2009, European SME Week is now central to the European Commission's actions to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

More information on the European SME Week 2010

<http://ec.europa.eu/sme-week>

European Small Business portal

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/index_en.htm



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World No Tobacco Day 2010

Ahead of the 2010 No Tobacco Day (31st May), the European Commission unveils the results of a Eurobarometer survey which shows that a strong majority of EU citizens support stronger tobacco control measures.

Three in every four Europeans support picture health warnings on tobacco packs and smoke free restaurants. The survey also shows, however, that nearly one in every three Europeans still smokes, despite the fact that tobacco kills half of its users. The Commission is planning to launch an open consultation shortly with a view to revising the 2001 Tobacco Products Directive and is stepping up its tobacco control efforts throughout the EU.

The Tobacco Products Directive

The **Directive** (2001/37/EC) dates from 2001. It stipulates the maximum limits for nicotine and tar in cigarettes, obliges producers to use textual health warnings on cigarette packs and report on tobacco ingredients and bans using terms such as 'light'.

The Commission is currently reviewing the Directive on tobacco products to provide a higher level of health protection and to update it to new developments as regards ingredients and national legislations, for example, giving consumers more information and making tobacco products less attractive, in particular to young people. The Commission plans to put forward a revised proposed Directive in the second half of 2011.

Smoke free Environments

Following the Council Recommendation of November 2009 on smoke free environments, the European Commission strongly supports Member States' work towards "**A Smoke-free Europe by 2012**". In this context, the Commission encourages all Member States to protect their citizens from exposure to tobacco smoke in enclosed public spaces, workplaces and public transport, to reduce children's exposure to second-hand smoke. (The adoption and implementation of laws on smoke-free environment remain a competence of the Member States.)

Eurobarometer Survey

The Eurobarometer survey shows that European citizens favour stricter tobacco control measures. There is high public support for picture health warnings on tobacco packs (75% in favour), even though only four Member States currently use them. Support is also high for banning flavours that make tobacco products more appetising (61%) and for banning advertising at the point of sale (63%).

More information:

Factsheet on tobacco control in the EU

http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_information/documents/tobacco_control_en.pdf

Eurobarometer Survey Summary

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_332_sum_en.pdf