

European Elections: Small businesses make big buzz



Brussels, 09/04/2024 – Today, SMEUnited launched its campaign highlighting priorities from small and medium enterprises for the European elections. “Imagine SMEs as bees, hardworking, agile, flexible, important for cross fertilisation in many ecosystems,” visualised President Petri Salminen the world of SMEs. “SMEs, like bees, need the right framework conditions to prosper and drive the transitions.”

“Competitiveness is the buzz word in Brussels these days” stated President Salminen, “and SMEUnited intends to get the SME buzz going, since they are the ones making the ecosystems stick together”.

Mr Salminen presented the SMEUnited Memorandum for the European Election “[SMEs driving the transitions](#)”. He referred to the challenging years SMEs have gone through and the demands of the digital and green transition laying ahead.

As an entrepreneur, Petri Salminen raised the question “how come that 24,3 million SMEs in Europe still must comply with legislation made on the basis of the 0,2% big companies”. “Given small companies’ characteristics, making rules tailored to their capacities will certainly also work for larger companies”, Mr Salminen stressed.

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EDITORS' NOTES: SMEUnited is the association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe with 65 member organisations from over 30 European countries. SMEUnited represents national cross-sectoral Craft and SME federations, European SME branch organisations and associate members. SMEUnited is a recognised employers' organisation and European Social Partner. SMEUnited was formerly known as UEAPME. www.SMEUnited.eu | Twitter: @SMEUnited

Moreover, he invited future decision makers to shift from delivering on law making to making law deliver. The current regulatory framework must be reviewed to ensure coherence and consistency. Additionally, tailored tools and guidance should be provided.

President Salminen concluded with a call to his colleague entrepreneurs: “A unified, competitive Europe with a functioning single market is such an important opportunity for us entrepreneurs that we should make a difference and contribute with our own solutions. So let's put our views on the development of Europe on the table and, above all, let's use our right to vote in elections.”

Today's event addressed current and future members of the European Parliament, representatives from national governments, European Commission officials and other stakeholders to underline that SMEs have to be in the centre of the political process and to raise awareness about SME priorities.

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