



## Ecodesign and Energy Labelling must fit SMEs' needs

EBC and UEAPME jointly reacted to the Ecofys study's first findings regarding the evaluation of the Energy Labelling Directive and some aspects of the Ecodesign Directive. Both associations remark that SMEs face higher burdens and costs than larger market players to comply with energy labelling and ecodesign requirements.

For some products - such as windows - there is the actual risk of different regulations' overlap, which may originate the need to obtain several certificates and labels for the same product but through different ways.

EBC and UEAPME also suggest to focus on compliance assistance instead of market surveillance on the conformity to legislation. Indeed, very often SMEs are not involved in the regulatory process and they lack the technical expertise as well as the financial resources to introduce the necessary changes in the manufacturing process.

 [To read UEAPME and EBC joint reaction click here](#)




## SME policy achievements in the past five years

On 5<sup>th</sup> March UEAPME organised a [breakfast](#) in the Parliament to talk about **SME policy achievements** in the current legislative mandate. EBC, attending the breakfast, appreciates this initiative that provided the opportunity to look back to the last 5 years.

Among the most positive results for construction SMEs, EBC would like to mention:

- ◆ The **Construction Products Regulation**, which includes important provisions for micro-enterprises
- ◆ The **Late Payments Directive** to fight against the debts Public Authorities have towards enterprises
- ◆ The **Regulation on the European Standardisation**, which aims at improving openness and inclusion of the standard making system

 To know construction SMEs priorities for the next 5 years, have a look at the [EBC manifesto](#)



Have a look at EBC latest newsletter in [English](#), [French](#), [Italian](#) and [Spanish](#)



Have a look at SBS first newsletter in [English](#) & [French](#)

## Connect & Construct project seeking pilot participants

The consortium "Connect & Construct" is looking for pilot participants to test the functionality of their web platform. This platform aims at exchanging information and using ICT in construction projects.

▶ To see how the platform can benefit companies and what is expected from them as pilot participant, [click here](#).

▶ [More information about Connect & Construct](#)



## POSTING OF WORKERS Construction SMEs back the agreement

EBC welcomes the agreement regarding the enforcement directive on posting of workers, which was reached at the end of February.

The compromise reflects EBC's main requests. We support the open list of control measures and the possibility for Member States to introduce further provisions to check abusive situations as long as these are proportionate, justified and non-discriminatory. We also back the introduction of a joint and several liability or equivalent provisions to hold the contractor liable.

Now these measures must be applied on the ground by Member States to protect law-abiding SMEs from unfair competition while defending the freedom of movement.

▶ [To have more information click here](#)

## Standardisation SMEs need to be fully involved

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the Working Group of Comitology Committee 1025 met to discuss SMEs' involvement in standardisation. Committee 1025 was created in 2013 as a **result of the adoption of Regulation 1025/2012 on European Standardisation**, and it assists the European Commission in all matters related to the implementation of the Regulation.

In this occasion, UEAPME Secretary General Peter Faross presented Small Business Standards (SBS) - the new association that represents SMEs in standardisation - in front of Member States, the European Commission, and European and national standardisation stakeholders. He emphasised the importance for SMEs to have a proper representation in the standard making process so as they can be fully aware of how to benefit from and participate in it.

▶ Go to [www.sbs-sme.eu](http://www.sbs-sme.eu) to know more about SBS

### Calendar

19/03/2014	<a href="#">New EU rules on procurement and concessions</a> conference - EBC Secretary General Riccardo Viaggi will speak about "Simplification and SMEs"
28/03/2014	SBS General Assembly, Brussels