

UEAPME Newsflash

ADR/ODR: B2C claims must be available in both systems

The European Parliament's Committee for Internal Market and Consumer Protection voted this week on the EC proposals on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). On the positive side, MEPs limited information requirements from traders to consumers compared to the EC proposal. Only traders obliged or committed to ADR/ODR will be subject to these requirements, while those not participating will not be forced to specify it in their websites. As requested by UEAPME, MEPs also made the ODR system available both for claims from consumers towards traders (C2B) and the other way around (B2C). However, this will not be the case for the ADR system, which will not be open for traders to settle claims against consumers. There is no reason for discriminating the trader in this respect, stressed UEAPME. Therefore, the association calls on the Parliament's plenary to make both ADR and ODR available for B2C and C2B. Read more on [ADR](#) or [ODR](#) or contact [Sabine Erkens](#)

TCAs: no need for new EU initiatives in the field, say SMEs

UEAPME replied this week to a public consultation by the European Commission on the future of [transnational company agreements](#) (TCAs), i.e. cross-border agreements covering working and employment conditions and/or relations between employers and workers or their representatives. According to UEAPME, there is no need for further initiatives on this issue at European level. The fact that the number of transnational company agreements increased in the last years clearly shows that they can develop further without any new specific actions, said UEAPME. The association also does not support the creation of a mechanism aiming at clarifying the legal effects of TCAs and does not see as useful the introduction of an EU-wide framework. On the other hand, the continuation of the searchable database of TCAs put in place by the European Commission is welcome, and the development of guidelines for the promotion of good practices could be helpful, wrote UEAPME. [Read more](#) or contact [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

UEAPME presents Euroapprenticeship platform in Strasbourg

Social Affairs, Education and Training Director Liliane Volozinskis spoke last week in Strasbourg at the [national info day](#) for France of the "We Mean Business" campaign by the European Commission. She presented the [Euroapprenticeship](#) platform on mobility and network of intermediary bodies, a project led by our French member APCMA with the full participation of UEAPME and its members. SMEs support learning mobility as a driver to improve the competences of young people and companies' competitiveness. They also play a decisive role as direct trainers with apprentices. Furthermore, SME organisations have a key role as competent bodies and providers of expertise, information and support to learning mobility. Euroapprenticeship aims to create a network for quality partnerships and mutual trust among competent bodies and intermediary organisations, said Ms Volozinskis, who presented its barometer on the "brand awareness" of mobility and its label for companies. Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

Transport Forum: experts updated on several key issues

Our Transport Forum met in Brussels this week. Claire Whittaker from the European Commission's DG MOVE updated participants on the review of the EU rules on access to the international road haulage market. The EU High Level Group on the issue identified four obstacles to the creation of a single European transport area: driver shortage, competition distortions, limitations on cabotage operations, lack of innovation. UEAPME will provide its views at the next meeting with stakeholders in January. Our experts were also informed on posting of workers by our Social Affairs Adviser Helen Hoffmann, as well as on sustainable urban mobility projects by Ries Kamphof from the European Metropolitan Network Institute. Later on, Dalila Frisani from the Grimaldi law firm presented a study on sanctions in commercial road transport. Finally, experts from our Polish member ZRP introduced the theme of the correct settlement of claims related to traffic accidents within national and EU regulations and exchanged views with AIRC, the international association of vehicle body repairers. Contact: [Patrizia Di Mauro](#)

Social Protection Committee & EU social partners discuss AGS

Social Affairs Adviser Helen Hoffmann participated last week in Brussels in a meeting of the [Social Protection Committee](#) with the EU Social Partners to discuss the [Annual Growth Survey \(AGS\)](#). She welcomed the continuity of the five policy priorities, including tackling unemployment and the social consequences of the crisis. The social objectives should be strongly integrated within the macroeconomic and employment dimensions, as employment is still the best safeguard against poverty. On social protection, the AGS shows that its role as automatic stabiliser is weakening as benefit demands increase while budgets remain tight. Moreover, the outcomes of social protection spending are very different across Member States. A more evidence-based policy and the exchange of good practice between Member States are desirable alongside structural reforms, she said. Finally, on governance, she called for social partners to be more consulted on the implementation of the so-called national reform programmes. Contact: [Helen Hoffmann](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- [UEAPME/ACCA roundtable on "Unleashing entrepreneurial potential in Europe"](#) (22/01/13, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))

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