



HEADLINES

EU / ENTREPRENEURSHIP 30/04/2001: ESBA supports "European Awards for the Spirit of Enterprise"

Also this year again, JEE (a network of private and public entities, all engaged in the promotion of young entrepreneurs) organises the "European Awards for the spirit of enterprise". Four main prize categories are defined: young people with the education and training institutions as a partner (SPIN-OFF & EDUCATION), the launch of new enterprises (SEED), the growth of new enterprises (START-UP), and the growth and the innovation of SMEs over the break-even point (EXPANSION & INNOVATION). The deadline to hand in applications is 31 May 2001. ESBA is happy to announce that it is now also supporting the competition for the first time since its creation in 1998. The award is a good example of an open, democratic and concrete effort to foster entrepreneurship in Europe. We hope that many entrepreneurs from all over Europe will show their innovative and creative spirit by participating in the award scheme.

More information and application:

<http://www.jee.org/>

& <http://www.jee.org/app/esba.htm>

EU / SINGLE MARKET 03/05/2001: European Commission launches fifth SLIM round

The SLIM initiative, launched in 1996, aims to improve the quality of legislation, limit costs related to its implementation and reduce its volume. The legislation that will be reviewed in the fifth round concern: - the shipment of radioactive waste; - the levels of pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables; and - the Directive on Cosmetics. The European Commission undertook a critical review of the strengths and weakness of the initiative early 2000 and adopted an action plan to increase its effectiveness. The fifth round will be crucial to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the action plan, as SLIM and the review have been criticised by the European Parliament in January 2001 (see ESBA WEEKLY - Vol 3 - N 6&7) for the lack of concrete results and progress so far and the limited impact it had until now reducing the burden of red tape on business, whereas . Only 14 legislative areas have been reviewed so far.

More info: http://www.db.europarl.eu.int/oeil/oeil_ViewDNL.ProcViewCTX?lang=2&procid=4086&HighlightType=1&Highlight_Text=slim

UPCOMING EVENTS Brussels (B) 7&8/05/2001: SMEs and ETUC action; Theme: Trade union action in SMEs, SMEs and the Social Dialogue. Info: <http://www.etuc.org/press/Release/PR18e-01.cfm>
Noordwijk aan Zee (NL) 10&11/05/2001: Concerted action seminar on Business Failure; Theme: Business failure, Entrepreneurship, Good practices. Info: <http://www.ez.nl/businessfailure/index.htm>
Brussels (B) 29/05/2001: Make it simple!; Theme: Enterprise Policy, SMEs, regulations. Info: <http://www.unice.org>
Lisbon (P) 18&19/06/2001: New strategies for improved health in SME, role of social partners, policy developments and creating supportive environments: Info: http://www.bkk.de/gesundheit/health_at_work