



HEADLINES

EU / TAXATION Washington D.C. 09/05/2001: Context and recent developments

European Commissioner for Internal Market & Taxation, Frits Bolkestein, gave an overview of the context in which European tax developments are taking place, as well as the most important recent developments, in front of the European American Business Council in Washington D.C.. The main issues covered in his speech were on the current difficult debate within the Council and the European Commission on the future cooperation on taxes (harmonisation/competition) (see ESBA WEEKLY - Vol 3 - N 21), VAT on e-commerce (the new US administration will probably seek to extend the current existing moratorium on internet taxation in the US), taxation on savings and taxation matters in the context of the upcoming enlargement.

More info

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/01/205|0|RAPID&lg=EN

EU / INDUSTRY Brussels 14&15/05/2001: Quantitative enterprise policy targets on agenda

Further to the conclusions of the informal Industry Ministerial meeting in Manchester (see ESBA WEEKLY - Vol 3 - N 12) and the Stockholm European Council (see ESBA WEEKLY - Vol 3 - N 17) the use of quantitative targets will be addressed again during the upcoming Council of Industry and Energy Ministers. Real progress is needed now after words of good intentions. This can only be achieved by the establishment of a set of commonly agreed indicators as well as the commitment of concrete implementation and monitoring of those indicators and quantitative targets. The other key issues on the agenda for SMEs are: - From 2002 onwards, progress made by Member States will be evaluated by the European Commission (based on bilateral discussions and written reports) with the European Charter for Small Enterprises as guidance; - Progress on the BEST Procedure 2001 Projects - The initiatives and developments related to biotechnology; - Conclusions on ICT and e-business, including the Go Digital initiative for SMEs; - Progress and developments related to the integration of the sustainable development concept into enterprise policy; - Discussion on the Chemicals White Paper; and - Policy debate on the proposal on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty. ESBA will come back to the above.

More info, see points 3, 4 and 5 of:

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/01/173|0|RAPID&lg=EN

More info, see lower part of:

http://www.eu2001.se/eu2001/news/news_read.asp?iInformationID=14785

UPCOMING EVENTS Brussels (B) 17&18/05/2001: Futurisme - the future of social dialogue in SMEs; Theme: new forms of work relations, social dialogue. Info: http://www.ueapme.com/docs/various/Programme0105_en_ex.doc Brussels (B) 28/05/2001: Politics and Instruments for the competitiveness of European Business; Theme: Enterprise policy, competition, SMEs. Info: <http://www.sme-union.org/activities/unioncamare.htm> Brussels (B) 29/05/2001: Make it simple!; Theme: Enterprise Policy, SMEs, regulations. Info:

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<http://www.unice.org> Brussels (B) 30/05/2001: Bureau meeting of the SME-Union on the political priorities and future activities for SMEs in 2001/2002. Info: <http://www.sme-union.org/activities/congressPriorities.htm> Lisbon (P) 18&19/06/2001: New strategies for improved health in SME, role of social partners, policy developments and creating supportive environments; Theme: Health, competitiveness. Info: http://www.bkk.de/gesundheit/health_at_work