



HEADLINES

EU / ENTERPRISE Brussels 08/10/2001: 'Societas Europaea' a reality after 30 years

The European Company Statute Regulation has finally been adopted, as well as the Directive on the worker involvement, after initial negotiations started in 1969. As from 2004 onwards, it will be possible for companies working in several Member States of setting themselves up as companies under Community law and to evolve as single operator throughout the Union (e.g. with a unique set of rules, a unified system of management and special provisions on the publication of financial information; however, no single tax system).

More info (copy/paste full link):

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/company/company/news/ecompanyfaq.htm

EU / TRADE Brussels 08/10/2001: Draft text WTO Ministerial Conference available

Many companies, especially SMEs, still do not realise that in the increasingly globalised economy the main conditions of business are determined by decisions taken in the framework of international bodies, such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Therefore, ESBA is for example actively promoting the inclusion of the issue of trade facilitation on the agenda of the to be launched WTO trade round in November, an issue of crucial importance for SMEs. However, many other issues are relevant. The released draft text and the implementation guidelines give a good indication of the possible agenda of such a new trade round.

The draft declaration: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/foreign/tndtead/wto/4thsession.html>

The draft decision on implementation issues (copy/paste full link):
<http://filer.weblogger.com/tradesuccess3ManilaWebsite/documents/ImplementationDecisionsForDoha.txt>

To enhance the awareness of the business community, the International Trade Centre organises an e-mail based conference on "Business and the Next WTO Ministerial Conference", taking place from 15-19 October 2001. In the conference you have the possibility to raise any questions about the business aspects of the Next Ministerial Conference and the eventual new round of trade negotiations.

More info: http://www.intracen.org/e_discuss/wtn/invitation.htm

EU / TRADE Brussels 08/10/2001: Overview on trade facilitation measures

The European Commission has issued a paper listing the measures that can facilitate trade (e.g. regulatory co-operation, harmonisation, mutual recognition agreements, support for the development and use of international standards, codes of conduct and technical assistance with conformity assessment and standardisation) and how such instruments can best be used to facilitate trade.

More info: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/international/sec_2001_1570_en.pdf

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EU / SME Brussels 09/10/2001: EC launches revision of the 1996 SME definition

ESBA participated in an informal consultation meeting organised by DG Enterprise on the draft Commission recommendation amending the 1996 Recommendation concerning the definition of SMEs. The new draft notably includes a more detailed description of the notion of linked companies in order to fight against circumvention of the SMEs definition by large companies. It also seeks to remain as simple as possible according to EU officials who do not want to demark too much from the former definition agreed 5 years ago.

ESBA WILL PREPARE A POSITION PAPER ON THIS ISSUE BEFORE 9 NOVEMBER 2001

UPCOMING EVENTS Brussels (B) 15/10/2001: For a Europe of entrepreneurs, start-up financing for SMEs; Theme: SMEs, Finance. Info: <http://www.sme-union.org/activities/sme15october.htm> Brussels (B) 16/10/2001: Interactive Policy Making - Listen and Respond to People's Needs; Theme: Consultation, Internal Market. Info: secretariat@esba-europe.org Brussels (B) 17/10/2001 The SMEs approach to a knowledge-based society; Theme: SMEs, Education. Info: <http://www.sme-union.org/activities/sme17october.htm> Louvain-la-Neuve (B) 24&25/10/2001: SMEs Finance; Theme: risk management, role public/private sector, attitude banking sector, revision of Basle agreement, obstacles to award loans, action plan on venture capital Info: <http://www.kubla2001.be/uk/colloque/colloque.htm>