



HEADLINES

EU/SMEs: EU Summit discusses top-10 most burdensome regulations for SMEs.

On 15 March 2013, on the occasion of the European Council, several EU leaders called for a review of specific pieces of EU legislation, which had been flagged as particularly burdensome by the EU business community, especially SMEs. The initiative follows the recently published results of a Commission consultation in which European SMEs were asked to point out the 'Top 10 most burdensome EU legislative acts for SMEs'. British PM David Cameron was particularly vocal in his support for a thorough review of said legislations: *"I believe we are beginning to achieve some of those things, because we need a Europe that doesn't overregulate; in fact, we need a Europe that starts to take regulation off, and with the Commission's help we are now starting to see some progress"*. Mr Cameron's views were shared by the President of the European Council, Mr Herman Van Rompuy, who stated in his remarks that the support of SMEs, also through the cutting of red tape and simplification of the existing legislation, is a top priority of the European institutions. In its conclusions, the Council calls for the Commission to present initial concrete proposals on the matter next June 2013 and further structural measures for the simplification and the reduction of regulatory burden before fall 2013.

To access the conclusions of the European Council of 14 and 15 March 2013, please click [here](#).

To access Mr David Cameron's considerations on the European Council of 14 and 15 March 2013, please click [here](#).

To access the results of the Commission consultation on the most burdensome EU legislative acts for SMEs, please click [here](#).

ESBA OPINION

ESBA Welcomes the Member States' push for a further reduction of red tape, as administrative burden is still named as the number one obstacle by European SMEs. The second biggest hurdle is access to finance for small businesses. ESBA has actively worked with the Commission to reach this top 10 and is pleased to see that two very important issues – Data Protection and the Working Time Directive – have made the cut. Naturally a top-10 list is only the very tip of the red-tape iceberg. Although the exercise of creating this list was necessary and useful, if only for the awareness it raises, but it is the cumulative effect of all burdensome EU legislation that makes compliance so heavy on SMEs. The conclusions of this Council prove once again the importance to Think Small First.

EU/Data Protection: Striking the right balance between individual rights and SME competitiveness.

On 20 March 2013, the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs held a consideration of amendments on the General Data Protection Regulation. Many MEPs stressed the need to create a transparent, comprehensive and feasible legal framework. This would make it easier for citizens to exercise their rights and should lower the regulatory burden on businesses. MEP opinions differed widely on how to ensure the highest level of protection for individuals while mitigating the effects of the Regulation on small businesses. Strongly debated items were the notion of explicit consent, the lawfulness of processing, the need for data protection impact assessments, data protection officers and the role of supervisory authorities.

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ESBA OPINION

Reaching agreement on the Data Protection Regulation should not be regarded as a zero sum game. By establishing a set of clear, consistent and simple rules, both businesses and consumers should benefit from the new legislation. Striking the right balance is however essential. SMEs that process data only as an ancillary activity should be exempted from highly burdensome Data Protection Impact Assessments and should not be required to designate Data Protection Officers. Supervisory authorities should be given an active role in informing businesses of their responsibilities and sanctions that may be given should reflect the nature of a company. Small businesses simply cannot afford unnecessary administrative procedures, the EU on the other hand cannot afford to compromise SME competitiveness in times of economic crisis.

To access the joint position paper of ESBA, the FSB, ACT and CEA-PME, please click [here](#).

To read the comments by ESBA, the FSB, ACT and CEA-PME on specific articles, please click [here](#).

To read the suggestions for amendments by ESBA, the FSB, ACT and CEA-PME, please click [here](#).

To access the Commission's webpages on Data Protection, please click [here](#).

IN BRIEF

EU/Access to Finance: Commission launches consultation on financing long-term investments.

On 25 March 2013, the European Commission launched a Green Paper in order to determine policy options on how to finance long-term investment projects. Stakeholders are invited to suggest innovative ideas to finance projects that take a longer time to materialise – such as projects in the energy sector or transportation infrastructure. In light of the low availability of bank loans for SMEs, the European Commission asks stakeholders to look at inter alia SME securitisation instruments, crowd-funding and dedicated capital markets for SMEs. Contributions can be submitted until 26 June 2013.

To access the Green paper on the long-term financing of the European economy, please click [here](#).

EU/Climate: Improving energy performance of buildings at lowest possible costs.

On 22 March 2013, the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) published its report on the use of cost-optimal methodology principles by Member States. As part of the implementation of the Commission guidelines on reducing the energy use of buildings, these principles are essential in complying with the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010/31/EU). This Directive introduces minimum performance standards and demands the construction of 'Nearly Zero-energy Buildings' from 2020 onwards. Common methodology principles are thus essential in comparing performance in different Member States and ultimately in reaching the EU long term climate and energy targets.

To access the BPIE report, please click [here](#).

To access the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, please click [here](#).

EU/Entrepreneurship: Raising awareness among business on how to enforce cross border claims.

On 21 March 2013, the European Commission announced action to support SMEs' ability to enforce debt claims beyond national borders. The Commission will disseminate a 'practice-based guide on claims management' in all Member States, supported by events and teaching materials for vocational and entrepreneurial training. By means of this initiative, the EU aims to encourage cross-border activity and increase competitiveness of small businesses.

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To learn more about the Commission's cross border debt recovery campaign, please click [here](#).

EU/Access to finance: Uniform rules on social and venture capital.

On 21 March 2013, the Council approved two Regulations on the establishment of a 'European Social Entrepreneurship Funds' label (EuSEF) and a 'European Venture Capital Funds' label (EuVECA). The European Parliament reached agreement on the Regulations on 12 March 2013. Under these Regulations, uniform rules are established on how fund managers can attract capital. The EuSEF will facilitate allocating small loans and public-private financing to social businesses. Under the EuVECA it should be easier for young and innovative businesses to attract equity finance.

To learn more about the Regulation on Social Entrepreneurship Funds, please click [here](#).

To learn more about the Regulation on Venture Capital Funds, please click [here](#).

EU/Chemicals: Commission launches new set of REACH compliance fees.

On 20 March 2013, the European Commission released a new set of fees and tariffs for the registration of chemicals under the REACH legislative framework. These measures provide consistent reductions for SMEs' registration and authorisation fees. Micro-enterprises in particular receive a reduction of up to 90% of the original fees required for registration and authorisation of chemical substances. The main goal set by the Commission is to provide relief to SMEs from the excessive financial burden of complying with the REACH requirements. REACH is often perceived by stakeholders as being very SME-unfriendly and it is listed at the top of the recent 'top-ten most burdensome EU legislative acts for SMEs' by the European Commission.

To learn more about the new REACH provisions as set by the European Commission, please click [here](#).

To access the website of the European Chemicals Agency, please click [here](#).

EU/Environment: Turning waste into economic opportunities.

On 19 March 2013, the European Commission's DG Environment hosted a high-level seminar on waste management where it urged the Member States lagging behind in this area to divert waste from landfills and regard it as economic potential. The European Commission has developed country-specific roadmaps to help Member States implement the principles of the Waste Framework Directive: prevention, re-use, recycling and composting. The Member States in question need to submit comprehensive National Waste Management Plans and Waste Prevention Programmes by December 2013.

To access the Roadmaps for each Member State, please click [here](#).

To learn more about the Waste Framework Directive, please click [here](#).

EU/Single Market: Small Claims Procedure to benefit both consumers and small businesses.

On 19 March 2013, at the 2013 European Consumer Summit, European Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding highlighted the role of the European Small Claims Procedure in helping consumers and small businesses enforce their rights in small-scale cross-border disputes for amounts below €2,000. The measure is particularly suited to avoid complicated legal procedures. However, findings in a recent report by the European Consumer Centres Network reveal that consumers are largely unaware of the existence of this procedure. Commissioner Reding announced a consultation to find ways to improve this.

To access the Vice-President's speech, please click [here](#).

For the consultation, please click [here](#).

To learn more about the European Small Claims Procedure, please click [here](#).

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EU/AMLD: 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive.

On 15 March 2013, the European Commission organised a conference related to the recent publication of a proposal for the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive. The objective of this conference was to address the new framework and future challenges. At the conference, Commissioners Barnier and Malmström underlined the importance of the fight against money laundering in strengthening the stability and efficiency of the Internal Market. Commissioner Malmström stated that the new proposal will extend the scope to more sectors and will introduce a more 'risk-based approach'.

For the European Commission initiatives on preventing financial crime, please click [here](#).
To learn more about the conference on the 4th AMLD, please click [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

EU/Commission: Business Climate Indicator down in March.

On 27 March 2013, the European Commission's DG Economic and Financial Affairs published the monthly numbers on the business climate in the EU. The Business Climate Indicator decreased by 0.14 points for the month, to reach 0.86 points.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Commission: Economic sentiment down in both euro and EU27 areas.

On 27 March 2013, the European Commission's DG Economic and Financial Affairs published the monthly numbers on the economic sentiment in the EU and the euro area. The Economic Sentiment Indicator went down by 1.1 points in the euro area and 0.6 in the EU27, respectively reaching 90.0 and 91.4 points.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Commission: CSR handbook for small business advisers.

On 25 March 2013, the European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry published a corporate social responsibility (CSR) handbook for small business advisers. It provides guidelines for development and implementation of CSR roadmaps and highlights several focus areas for SMEs.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Eurostat: Regional GDP per capita in the EU for 2010.

On 21 March 2013, Eurostat published the regional GDP per capita in the EU for 2010. It ranges from 26% of the EU27 average in the region of Severozapaden in Bulgaria to 328% in Inner London in the United Kingdom. Eight European capital regions occupy the first ten places.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Commission: Final consultation report on Intelligent Energy - Europe III in Horizon 2020.

On 20 March 2013, the European Commission's DG Energy published the final report on the Consultation on Intelligent Energy - Europe III in Horizon 2020. 90% of the participants who took part in the consultation expressed their wish to have a continuation of the programme. SMEs were suggested as another priority target group on which the IEE III could focus.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

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EU/EICC: The EU remains India's biggest trading partner.

On 19 March 2013, the European India Chamber of Commerce (EICC) published a report titled "Indian Companies in the European Union: Reigniting Economic Growth". The report finds that the EU has remained India's biggest trading partner, accounting for €100 billion in trade in goods and services in 2011. India is ranked 8th in the list of EU's main trading partners for 2011.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Eurostat: Production in the construction sector decreased by 1.4%.

On 19 March 2013, Eurostat published statistics on production in the construction sector. According to the January 2013 figures, the production index went down by 1.4% in the euro area and by 1.3% in the EU27 area. These figures respectively fell by 9.1% and 9.5% compared to last year at the same period.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Commission: Short case studies of European SMEs addressing human rights.

On 18 March 2013, the European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry published five short case studies on how European SMEs should address human rights. The case studies should be read in conjunction with the European Commission's Introductory Guide to Human Rights for SMEs.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

To access the Introductory Guide to Human Rights for SMEs, please click [here](#)

EU/Eurostat: Euro area inflation decreased to 1.8%.

On 15 March 2013, Eurostat published the euro area inflation rate for February 2013. The annual inflation of the euro area decreased to 1.8%, compared to 2.0% in January.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Eurostat: Euro area and EU27 hourly labour costs rose by 1.3%.

On 15 March 2013, Eurostat published the hourly labour costs for the fourth quarter of 2012. An increase by 1.3% is observed both in the euro area and the EU27 in comparison with 1.8% in the previous quarter.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Eurostat: Euro area notes 3.9 billion euro goods trading deficit in January 2013.

On 15 March 2013, Eurostat published its first estimates of the trade in goods balance for January 2013 for both the euro area and the EU27. The euro area noted a 3.9 billion euro trading deficit, while the EU as a whole ran a 16.5 billion euro deficit in international trade of goods. In January 2013 compared with January 2012, Eurostat estimates the euro and EU27 areas' deficit in international trade in goods has decreased, since the figures were respectively of -9.1 billion euro and -24.9 billion euro.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Eurostat: 0.3% decrease in employment in the euro area.

On 14 March 2013, Eurostat published the employment rate of the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to the third quarter of 2012. The figures show that the employment rate decreased by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.2% in the EU27.

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To access this publication, please click [here](#).

EU/Eurostat: EU Industrial production decreased by 0.4% in January 2013.

On 13 March 2013, Eurostat published the latest figures regarding the industrial production in the EU27. In January 2013 compared with December 2012, seasonally adjusted industrial production decreased by 0.4% in the Euro area and the EU27 area. In January 2013 compared with January 2012, industrial production decreased by 1.3% in the Euro area and by 1.7% in the EU27.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

CONSULTATIONS

NEW:

Consultation on the first draft of the new *de minimis* Regulation replacing Regulation No 1998/2006.

Closes: 15 May 2013

A central register of all *de minimis* measures, which provides the Member states with a transition period for implementation, is introduced in the draft proposal for Regulation. The draft also takes into account the recurring requests from stakeholders for clarification and simplification of the rules in order to achieve a significant reduction of the administrative burden for small aid measures.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the European Small Claims Procedure.

Closes: 10 June 2013

An evaluation of the practical application of the Regulation establishing a European Small Claims Procedure and an assessment of what improvements are needed to enhance its attractiveness as a means of resolution of cross-border disputes are the main questions of this consultation.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on Mutual Societies: results of a study on the current situation and prospects of mutual societies in Europe.

Closes: 14 June 2013

After having provided details on the characteristics, the legal frameworks, the corporate governance, and the economic importance, as well as on the barriers that mutual societies face in Europe when they wish to engage in activities across borders or to create groups, the study ends by giving recommendations on how these obstacles could be removed. In parallel, the main interrogations the Commission is seeking views on by opening this public consultation are 'How can mutual societies be promoted?' and more specifically 'what are the need and possible advantages of a proposal for a Regulation establishing the legal statute for European Mutual Society?'

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the Green paper on the long-term financing of the European economy.

Closes: 25 June 2013

In order to establish a further assessment by the Commission of the barriers to long-term financing, with a view to identifying possible policy actions to overcome them, this Green Paper attempts to

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initiate a broad debate about how to address the complex and pressing challenges related to the long-term financing of the European economy.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the 2015 International Climate Change Agreement: Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020

Closes: 26 June 2013

This consultation aims to gather views and experience from all relevant European stakeholders with a view to determine the best international climate policy for the period beyond 2020. The Commission also published a Consultative Communication on the 2015 International Climate Change Agreement in order to give further background to the questionnaire.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the Green Paper on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies.

Closes: 2 July 2013

Taking into account the longer term perspective set out by the Commission in the Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050, the Energy Roadmap 2050 and the Transport White Paper, and drawing lessons from the current 2020 framework for climate and energy policies, the Green paper prepares the design of the 2030 framework on climate and energy policies. Questions focus on the type, nature and level of climate and energy targets for 2030; the coherence between different policy instruments; the competitiveness and security of energy supply; and the distribution of efforts between Member States.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

ONGOING:

Consultation on the revision of Directive 97/68/EC on emissions from non-road mobile machinery engines.

Closes: 8 April 2013

The non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) sector covers a large variety of equipment types which are used in many different economic activities such as construction, agriculture, rail or inland waterway transport. Despite the limits set by Directive 97/68/EC and its subsequent amendments, the NRMM sector has become an increasingly important source of air pollution, in particular of NO_x and particulate matter. In order to reverse this trend, the European Commission has been exploring different options for revising the Directive. The overall objective of the revision is to further contribute to the improvement of the air quality in Europe while at the same time ensuring the correct functioning of the internal market.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the cross-border transfers of registered offices of companies.

Closes: 16 April 2013

The purpose of the consultation is to get more in-depth information on the costs currently faced by companies transferring their registered offices abroad and on the range of benefits that could be brought by the EU action on the cross-border transfer of them. The responses will be taken into account in assessing the need for and impact of a possible new instrument.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

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Consultation on the Review of the internal market legislation for industrial products.

Closes: 17 April 2013

In the view of modernizing the rules of the Internal Market to improve competitiveness, the European Commission launched a consultation so as to gather opinions and experience from various stakeholders on the biggest obstacles that hinder the effective circulation of industrial products at EU level.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the Green Paper on unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food and non-food supply chain in Europe.

Closes: 30 April 2013

On 31 January 2013, the European Commission launched a consultation so as to assess the common trading practices in the food and non-food supply chain and their effects on companies. Indeed, unfair behaviours between companies are a definite obstacle to development and innovation for SMEs, and significant improvement in the enforcement of the rules related to B2B relationships in the area of food and non-food supply chain activities is needed.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on technology transfer agreements.

Closes: 17 May 2013

On 30 April 2014, the current Regulations concerning licensing patents, know-how, software or technology will expire. The Commission seeks the views of stakeholders on a draft proposal on revised technology transfer block exemption Regulation ("TTBER") and the accompanying Guidelines.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on a European Taxpayer's Code.

Closes: 17 May 2013

The European Commission seeks to gather the views on the general and procedural principles to be considered in the context of the development of a European Taxpayer's Code. The views expressed by the contributors will be used by Commission services to identify the appropriate content of a European Taxpayer's Code and develop the appropriate policy response.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the Use of an EU Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).

Closes: 17 May 2013

The Commission is seeking to collect information on the possible scope of an EU Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) (both in terms of operations and taxpayers covered), its practical aspects (including possible simplification and a step-by-step approach), its design and functioning, as well as various legal considerations (i.a. data protection). The views expressed by the contributors will be used by the Commission services to identify the appropriate approach to the creation of an EU TIN and to develop the appropriate policy response.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the Revision of the EU legal framework on environmental inspections.

Closes: 26 May 2013

The purpose of this consultation is to collect the views of all relevant stakeholders, at national and EU level, on the possible main concepts for the revision of the current EU framework on

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environmental inspections. It builds on previous consultations and seeks to complement them with stakeholder views on ideas for the design of a new horizontal binding instrument on environmental inspections which the Commission, subject to the conduct of a full impact assessment, intends to propose later in 2013.

To access this publication, please click [here](#).

Consultation on the Green Paper on plastic waste.

Closes: 6 June 2013

The purpose of this Green Paper is to launch a broad reflection on possible responses to the public policy challenges posed by plastic waste which are at present not specifically addressed in EU waste legislation. The follow-up to the Green Paper will be an integral part of the wider review of the waste legislation that will be completed in 2014. This review will look at the existing targets for waste recovery and landfill as well as an ex-post evaluation of five directives covering various waste streams.

To access this consultation, please click [here](#).

COMING UP

EU Institutions: Important dates

4 April 2013 – Meeting of the Governing Council of the ECB
8 April 2013 – European Parliament Committee meetings
10 April 2013 – Weekly meeting of College of Commissioners
10 April 2013 – COREPER I meeting
10-11 April 2013 – COREPER II meeting
11 April 2013 – European Parliament Committee meetings
12-13 April 2013 – Informal meeting of ECOFIN Council
12-13 April 2013 – Eurogroup meeting
15-18 April 2013 – European Parliament Plenary session
16 April 2013 – Weekly meeting of College of Commissioners
17 April 2013 – COREPER I meeting
17-18 April 2013 – COREPER II meeting
18 April 2013 – Meeting of the Governing Council of the ECB
19 April 2013 – COREPER I meeting
22 April 2013 – Meeting of the General Affairs Council
22-23 April 2013 – Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council
22-23 April 2013 – Meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council
22-25 April 2013 – European Parliament Committee meetings
24 April 2013 – Weekly meeting of College of Commissioners
24 April 2013 – COREPER I meeting
24 April 2013 – COREPER II meeting
26 April 2013 – COREPER I meeting
1 May 2013 – Weekly meeting of College of Commissioners
1-3 May 2013 – Informal Meeting of the Competitiveness Council (Dublin)
2 May 2013 – COREPER I meeting
2 May 2013 – COREPER II meeting
2 May 2013 – Meeting of the Governing Council of the ECB

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Other SME-related events

EU Data Protection Reform: What challenges for Online Data Processing?

8 April 2013

Brussels, Belgium

The conference, organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), will focus on the EU Data Protection Reform and in particular the Online Processing of Data. During the event, the final report of the CEPS Digital Forum Task Force on Online Data Protection will be launched.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

Restarting the SME credit market in Europe: what role for securitisation and the capital markets?

9 April 2013

Brussels, Belgium

This conference is organised by UEAPME, AFME (Association for Financial Markets in Europe) and ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and will be hosted by Mr Othmar Karas, MEP (EPP, AT), Vice-President of the European Parliament. The main topic of this event will be the role of banking and capital markets in business financing, looking for a return to growth.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

Qualitative Development vs. Quantitative Growth.

10 April 2013

Brussels, Belgium

This event, organised by the ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe) group of the European Parliament, aims at spurring a debate about our current economic growth model and its results in fighting the crisis. Different concepts focusing on qualitative development rather than quantitative growth will be explored.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

Transport and Energy Management Conference.

10 April 2013

Brussels, Belgium

This conference, organised by CEN, the European Committee for Standardisation, focuses on the reduction of energy consumption and management of energy in transport as key societal challenges in relation to climate change and security of supply. The aim of the conference is to present some of the activities already carried out and to create an exchange of views with relevant stakeholders.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

EPEC Private Sector Forum on Public Procurement.

18 April 2013

Brussels, Belgium

The EPEC Private Sector Forum is a semi-annual event organised by the European Commission and the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC). This time, the event will focus on best practices in the field of public procurement.

To access the webpages of EPEC, please click [here](#).

CMS Competition Conference 2013.

European Small Business Alliance - Brussels Office
Clos du Parnasse 3A, B-1050 Bruxelles

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18 April 2013

Brussels, Belgium

This conference organised by CMS, a tax and legal advice organisation, aims at engaging a debate with European legislators and authorities on the future shape of EU competition law. Participants will discuss how to avoid overregulation while protecting companies' rights and economic interests and ensuring fair competition conditions.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

Europe as a Location for Industry and Innovation.

23 April 2013

Bruges, Belgium

The Bruges European Business Conference, organised by the College of Europe and Deloitte, will focus on how innovation and competitiveness programmes can make Europe a more appealing place of production for industry. Speakers will include Mr Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy and Mr Kris Peeters, Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Economy, Foreign Policy, Agriculture and Rural Policy.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

Fostering Corporate Responsibility through Self- and Co-regulation: The Case of Sector-specific Initiatives.

23 April 2013

Brussels, Belgium

The conference on 'Fostering Corporate Responsibility through Self- and Co-regulation: The Case of Sector-specific Initiatives', organised by Bertelsmann-Stiftung, will discuss latest developments on EU policy on Corporate Social Responsibility. In particular, the role of CSR within EU Europe 2020 flagship initiatives will be emphasised.

To access the webpages of the Bertelsmann-Stiftung, please click [here](#).

CO2 targets for cars: good news for consumers?

23 April 2013

Brussels, Belgium

The event will bring together key stakeholders in order to discuss the Commission's new proposals to limit CO2 emissions. Particular focus will be on the setting of long-term emissions targets, the proposed revision of the emissions test cycles and super-credits for hybrid and electric vehicles.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

UMU Yearly Award Ceremony.

3 May 2013

Berlin, Germany

ESBA's Member the Union Mittelständischer Unternehmen annually awards a politician that has best served the interests of SMEs. The 2013 recipient of this award will be Ms Kerstin Andreae, Member of the German Bundestag and vice-chairman of Alliance 90/The Greens. Earlier laureates include former German Prime Minister Gerhard Schroeder and EU Commissioner for Energy Mr Gunther Oettinger.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

The 12th annual European Corporate Governance & Company Law Conference.

European Small Business Alliance - Brussels Office
Clos du Parnasse 3A, B-1050 Bruxelles

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16-17 May 2013

Dublin, Ireland

The conference is held as part of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. This event aims at facilitating a discussion on the Action Plan on Corporate Governance and Company Law, both launched by the Commission on 12 December 2012.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).

'SMEs and Standardisation' European Conference.

28 May 2013

Brussels, Belgium

This conference, organised by DG Enterprise and Industry and CEN, the European Committee for Standardisation, focuses on raising awareness about standardisation and its advantages for businesses, particularly for SMEs. The conference will highlight how companies make use of standards and how they can be included in the process of the development of standards.

To learn more about this event, please click [here](#).