

Late payments directive implementation still slow

The Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the European Parliament held a legislative scrutiny session on the Late Payment Directive on 23 June. In April 2015 the directive had been transposed by only 21 of the 28 member states, despite the deadline having expired over two years ago. **Difficulties in transposition persist**, notably in Greece, but also in Italy and Spain.

EBC therefore warmly welcomes the assessment of the directive's implementation carried out by the European Commission and it is providing the Commission and the consultant in charge of the assessment with information about implementation in its members' countries.

In a meeting with the new SME policy and COSME Director in DG GROW Kristin Schreiber, EBC underlined the key problems of the current directive: the **absence of automated interest claim** for overdue payments and the **high level of discretion companies have** when it comes to establishing deadlines for due payments to other companies, among others.

■ [Click here for an overview regarding the implementation of the directive based on an initial survey of Member States](#)



SUP: Construction firms concerned with social dumping

The members of the UEAPME Construction Forum, chaired by EBC, expressed their serious concerns about the single-member private limited liability companies' (SUP) proposal in a **letter sent to the IMCO Committee's MEPs**.

The construction sector is constantly struggling to fight against businesses who do not play by the rules, particularly in the case of social fraud. The proposed directive would **make it much easier for fraudulent businesses to set up letterbox companies** in any Member State as it would simplify so much the registration of a SUP that no control would be anymore possible. The UEAPME Construction Forum asks for a closer attention to be paid to these provisions in order to ensure a **level playing field** for all construction companies working in Europe.

■ [Click here to read the letter to the IMCO Committee's members](#)

■ [Click here to read the UEAPME position paper attached to the letter](#)



"Fitness check" on the construction sector kicked off

At the beginning of July EBC participated in the first meeting organised by DG GROW to collect positions and ideas from the stakeholders regarding the regulatory fitness check of the construction sector. The "fitness check" currently concerns the EU legislation impacting on the construction sector in the area of **internal market and energy efficiency**. Taking into account EBC remarks, during the meeting the Commission announced that the regulatory fitness check will soon also be enlarged to **other two fundamental areas: Health & Safety and environment**.

EBC welcomes this assessment exercise and is actively involved in feeding the study. Often bureaucratic burdens and inefficiencies are created at national level by **gold plating**, thus making it fundamental for stakeholders and the Commission to also work with national authorities in monitoring regulatory implementation on the ground.



SBS experts share experiences in general meeting

On 2nd July SBS experts met in the 1st experts' seminar of 2015 in Brussels to share expertise and learn about **specific aspects of standardisation to better represent SMEs**.

Expert coordinator Guido Sabatini from EBC gave an update on SBS activities in the construction sector and announced the project to set up an **SBS Construction Forum**. The first meeting of the Forum will be ideally held around the end of October 2015 and will target SBS construction-related experts.



Exchange of views with ECOS about eco-labelling & eco-design

EBC met with the [European Environmental Citizens' Organisation for Standards \(ECOS\)](#) in July to exchange information about eco-labelling and eco-design in standardisation. EBC and ECOS have a common interest to promote effective standards in this field and they resolved in a closer cooperation in the future.

