



FOREWORD

Dear Friends of the SME-Union



Jacques Santer, MEP

**President
SME-Union**

widening our network and by creating new sub-organisations, working groups and national organizations.

In this Annual Report 2003 we present you the major events, organisational developments and most interesting topics the SME-Union discussed during this year. I would like to mention just a few of them:

- During the General Assembly of the SME-Union in March 2003 the discussion was based on the green paper on entrepreneurship and the general attitude of the European institutions towards SMEs.
- The purpose of our SME & WTO conference on the 19th of June 2003 was to raise awareness amongst key decision-makers and negotiators in Cancun, that the Doha Development Round should not become a development round without creating winning market conditions.
- At the Conference "Engaging Europe for Entrepreneurs" in November 2003 we focused on the diversity of entrepreneurial spirit in the EU. The need to promote a culture of entrepreneurship in Europe has been highlighted in various fora.

Since my inaugural address to the participants of the General Assembly in March 2003 the SME-Union has also faced some major organisational changes. I'm very glad that the SME-Union could move to its new house, which is located very close to the European Parliament and which provides us with the foundations for a new working environment supporting our efforts to promote SMEs on a European level. Also the number of members and observers of the SME-Union grew to more than 30. Especially in Central and Eastern Europe many new national organisations could be established. In this respect we have anticipated the enlargement process. Thus, the SME-Union is very well prepared for the most incisive step, when 10 new Member States will join the European Union.

We are all aware of how rapidly the economy is changing the world in which we live. Attitudes and motivation, economic processes and structures, public perceptions and policy orientations are all constantly being redefined. This poses certain challenges to those of us who have to respond with new policy measures for SMEs. An essential part of this work has been done by the SME-Circle with its 27 Parliament

I am pleased to present you the Annual Report 2003 as President of the SME-Union. The Year 2003 brought many decisions that might be seen as a historic turning point in the development of the European Union. The Convention and the Intergovernmental Conference as well as the December Summit in Brussels have shown us the limits and the needs of a further European Integration. Also for the SME-Union there were many new developments arising during the first few months of my presidency. We could attract many new people working for the ideas of the SME-Union by

Members who supported new business fields, enabled the establishment of new services in the Common Market and could prevent bureaucracy by creating directives by numerous parliamentary initiatives.

For the SME-Union the year 2004 will be dedicated to two major challenges: Firstly the Enlargement on the 1st of May and secondly the elections to the European Parliament on the 13th of June, which will be of crucial importance for the further development of the SME-Union and its influence within the parliamentary procedures.

In 2004 the SME-Union will also continue to encourage reforms to reduce the tax burden and to lower the percentage of public spending for creating an economic and legal environment for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises that will help Europe to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, as it was announced three years ago at the European Council in Lisbon.

I would like to thank you all for your efforts and your contribution to the successes of the SME-Union and I also want to invite you to continue with our joint efforts in 2004 in order to achieve the best results for SMEs and their business environment.

In that respect I wish you all the very best for 2004 and for all new challenges in the future.

Yours truly,
Jacques Santer

**free
TRADE**
for a
better world



Mr. Santer at the SME-Union Congress 2003.



Speech of Mr. Santer at the Foundation Congress of SME-Union Luxembourg.



The new house of the SME-Union.

THE TEAM

President



Jacques Santer, MEP (LU)

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats, Member of the Bureau, Member European Parliament, Member Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, Member Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy, Substitute Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Luxembourg Parti chrétien social.

Born on May 18, 1937, Wasserbillig.

Co-Presidents



Christos Folias, MEP (GR)

Member of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats, Member European Parliament, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy, Substitute Delegation for relations with Switzerland, Iceland and Norway, Delegation to the EU-Ukraine and the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and Delegation for relations with Belarus.

Born on February 14, 1951, Thessaloniki.



Peter Jungen, (DE)

Leading positions in private business around the world. Peter Jungen is on the board of Business Angels Germany and was recently elected to the board of Association of Business Angels of the USA.

Born on August 21, 1939, Montabaur.

Honorary President



Ingo Friedrich, MEP (DE)

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats, Member of the Bureau, Member European Parliament, Vice-president, Bureau, Vice-Chairman Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, Member Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Substitute Delegation to the EU-Hungary Joint Parliamentary Committee, Member. Federal Republic of Germany Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern e.V.

Born on January 24, 1942, Kutno-Wartheland.

Vice-Chairmen

Lisbeth Grönfeldt Bergman, MEP (SW)

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats, Member European Parliament, Member Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Member Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy, Substitute Delegation to the EU-Lithuania Joint Parliamentary Committee, Member. Sweden Moderata samlingspartiet.

Born on September 20, 1948, Göteborg.



Tomaz Toplak, (SLO)

Since 2002 Attorney at Law, since 2002 Vice-president of the SME-Union, since 2003 President of the SME-Union Slovenia. Member of several Supervisory boards and President of the supervisory board in Capital city Ljubljana. Previously he used to be President & CEO in Pension Investment Company, Inc 2 and General Manager in the Legal department at the Bank of Slovenia (central bank of Republic of Slovenia) from 1998 until 2000.

Born on June 25, 1965, Slovenia.



Marcelino Oreja Arburua, MEP (ES)

1994. Industrial engineer by the ICAI (Universidad Pontificia Comillas). Agent of the Industrial Property. 1992-1997 Founding Partner and Director of Def-4 (Agency of Patents and Marks). 1997-2000 Person in charge of the Patents and Marks' Department of Garrigues-Andersen. 2000-2002. International Director of ALDEASA. Ex-president of the Travel Value Association. Member of the Advisory Council of EMTE. 1994-1998. General Secretary of the Spanish Confederation of Associations of Young Industrialists. Member of the Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs Committee. Substitute of the Legals Affairs and Internal Market Committee. Member of the Palesitian Delegation.

Born on March 11, 1969, Madrid.



Karlheinz Kopf, MP (AUT)

Since the year 2000 Karlheinz Kopf is politically active as Secretary General of the SME-Union Austria. He has been Member of Parliament of the Austrian Peoples' Party and speaker for energy and environmental issues since 1994. Besides his political activities he manages the "Sportbau Walsert" enterprise which he owns together with his wife.

Born on June 27, 1957, Hohenems.



THE TEAM

Treasurer



Hans - Peter Mayer, MEP (D)

Member of European Parliament; Professor Dr. jur. utr., Dr. phil., Attorney; former Secretary of State in Saxony-Anhalt. Since 1999 Member of the European Parliament. Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and substitute member of the Committees on Legal Affairs and Internal Market and on Agriculture and Rural Development. Member of the delegation of the European Parliament for Southeast Europe, and substitute member of the ACP-EU Joint Assemblies.

Born on May 5, 1944, Riedlingen.

SME-Global President

Paul Rübiger, MEP (AT)

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats, Member European Parliament, Member Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy, Member Committee on Budgets, Substitute Delegation to the EU-Slovak Republic Joint Parliamentary Committee, Vice-Chairman. Austria Österreichische Volkspartei.

Born on May 6, 1953, Wels.



Co-Treasurer



Jean-Marie Van Houwe, (BE)

General director of the European marketing club. Former managing director at the PA Consulting group with responsibilities for Europe and International development. Member of the INSEAD Alumni Executive Committee, the SEAP Society of European Affairs Practitioners, the Belgium Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Directors Foundation, and various other business clubs.

Born on August 9, 1942, Brussels.

SME-Circle President

Alexander Radwan, MEP (D)

Member of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats, Member European Parliament, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy, Substitute Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries and the Gulf, Federal Republic of Germany Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern e.V.

Born on August 30, 1964, Munchen.



Auditors



Dr. Christian Ehler, MP (D)

Economist with degree in journalism, since 2000 manager of the Biotech GmbH – Biotechnology Center Hennigsdorf, worked as manager of the Aigner Group at TZB GmbH, member of parliament of the federal state of Brandenburg, and of the Business Committee and the Committee of European Issues and Development Policies, business and technology-political spokesman, president of the SME Union Brandenburg, vice-president of the German SME Union.

Born on August 17, 1963, Munich.

Secretary General

Günther Fehliger, (AT)

Economist, former Chairman of AG (Austria) and of European Democrat Students, worked for the union of European Employers in Brussels on social and environmental affairs for two years, also worked as assistant to Dr. Rübiger in the EP and was appointed to Secretary General of the SME-Union on 28 November 2000.

Born on August 23, 1968, Linz.



Deputy Secretary General



John Purvis, MEP (GB)

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats, Member European Parliament, Member Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy, Member, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Substitute Temporary committee on human genetics and other new technologies in modern medicine, Member Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries and the Gulf, Member Delegation to the EU-Bulgaria Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Born on July 6, 1938, St. Andrews (Fife).



Holger Thuss, (D)



Marc Rauchs, (L)

GREETINGS

**Ladies and Gentlemen!
Dear Jacques!**



Hon John Howard, MP
**Honorary President
of SME-Global
Prime Minister
of Australia**

I am delighted to offer my support for the work of the SME-Union, along with its international counterpart SME-Global, in advancing the cause of enterprise and free markets.

Small and Medium Enterprises are providers of skills, opportunities and wealth for communities around the world. They need to be free to get on with business while confident that governments are getting the economic policy settings right, so that government policy provides a solid underpinning for future business growth.

SMEs across the world stand to gain from the further liberalisation of world trade.

They also have an important stake in campaigning in their own countries for policies of tax reform, streamlined company taxation and less unnecessary bureaucratic regulation. Entrepreneurs need to make the case for low-tax, high productivity and flexible economies.

SME-Global was set up in June with Paul Rübige MEP as the International Democrat Union's 'Enterprise Link' to it. As Chairman of the IDU, I was pleased to become the Honorary President.

The program of events organised by SME-Global provides great opportunities for pursuing the policy priorities that assist Small and Medium Enterprises. The interaction of entrepreneurs with the political world is enormously important, and I wish the SME movement every success.

Yours truly,
Hon John Howard

GREETINGS

Ladies and Gentlemen!



Wolfgang Schüssel
**Chancellor of
Austria**

Let me thank you for the opportunity not only to emphasize the importance of SMEs in Europe but also to point out our latest initiatives with respect to the strengthening of SMEs in Austria as well as implications for the agenda of the SME-Union. "Small is beautiful" has been a commonly used motto for Austria and its competitive advantage in a globalized and competitive society.

Today, having in mind the difficulties faced by multinational mergers and acquisitions and the new market opportunities for small companies, our motto gets a new dimension: Small is not only beautiful, but also powerful. Having started my own political career as Secretary General of the Austrian SME-Union member "Wirtschaftsbund", I can only stress that in my experience it is not relevant how large a company is, but how swiftly and flexibly it acts in a competitive environment.

But the importance of SMEs in Europe and in Austria lies not only in their flexibility and adaptability, but also in their political weight in the economy and society as a whole. Both in Austria and in the European Union, SMEs represent over 99% of the total number of enterprises, employ 2/3 of the work force, produce over 50% of the total turn over. Between 1995 and 1999, SMEs registered a job-growth rate twice as large as that of companies with more than 250 employees. Given these facts, a sound national economic policy must be SME-driven. Currently, the average Austrian SME has an equity rate of only 16%.

Hence, strengthening equity levels is, besides the call for lower indirect labour costs, considered to be the most important measure to improve the survival rate of SMEs in the run-up to the Basel II agreement. We achieved progress on both fronts with a considerable equity-tax relief for SMEs and by lowering the social security contribution rate especially for older employees as of January 1st, 2004. At the European level, SME-policy must be one of co-ordination, benchmarking and target setting. The Charter for Small Enterprises reflects the large spectrum of policy-goals still to be achieved, such as better education and training for entrepreneurship, cheaper and faster start-ups and stronger technological capacity of small enterprises. I strongly encourage the SME-Union to continue on its successful path of raising those issues.

Yours Truly,
Wolfgang Schüssel

GREETINGS

Ladies and Gentlemen!



Donald A. Manzullo
**Chairman House
of Representatives
Committee
on Small Business**

Greetings from your friends in Washington, DC! It is a great honour to serve on the SME-Global team. I have always enjoyed championing the cause of our Small and Medium Enterprises. This class of creative risk-takers is just the sort of folks that earn the respect of naturally risk-averse politicians.

As Small and Medium Enterprises become increasingly engaged in the global market, international trade relations are critical to compete and prosper. The United States is officially placing emphasis on this through efforts

to further the Doha round of trade negotiations.

I applaud the work of the SME-Union because it is one of the few pan-European organizations specifically committed to defending the interests of small business people. As the European project continues, there will be increasing pressure to raise taxes, increase burdensome regulation and ultimately make it more difficult for men and women to start their own small businesses. It is important work indeed to provide a bulwark for freedom and help contain the encroachment from an ever-expanding centralized bureaucracy.

In the near future, I hope to make an official visit to Central Europe in order to see for myself the progress of SME's within the countries preparing to join the EU. I congratulate your efforts and send every hope for your continued success.

Sincerely,
Donald A. Manzullo

Dear Friends and Members of the SME-Union



Ivan Miklos
**Vice Prime Minister of
the Slovak Republic**

It is a great pleasure and honor to greet you from these pages as a new Vice-President of the SME-Global.

Small and Medium Enterprises are a source of great economic potential and a core foundation of sustainable growth in every advanced economy. Today, decisions taken at transnational and European level have ever more significant impact on the domestic business environment. Unlike large corporations, small and medium enterprises depend on effective platforms for expressing their needs to those politicians who are truly concerned about their fate. SME-Union provides precisely such a platform.

SME-Union has been playing a major role in promoting reformist ideas and exchange of experiences at the European level - and I am extremely pleased that the SME-Union is being particularly active in Central and Eastern Europe. Last year, many activities that took place directly on the ground - we met together in countries like Serbia, Hungary, Macedonia and Poland.

I believe that the enlargement of the EU will significantly contribute toward reaching our common goal of making Europe the most competitive economy in the world. To this end, my government has introduced a fundamental tax reform, which will hopefully serve as an inspiration for other countries to follow. The winners from these reforms will be not only Small and Medium Enterprises across Europe, but all European people who will be the ultimate beneficiaries of strong and stable growth.

Yours truly,
Ivan Miklos

GREETINGS

**President Santer,
Ladies and Gentlemen**



Friedrich Merz

**Deputy Chairman
of the CDU/CSU
Parliamentary
Group in the
Bundestag**

For the European economies and for the German economy in particular, 2003 was a difficult year. Economic growth in the EU region lagged well behind that of other major economic areas, with substantial negative repercussions for businesses and for employment. Europe needs to put its house in order again. Only then will it be able to develop its economic strength for the benefit of its people and to cope better with the process of integration, a process which will mark another historic milestone on 1 May of this year with the eastern enlargement of the Union. Only then will it be able to send a stronger message around the world, proclaiming its traditional fundamental values and its democratic convictions.

However, higher economic growth in Europe will not kick in automatically, and will not be achieved adequately by the economic recovery which is beginning around the world. Rather, the states of the European Union must orient their economic policies towards growth and themselves carry out the necessary structural reforms in order to strengthen the market forces. This is particularly true of Germany, the largest European economy, which has gone from being the "engine of economic growth" to the "sick man". It is true that, at the end of last year, Germany did manage to reduce barriers in some parts of the labour market and welfare insurance, and to give greater scope to the principles of individual initiative and individual responsibility. Also, some initial cuts have been made in income tax. But the measures taken to date are far too little to achieve a level of economic growth which will create enough jobs to reduce unemployment. Structural reforms for the long-term stabilisation of the welfare insurance systems, further deregulation in labour law and on the labour market, and a comprehensive reduction of bureaucratic barriers remain on the political agenda, along with a thorough simplification of the tax system and tax cuts. Only the combined effect of these reforms will boost the market-based incentive mechanisms, will again make it worthwhile for the individual to invest and work, and will thus stimulate fresh economic dynamism.

Both the Small and Medium Enterprises and Business Organisation of the CDU/CSU in Germany and the SME-Union of the EPP bear special responsibility in the realisation of this objective. In the past, both have helped to promote the market-based renewal of Europe's economies through their proposals and initiatives. I would like to thank you very warmly for these endeavours, and express my hope that you will continue to work so constructively in the interest of Small and Medium Enterprises. They are at the very core of every economy.

Yours truly,
Friedrich Merz

1st Seminar: Hungary on the Eve of EU-Accession, January 23-25, Budapest



The Foundation Meeting of SME-Central in Budapest, 2003.

On the eve of the referendum on EU-Accession, the SME held events in most candidate countries all throughout 2003 in order to inform about and discuss with SME the key issues. The first seminar took place in Budapest from the 23rd to the 25th of January 2003 and it was a big success. Over 130 participants discussed about the challenges and preparation for SMEs in Hungary with Paul Rübzig, MEP, Lisbeth Grönfeldt, MEP and Peter Jungen from the SME-Union and with a great number of Hungarian officials mainly from the Fidesz and the MDF. The seminar was organised by KKVE, the Hungarian member of the SME-Union and supported by the Robert Schuman Foundation.



An overview of the participants at the seminar.

EU Enlargement Conference from the perspective of SMEs, January 30, Brussels



How will enlargement work for SMEs? This was the crucial issue discussed on January 30th, 2003, in the European Parliament, Brussels. The conference addressed the pressing question of where SMEs fit in, in the sphere of the second enlargement round. Do the countries of the first round wish to accept new countries? Can synergy effects be used to facilitate the process? What kind of future do SMEs realistically face in this kind of environment? Furthermore, what effect will enlargement exert on SMEs? How can we catalyze the progress of SME protection and what role does each individual SME have to play in this process? Some of the esteemed speakers included Dr. Paul Rübzig MEP, Mr. Elmar Brok (Chairman of EP-Foreign Affairs Committee), Mr. Lazar Comanescu (Ambassador of Romania), Mr. Aristides Agatodesry (Ambassador of Greece), Mr. Jacques Santer MEP (President of SME Union), Mr. Peter Jungen (Vice President of SME-Union, President of EBAN).



The panel of the Enlargement Conference with Mr. Brok, Mr. Folias and Mr. Rübzig.

EVENTS JAN-FEB

Visit to USA, February 2-4

The 2nd visit of the SME-Union to Washington had the aim of structuring the cooperation projects discussed during the high level visit of July 2002. The focus (and it is important to have one - as every European visitor in the US learns pretty soon) was to discuss the US involvement in the SME platform of the IDU with the working title SME-Global. The idea was to create a network of leading centre-right wing politicians who are working on Small Business issues in their respective political systems.



Senator Bond and Mr. Fehlinger.

The initiative of the SME-Union was positively received on the US side, especially by Senator Christopher Bond of Missouri who has worked extremely successfully in order to create the legal framework for the Small Business miracle of the US. Low taxation, simple legislation,



Promoting SME initiatives in the USA.

respect for property and a mentality in the whole society which supports risk takers and awards entrepreneurship have been preconditions for the recent boom. Senator Bond assured the SME-Union representative of his support for the project. The concrete implementation will depend on the availability of leading US Congress members of the Republican Party to one

of the meetings of SME-global. The first took place during our election Congress in Brussels on the 26th and 27th of March and the second one during the WTO ministerial round on 10th to 14th of September 2003 in Cancun, Mexico.

Turkey visit of SME-Union, February 2003

Lisbeth Grönfeldt Bergman, MEP Mod-Sw and Günther Fehlinger, GS SME-Union traveled to Ankara at the end of February to investigate the political situation and find potential partners for SME projects in Turkey. Helped by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation the SME-Union delegation had four important meetings with leading representative of the political and SME world of Turkey.



From the visit to Turkey.

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EVENTS MAR



Mr. Rübig with the participants of the Bureau Meeting.

SME-Union Bureau Meeting, March 25, Brussels

At the Bureau Meeting of the SME-Union, usually decisions heavily influencing the policies and objectives of the succeeding work period are being adopted. The key-decisions the respective meeting on the 25th of March concerned the SME-Union General Assembly (26th March), the SME Congress (27th March) and the work plan for 2003/2004.

Most prominent guest of the Bureau Meeting was Antonio Lopez, the Secretary General of the European Peoples Party. After his report emphasizing the valuable contribution of the SME-Union to the EPP political programme, Mr. Paul Rübig MEP, outgoing president of the SME-Union elaborated on his term of presidency. Mr. Peter Jungen, Co-President candidate of the SME-Union, reported on the development of the Lisbon process: "The governments lost three years" he concluded. After that, a report given by Mr. Jacques Santer MEP, then Co-President of the SME-Union, expressed anticipated negative trends in the European economy. After that, Mrs. Thyssen MEP and Mr. Folias MEP reported on recent activities of the SME-Circle.

SME-Union Week "For A Strong Europe Based On Strong SMEs", March 25-28, Brussels

The SME Week (25th-28th March, 2003) was officially opened in the European Parliament by Mr. Paul Rübig, outgoing President of the SME-Union. The opening was followed by speeches of Mr. Radwan MEP



Overview of the SME General Assembly.



An overview of the SMEs meeting.

on the work of the SME-Circle, Mrs. Peijs MEP, Mr. Folias MEP, and Mr. Engel (Secretary General of the CSV Luxembourg). In particular Mr. Radwan and Mrs. Peijs were elaborating on the great success of the Circle in the previous term. Mr. Radwan emphasised his contribution to the legislative process. Mrs. Peijs outlined, that she welcomes the work of the Circle that acts as the voice for SMEs in the European Parliament. The reception was closed by President Rübig.

General Assembly of the SME-Union of the EPP, March 26, Brussels

Each year, the General Assembly of the SME-Union is the most important meeting of the organisation. The 2003 meeting took place at the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels, on the 26th March, 2003. The meeting was opened by Mr. Paul Rübig MEP, President of the organisation. The second speaker was Mr. Elmar Brok MEP, President of the European Union of Christian Democrat Workers Associations (EUCDWA).



Mr. Rübig discussing with the participants at the General Assembly.

After that, reports of the previous 2001/2003-term were given by Mr. Paul Rübig MEP, Mr. Henri Malosse, Mr. Jacques Santer MEP, Mr. John Purvis MEP, and Mr. Peter Jungen. After a short debate, the meeting unanimously adopted the new statutes, as presented by Mr. Fehlinger, Secretary General of the SME-Union.

Another agenda item was the election of a new President and the new Bureau.



Political Entrepreneurship Award, March 26, Brussels

In the evening of the 26th of March the SME-Union was handing out the SME Award for Political Entrepreneurship for the first time to 5 ranking representatives of the political world who have accomplished great achievements in their various responsibilities throughout the years for our



Recipients of the Political Entrepreneurship Award

common cause: The improvement of the situation for SMEs in Europe. The four recipients were: Dr. Ingo Friedrich, Vice-president of the European Parliament, Marianne Thyssen, MEP Belgium, Karla Peijs, MEP Netherlands, Henri Malosse, the representative of the French Chambres of Commerce in Brussels. As they have all done outstanding work in their fields, the decision to award them the prize was not difficult. During the laudation President Jacques Santer expressed his gratitude for their commitment and expressed his conviction that they will continue to push hard for our goals - to make Europe's SME succeed in their daily struggle. And it is clear that the political world holds the key for this success. This award was planned to be a yearly occasion to distinguish outlandish accomplishments of politicians in the field of SMEs. It was awarded by the SME Award committee.

Reception by the European Taxpayer's Association, March 26, Brussels

On the invitation of the European Taxpayers Association, guests and delegates of the General Assembly of the SME-Union met on 26th of March to celebrate the newly elected Presidency. A lively introduction by President Santer was followed by the Presentation of the European Entrepreneurship Award to Mrs. Peijs, Mrs. Thyssen, Mr. Malosse and Mr. Rübzig. The ceremony was followed by speeches of Mrs. Peijs MEP, Mr. Rübzig MEP, Mrs. Thyssen, Mr. Mayer MEP, Mr. Nielsen (EDS) and Mr. Michael Jäger (European Taxpayers). Mr. Santer MEP closed the event.

Working Lunch with Commissioner Loyola de Palacio, March 26, Brussels

One of the highlights of the SME-week in March 2003 was without any doubt the meeting with Commissioner Loyola de Palacio, on 26th March. By this, Mrs. Palacio followed an invitation by Mr. Santer MEP, President of the SME-Union.

Discussion with Commissioner Liikanen, "The Green Paper On Entrepreneurship", March 26, Brussels

During its General Assembly 2003 the SME-Union had the honour that Commissioner Erkki Liikanen responsible for DG Enterprise agreed to address the assembly in the afternoon of the 26th of March. The discussion was based on the green paper on entrepreneurship and the general attitude of the European institutions towards SMEs. The focus was clearly to build a new form of cooperation between the EP and the European Commission in order to forge a new consensus on SME policy in Europe. The SME-Union would like to express its gratitude for the presence and kind work by the Commissioner.



Discussion with Commissioner Liikanen.



EVENTS MAR

Conference Report, March 27, Brussels

The Conference on the financial situation of SMEs was opened by Mr. Paul Rübige MEP, Past President of the SME-Union of the EPP. In his introductory words, Mr. Rübige welcomed the many prominent stake holders to the conference. First speaker was Mr. Christoph Leitl, President of the Austrian Economic Confederation ÖWB. In particular, Mr. Leitl focussed on the upcoming challenges in EU-politics, such as the EU-Enlargement. He concluded, these challenges would be met if entrepreneurial spirit were not oppressed by tax burdens and bureaucratic obstacles.

Second speaker was Mr. Ingo Friedrich MEP, Vice President of the European Parliament. He outlined the main achievements and the primary goals of the SME-Circle.



Discussion between members.



*Mrs. Palacio - EU
Commissioner.*



The panel of the SME-Union Congress, 2003.



The SME-Union Congress, 2003.



EVENTS MAR

First Meeting of EEI, March 27, Brussels

The 1st Meeting of EEI, which was organised on the morning of March 27, was really interesting because there was Mr. Mitchel from Heritage foundation giving a briefing on the think tank in the USA.

Foundation of the EEI, March 27, Brussels

On Thursday, 27th of March 2003, the member organisations of the SME-Union of the EPP decided to set up a joint political foundation that would support their work on a more scientific way. By this they followed a suggestion by SME-Union Secretary General Günther Fehlinger and a decision of the General Assembly of the SME-Union. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Peter Jungen, Co-President of the SME-Union. Interest in participation was expressed by SME-Unions representing 35 political parties. Main focus of the future foundation would be the impact of SMEs on the economy.



Foundation of the SME-Global, March 27, Brussels

On Thursday, 27th of March 2003, the member organisations of the SME-Union of the EPP decided to set up a global association of like-minded organisations. By this they followed a suggestion by SME-Union Secretary General Günther Fehlinger and a decision of the General Assembly of the SME-Union. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Peter Jungen, Co-President of the SME-Union. Interest in participation was expressed by more than 40 SME-Unions or –committees from Europe, Argentina, Mexico, Chile, the US, and Kazakhstan. On behalf of IDU-Chairman John Howard, Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Richard Normington, Secretary General of the IDU announced the possible support of his organisation. Main focus of the future SME-Global was the upcoming WTO-round in Cancun, where SMEs needed a voice as well, as Mr. Rübiger reported. After that, Mr. Jungen, SME-Union Co-President, reported of his impressions of his last visit in the US. Finally, a co-ordination committee under the leadership of Mr. Peter Jungen was established in order to prepare the prospective statutes. As suggested by Mr. Fehlinger, SME-Global was adopted to be the new name.



Mr. Friedrich receiving the award.



Mr. Folias, Mr. Santer, Mr. Jungen



Mrs. Palacio honouring the SME-Union GA, 2003.

EVENTS MAY-JUN

Foundation Meeting of Slovenia's SME-Union, May 29-31

After some difficult months of preparations the team of the SME-Union of Slovenia under the leadership of Tomaz Toplak the Vice president of the SME-Union of the EPP was rewarded by a big success. The foundation meeting was attended by over 150 representatives of business and politics. The leaders of the centre right wing parties NSI and SDS Mr. Bajuk and Mr. Jansa put their political weight behind the initiative and also the new observer MEP, Mr. Podovnik was present and it was in general regarded a great success. Political support came from Wirtschaftsbund, the Austrian SME-Union which sent the former Governour of Carinthia Mr. Zernatto and from Croatia by the Secretary General of the SME-Union of the HDZ Mr. Benko and by the President of the Banatski Forum from Serbia who attended already the second SME-Union event.



Mr. Rübzig speaking at the Foundation Meeting of Slovenia's SME-Union.

The Needs of SMEs before Cancun, June 19, Brussels

The needs of SMEs before Cancun: It is with the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises where commerce starts, if we help them to develop in a more open international environment, we will encourage significant progress in the fields of global trade. The WTO must not only take into account the broad



Commissioner Lamy at the SME WTO Conference in the European Parliament.

classification of Developed, Developing and Least Developed countries; they should also consider the strength and diversity of SMEs from all over the world. Speaking at SMEs & WTO conference organised by SME-Union, SME-Global and the European Enterprise Institute, Dr Paul Rübzig MEP stated: SMEs are, on the whole, dynamic and have to date, been able to react to new market openings quickly. However, SMEs in both the Developed and the Developing Worlds are faced with the same challenges and obstacles to international trade. Remove these obstacles by creating an equally open and liberalised global market, and you not only give SMEs the chance to grow, but you create a level playing field across the world.

Only with the use of such an important and accurate tool can we create a transparent, flexible and accessible world trade system.

The purpose of the conference was to raise awareness amongst the key decision-makers, the politicians and most importantly the negotiators in Cancun, that the Doha Development Round cannot be a DEVELOPMENT round without creating a level playing field all of the economic generators. As a starting point the conference pursued some of the questions of the role and future for SMEs in the global market. It then moved to provoke and analyse how SMEs are to achieve these objectives through the Doha development round.



SME-Union's trip to South Eastern Europe, July 10, Belgrade

Organised by the President of SME-Union Serbia, the SG of the SME-Union met with the leader of the Democratic People Party of Serbia, Mr. Vuksanovic who is a young and dynamic leader with great prospects to transform Serbia into a EU candidate country.

SME-Union's trip to South Eastern Europe, July 14, Vukovar

At Vukovar the SG of SME-Union meets the leadership of the Vukovar section of the SME-Union of HDZ. Vukovar this tragic symbol of the war is still in a terrible situation with about half of the houses destroyed. But a lot of reconstruction is going on and some timid step to stimulate cross border trade is on the way.



SME-Union in Vukovar.

SME-Union at EDS, July 17, Zadar

On the 17th of July the SG of the SME-Union was asked to address the participants of the Summer University and present the SME-Union and discuss political priorities of today. The main message was that the future of the European centre-right is happening today in Washington and that we should watch and learn why and how the GOP, the Republican Party and President Bush is now transforming the world in a more democratic and more capitalist system.



Mr. Fehlinger speaking at EDS Summer University in Zadar.

SME-Union's trip to South Eastern Europe, July 20, Pristina

The SME-Union had a planning session with Mr. Naim Jerliu, who is the responsible for the foundation of SME-Union of LDK Kosovo and Vice-President of the LDK. In Pristina it was decided that the LDK would start with the creation of the SME-Union Kosovo during September.



Mr. Jerliu, Vice-President of LDK Kosovo, in Pristina.

SME-Union's trip to South Eastern Europe, July 23, Belgrade

The last meeting of the trip was again in Belgrade. The SME-Union met with Mr. Lamers, the representative of KAS in order to discuss the support of the SME-Union of Serbia. The second part of the program formed a meeting with the leading think tank turned political party G17+, the movement of Mr. Lapus, where the SG and Mr. Vukadin met the Vice-president Mr. Milan Pajevic who has a great understanding of Europe but is desperate about the Serbian political situation.



SME-Union at G17+ headquarters in Belgrade.



SME MAP



SME MEMBERS

EU COUNTRIES

Full Members

Austria	Wirtschaftsbund	www.wirtschaftsbund.at
Belgium	UNIZO	www.unizo.be
Cyprus*	Democratic Rally	www.disy.org.cy
Czech Republic*	EDA of Christian Democrats	www.ead.cz
Denmark	KF	www.konservative.dk
Finland	KOK	www.kokoomus.fi
France	UPM	www.u-m-p.org
Germany	MIT of CDU/CSU MU of CSU	www.mittelstand-deutschland.de
Greece	DAKMME	www.dakmme.gr
Hungary*	KKVE of Fidesz and MDF	www.fidesz.hu www.eufit.hu
Italy	SME of FI & Assortigiani	www.forza-italia.it
Ireland		
Luxemburg	CSV	www.online.lu/csv.lu
Malta*	SIZM	www.sizm.org
Netherlands	CDA	www.cda.nl
Poland*	Unicorn	www.gwiazdy.net
Portugal	PSD	www.psd.pt
Slovakia*	ZPP	www.sdkuonline.sk
Slovenia*	SDS	www.sls.si
Spain	PP	www.pp.es
Sweden	Moderate Party	www.moderat.se
UK	Conservative Party	www.conservative-party.org

*1.05.2004

FUTURE EU COUNTRIES

Full Members

Albania	SME-Union of Albania	www.unece.org/indust/sme/albania.htm
Bosnia	Prosperity Party	www.zaboljidak.ba
Croatia	SME-Union of HDZ	www.hdz.hr
Norway	SME-Union of Hoyre	www.hoyre.no
Romania	PPA	www.pntcd.ro
Serbia	SME-Union	www.yamse.co.yu

Observers

Azerbaijan	National Independence Party of Azerbaijan	
Bulgaria	UDF	www.sds.bg
Georgia	SME union of CDUG	
Kosovo	Democratic League of Kosovo	www.ldk-kosova.org
Macedonia	VMRO-DPMNE	www.vmro-dpmne.org.mk
Montenegro	Peoples Party	
Moldova	Business Ass of Hoyre	www.ppcd.dnt.md



Mission accomplished!

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The political force
of SMEs in the
EPP/ED Group



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MEP (UK)



Othmar Karas,
MEP (A)



Bashir Khanbhai,
MEP (UK)



Karl von Wogau,
MEP (D)



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MEP (D)



Francesco Fiori,
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Joachim Wuermeling,
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SME-Global visits Mexico, September 8

On the 8th of September 2003, when the SME-Global visit to Mexico took place, Mr. Dorn and Mr. Fehlinger met the heads of the international department and the head of the policy department of the Mexican Federation of Employers (Coparmex). For the SME-Union the meeting was a great success. The hosts remarked, that the level of European investment in Mexico still does not match the expectations of both sides, three years after the free trade agreement was signed. One of the reasons is the stalemate in the Mexican Congress, which has led to the postponement of major reforms. In Mexico, a fiscal reform is thus still on the agenda. Even though the Mexican economy has rebound impressively from the tequila shock of 1995 the last three years have brought almost no growth. However the reforms of Vincente Fox have brought economic stability. Although NAFTA is benefiting Mexico in many ways, due to the lack of any political dimension, progress in vital areas, such as competition policies, liberalisation, privatisation, and fiscal and financial reform is lagging behind. This is just another indication for the need for a common agenda for transition countries such as Mexico, similar to that for the EU candidate countries in order to transform their institutions and to benefit from globalisation.



Mr. Bartenstein, Minister of Economy, Australia.



Mr. Bartenstein at the SME-global lunch.

SME-Global lunch in Cancun September 10, Mexico

On 10th of September the SME-Global, the SME platform of the IDU has organised a lunch together

with the EPP/ED group on the occasion of the opening of the WTO Ministerial Conference. The lunch was attended by over 30 political and business representatives from all around the world. For the European Council, the Austrian Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Martin Bartenstein gave a strong speech against protectionism. In this, he was applauded by the Vice President of the EEP/ED group Mr. van Velzen who presented the EPP/ED group's policies on trade matters. Mexico was represented by 4 members of the Senate from the PAN party. Its leader, the President of Mexico Vicente Fox, had opened the WTO Conference in a magnificent way the same day. The debate was dominated by the Singapore issues versus farm trade, as Mexico is member of the G20 GROUP, which is pushing hard for the opening of the farm trade of the rich worlds markets.



WTO Ministerial Conference.

Cancun Press Conference, September 12, Mexico

The SME-Global has held a successful Press Conference on Friday the 12th of September in Cancun. Mr. Rübiger, MEP, invited Mr. Sturdy from the UK to join in and about 20 interested journalists and delegates joined the session.



Mr. Rübiger at the Press Conference.

An interesting debate developed if SMEs are heard on the WTO level.

SME visit to Washington, September 15-18, USA

The SG of the SME-Union visited after the Cancun WTO conference Washington in order to present the new projects launched in the last months and to foster transatlantic SME links. One of the aims of the visit was to organise the next SME delegation to Washington, which was planned after the EP elections.



Chairman Manzullo meeting Mr. Fehlinger.



Gala Dinner, Poland SME- Union founded, October 3, Warsaw

On the 3rd of October UNIKORN, the Polish SME-Union was officially recognized by the Civic Platform of Poland as its official partner in the field of SMEs. An official contract of cooperation was signed during a televised press conference on the occasion of the SME seminar on The Art of Entrepreneurship in the Sejm. Around 100 participants attended the conference and it can be clearly said that it was a major success. Speeches of Peter Jungen, Christos Folias, MEP and Lisbeth Grønfeldt, MEP were very well received. Due to the mere size of Poland, the Polish SME-Union will be of great importance for the economic and political potential of the SME-Union.

Mr. Ivan Miklos, the Vice Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic was invited to deliver the key note speech on his recent economic reforms. Mr. Miklos currently serves as Finance Minister in the Slovak government and has put forward courageous reforms in the area of education, health care, pensions and social security which dwarf the modest efforts undertaken in the rich economies of Western Europe and which seem so unfocused in comparison to his commitment.



Mr. Balcerovic speaking.

On the occasion of the foundation of SME-Union Poland Mr. Balcerovic, President of the Polish National Bank delivered a great speech during a Gala Dinner in Warsaw. Mr. Balcerovic is in many ways a great hero in the reform process of Poland and very active in the issues of tax reform and monetary stability.



Our MEPs in Warsaw.



Mr. Miklos speaking.

General Assembly and "The Economic situation in Germany" Conference, October 18-20, Cologne

The General Assembly of the German SME-Union (MIT) took place on October 18-20, 2003, in Cologne (Germany). Alongside the conference, the SME-Union of the EPP organised a workshop on the economic situation in Germany. They also provided opportunities for meetings with both the leadership of the CDU and the MIT, as well as to attend the conference itself.



Mr. Merz at the Assembly.



Mrs. Merkel.



Mrs. Merkel with the SME-MEPS at the Assembly.



Mr. Santer's speech.

EVENTS OCT-NOV

General Assembly of the Austrian SME-Union, Mr. Leitl re-elected, October 25, Graz

President Leitl was re-elected to another term of four years as the President of Wirtschaftsbund - the Austrian SME-Union. Mr. Jungen delivered the greeting on behalf of the SME-Union and its President Mr. Santer. The leadership of SME-Central Mr. Toplak and Mr. Bisztray were present and also the President of SME-Global Mr. Rübzig. It was a great occasion for SME-Union.

SME-Central at Graz Congress, October 25, Graz

Mr. Toplak and Mr. Bisztray had the chance for some high level encounters in Graz during the GA 2003. In fact it was possible to present the project of SME-Central to Mr. Mock who is still the unchallenged hero of central Europe on his way to freedom and Europe. It was a great honour for us. Also Minister Bartenstein was positively surprised that after he has seen SME-Union in action in Brussels during our congress and after he has seen SME-Global in action during the SME-Global lunch in Cancun that also on the regional level we have now a strong network of SMEs who are doing really good stuff.



New House of the SME-Union, October 2003

Since October 2003, the SME-Union, is hosted in the new house of the SME-Union Austria in Brussels. Many thanks for the support.



The new house in Brussels.

EPP Conference "Engaging Europe for Entrepreneurship", November 6, Brussels

On the 6th of November the European People's Party, the SME-Union and the EUCDW had the pleasure to welcome over 150 representatives from the European business world - such as multinational enterprises, economic associations, consultants and members of the European Commission.



EPP President Martens opening the Conference.

The objective of this conference was to strengthen the profile of entrepreneurship and private entrepreneurs in the European-Union.

The meeting focused on two main topics in the Green Paper of the European Commission "Entrepreneurship in Europe": how to get more people to start a business in Europe and how to get more European enterprises to grow. Further, Business competitiveness, tax legislation, finance of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and entrepreneur's risks are other issues which were discussed.



EPP, the party of Entrepreneurship.



SME-Global IDU Meeting, November 10, London

SME-Global was for the first time after its recognition in Thessaloniki invited to report about its progress at the IDU Executive in London on the 10th of November 2003. In fact it was a big step for us when it comes to recognition and cooperation on the global level.

Dr. Rübzig, MEP the President of SME-Global was reporting to the Executive about the activities of SME-Global in the run up to Cancun and in Cancun itself.

Although the WTO round itself did not bring about the results we would have wished for, the achievements of SME-Global were highly satisfactory.



Participants of the IDU meeting.



Mr. Rübzig and Mr. Howard.



You can visit the new site of SME-Global at www.sme-global.org

Foundation Congress of the SME Association of Serbia, November 14, Belgrade

SME-Union Co-Presidents Mr. Christos Folias, MEP and Peter Jungen participated in the Foundation Congress of the SME association of Serbia and visited the head of the EU delegation in Belgrade to discuss the volatile political situation. On this occasion the SME-Union reconfirmed its trust in the SME-Union Serbia, which is the political arm of the Serbian SME movement. Mr. Vukadin, President of SME-Union Serbia presented his vision of a European Serbia which would be prosperous and rich and a good place for SMEs. The SME situation is now much stronger than three years ago - and it seems as if the efforts of Mr. Busek, at the helm of the Stability pact for South Eastern Europe, had made a significant difference in the region. It was a great honour to receive Mr. Busek on the occasion and to hear his ideas on reforms. Mr. Busek particularly shares the view that South Eastern Europe will have to promote a strong SME culture in order to achieve sustainable long term growth. During the EEI Dinner hosted by the President of the European Enterprise Institute Mr. Peter Jungen, Mr. Busek was officially welcomed as a member of the honorary board of the European Enterprise Institute. In total about 600 SMEs and Entrepreneurs attended the event despite the highly charged political climate - which proves the high motivation and level of trust of Serbian entrepreneurs!



Speech of Mr. Busek.

Mr. Busek, Mr. Jungen, Mr. Vukadin.



EVENTS NOV-DEC

Conference: "EEI Hearing on Tax Reform in Europe", November 25, Brussels



Mr. Flat Tax in Brussels.

On the 25th of November 2003 the conference "EEI Hearing on Tax Reform in Europe" took place in the European Parliament. The highlight was the presentation of the taxation in the Slovak Republic by the Slovak Deputy PM Mr. Ivan Miklos.

After the conference an exclusive group of persons went with Mr. Miklos for dinner and spent a nice evening. About 60 participants followed the statements of Ivan Miklos concerning the Slovakian taxation system and the latest tax-reforms in his home country.



Austrian People's Party Delegates visit SME-Union's Head Office, November 27, Brussels

On invitation of the Austrian Peoples Party a delegation from Austria under the supervision of the MEP Karas and the Secretary General of the Austrian Peoples Party Reinhold Lopatka spent a weekend in Brussels. By that occasion they visited the Office of the SME-Union, which organised a little reception for the visitors.



An overview of the visit of the Austrian People's Party delegation at the SME office.



Mr. Santer and Mr. Rübzig are discussing about the upcoming events.

Last Bureau Meeting of SME-Union, December 3, Brussels

On the 3rd of December the SME-Union had its

last Bureau Meeting this year, where upcoming events and projects were discussed. After that a little Christmas reception took place in the office.

SME-Women Breakfast, December 3, Brussels

On the 3rd of December the first SME-Women's breakfast took place. In this initiative to enforce co-operation between SME-Women, country-specific as well as professional and personal experience were shared and discussed. The participants agreed on the importance of mutual strengthening in SME related women's issues and thus decided to organise common events on a more frequent basis.



An overview of the breakfast.

The first SME-Women's breakfast was definitely a success - the only suggestion that was made: For the future a higher degree of male participation would be welcomed!



Biometric Breakfast, December 4, Brussels

The background for the Biometrics breakfast on the 4th of December was a very current topic: Next year the US will ask for biometric recognition in all passports for visa free entry into the US and advanced technology would allow for face recognition instead of finger prints for identification.

During the breakfast, Falcontrol, an Austrian company providing such kind of technology did a multimedia presentation, introducing their hardware based system, which they developed throughout the past two years. Falcontrol believes that the european public will be more willingly to accept face recognition as a mean of security than fingerprints.

There was a good echo from the part of the participants and an apparently great interest in the topic.



A multimedia presentation.

SME-Union 2000 to 2004 “Fighting Hard for SMEs”



Starting as the SME-Union SG in November 2000, I had the unique opportunity to serve three Presidents and I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Peijs, Mr. Róbig and Mr. Santer for their guidance, patience and understanding. I learned a lot during these years and I hope that I served our common cause well. To bring the struggle of SMEs into the heart of European politics and to change the focus of the European Peoples party and therefore European politics was the mission and it was accomplished. SME-Union was not known in Brussels in November 2000. And now it is. SME-Union did not have more than two member organisations. And

now it has 32. SME-Union was no factor in the EPP. And now it is. SME-Union did have no enemies. Now it has plenty. Maybe the best proof of success. The left is actively campaigning against us and our friends from other quarters of the EPP are watching us attentively. Clear positions gave us a clear profile. Maybe the “Thank you Gerhard but now it is time to go” was over the top but together with the consistent clear pro-Bush line it gave us the attention Europe’s SMEs have lacked up to then in the EU institutions. Together with the use of our publications, the email newsletter and the eye popping banners at all events we created the awareness which allowed us to get our message across. “Enlargement & SMEs” in 2001, Basel II in 2002, WTO in 2003 and “Taxation and Entrepreneurship” now in 2004, we focused on the key topics and kept campaigning intensively and on the top level. The Congress in 2001 with Minister Dzurinda, the meeting with the President of the Basel II committee Mr. Donaghue in New York, the WTO conference in the

EP with Commissioner Lamy and the participation in Cancun in 2003 and finally the campaign about the introduction of the flat tax in the Slovak Republic with three great presentations of Mr. Flat Tax - Ivan Miklos - the Vice PM of the Slovak Republic at our SME WEEK 2003 in Brussels, at the great Entrepreneurship



The GA 2003, a great success for SME-Union.

seminar in Warsaw and again in Brussels in November at the presentation of the European Enterprise Institute. Mr. Miklos is a good example for the Europe we want. He is open, liberal, reform-minded, pro American and pro European, extremely convincing and totally convinced of his mission to improve his country with the help of the ideas of the Austrian School of Economists which in fact mostly come from the Slovak part of Central Europe. His reform had a significant impact of tax reforms in Austria and is the best proof for the need of tax competition in Europe as the only way to reduce the immoral level of taxation which two generation of socialist have imposed on the continent. This in fact was the driving force of my motivation to work in South Eastern Europe as well with the conservative movement in Washington and to try to be active at the WTO level and in Kosovo. Socialism was dominating Europe for 100 years and has shaped most of our beliefs. Only in the comparism with the US which never was infected in the same degree we can challenge these collectivisms of many of our institutions. It is vital for Europeans to understand the socialist foundations of many of our beliefs and assumptions and to work hard to get over them. Against all resistance I tried to attack these socialists in all parties and these little socialisms in our minds. Europeans, mean it entrepreneurs, workers, students or retired should live in freedom. This is the real European heritage and this was and will be our mission: Freedom for the people and turning Europe into an open and prosperous continent a strong partner of the USA in order to spread freedom and prosperity globally.

Thank you for your support

Günther Fehlinger
Secretary General 2000-2004



President Santer and Mr. Fehlinger at the SME GA 2003.



Senator Christopher Bond and Mr. Fehlinger.

Home Page

On our website you will find the political profile of the SME-Union, links to up-to-date articles, valuable material of the organisation and their activities. Search for parties, politicians and many related topics. Subscribe to our SME-Union newsletter to regularly receive the latest SME news via email.

Activities

Under activities you find a list of SMEs and related organisations and an overview of the past and forthcoming events. Have a closer look at the programmes of the scheduled events and make use of our online registration.



Video-Audio

In the video section, you can choose among a huge variety of videos including lectures, speeches, events and activities of the SME-Union. Download video clips available in Real Player format.



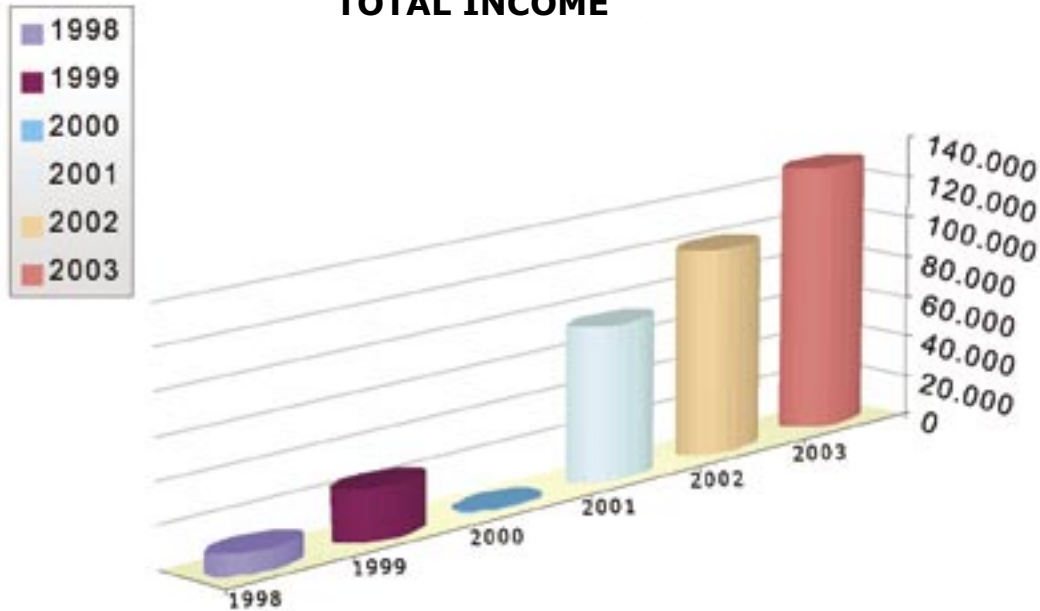
Photogallery

Browse through our assorted collection of photos from the congresses, meetings and other activities.

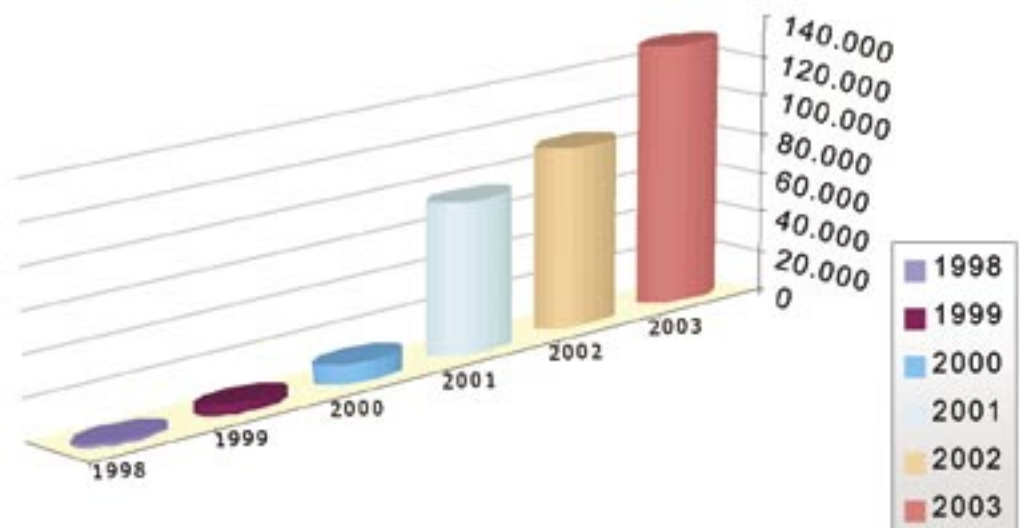


FINANCES

TOTAL INCOME



TOTAL EXPENSES



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- Österreichischer Wirtschaftsbund, in particular Dr. Christoph Leitl, President, Mr. Karl-Heinz Kopf, Secretary General;
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- Konrad Adenauer Foundation Brussels, in particular Mr. Franz Josef Reuter, Director;
- European People's Party, in particular Mr. Antonio Lopez Isturiz, Secretary General;
- Hanns Seidel Foundation Brussels, in particular Mr. Markus Russ, Director;
- UNICE, UEAPME, Euro-Chambers as fraternal organisations.

Annual Report

Annual Report 2000, 2001 and 2002 were published in order to inform about all the activities hosted by the SME-Union in the years 2000-2002.



In order to bring the topics closer to the public, the SME-Union created various publications in the year 2003.

Leaflet

Leaflet: Special editions, published in order to provide informations to the public, about the several branches of SME-Union.



Booklet

Booklet: This booklet was issued to document the successes of the parliament work as well as the challenges for the future.



Entrepreneur: The Entrepreneur is the quarterly published magazine about the SME-Union's work in the European Parliament.

Entrepreneur



Education publications

publications

Brand and campaign logos underline the SME-Union's aims.

Logos



Participants at SME-Union Events

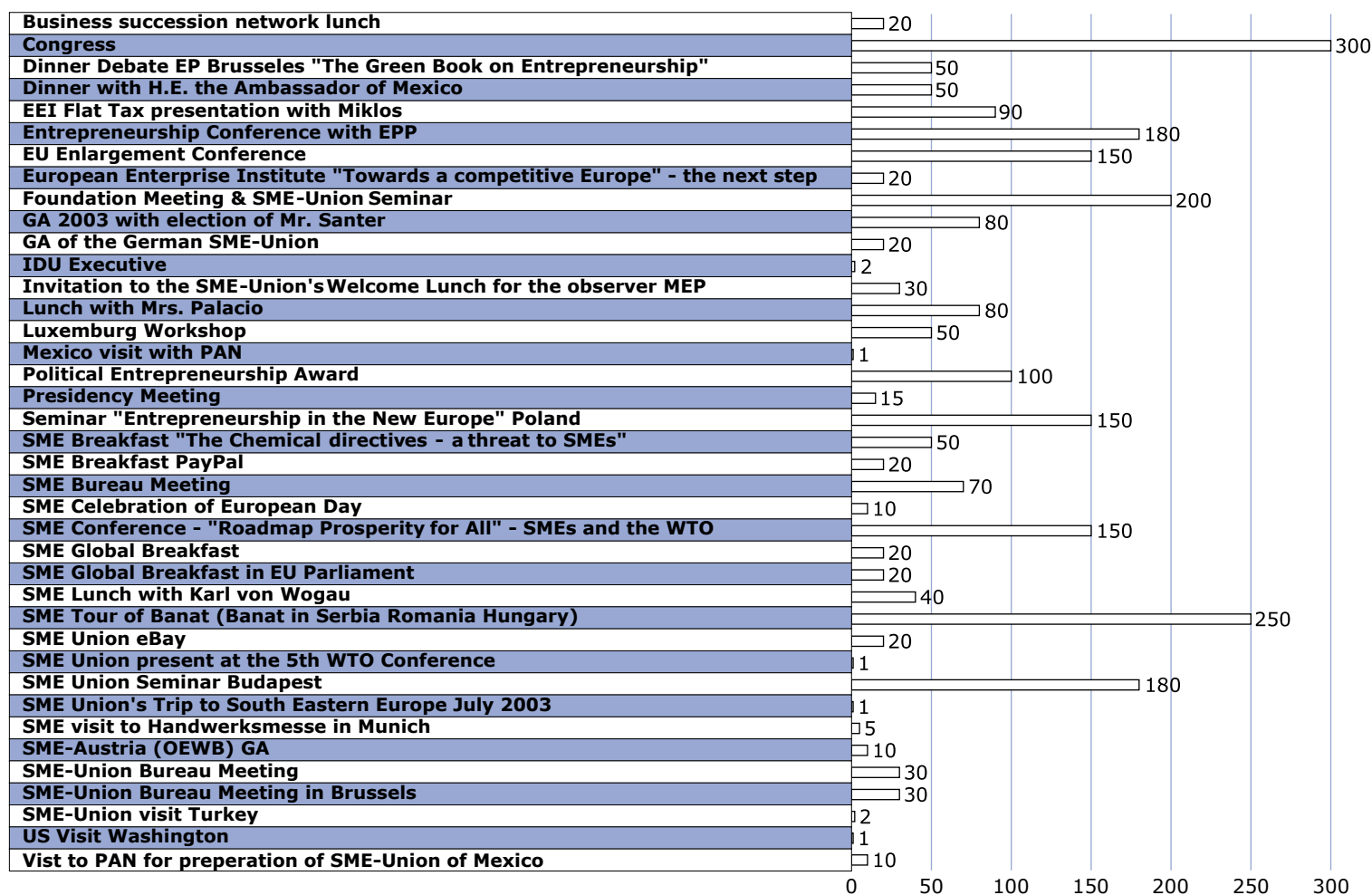


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