



**Friday 19 May 2006**

**General Assembly**, Vienna, 19 May 2006 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.  
Wirtschaftskammer Österreich (WKÖ), Wiedner Hauptstraße 63,  
A-1040 Wien, Julius Raab-Saal

## MINUTES

Participants: P. BAERISWYL, S.J. BAGNALL, J.K. BAGNALL, M. CANDELA, O. DRABORG, P.M DREHER, E. FISCHER, L. FISCHER, M. FORREST, J. HELMJOKI, J. HINZ, F.S. HUEMER, W. KREIBICH, R. KRONSTRÖM, E. KRUIDERINK, A. KUTTEN, G. LARSEN, M. MANNES, J. McNULTY, G.A. MJELDHEIM, M.A. PALAT, B. PISKOLTI, M. RÖSSLER, H. SCHULZ, J.S. SEDDON, R. SOLANES, A. STÖA, A. TÓTH, R. TREACY, O.M. UTAGAARD, G. VAN DER WEIDE, J. VAN WALSEM  
Guests: O. KARAS, C. MURCIANO.

### 1) **Opening by the President**

Jürgen Hinz thanked the Austrian Federation "Die Maler" and his president KommR Egon Fischer for the invitation to the Heurigen-Restaurant „Weingut Wolff“.

He welcomed especially Mr Antal Tóth from the Hungarian Federation SZMTOI, who became member of UNIEP in 2006.

### 2) **Review of the minutes of the 2005 general assembly meeting in Cologne** adopted

### 3) **UNIEP - activities in 2005 and 2006** (Ludger Fischer)

The results of one year's activities have been presented by the secretary general. Please find the presentation attached to these minutes. Please send it to as much contact addresses you know (especially individual enterprises). The report will also be available on UNIEP's web site [www.uniep.eu](http://www.uniep.eu)

### 4) **The road ahead in UNIEP. Scheduled activities in 2006** (Jürgen Hinz)

UNIEP president Hinz underlined the importance of contacts to the enterprises and the reduction of VAT to increase employment. He reported on the French VAT reduction experiment, where a loss of 1,2 Billion € of VAT was compensated by a win of 2,35 Billion € for social insurance contribution.

## 5) Contributions from member associations Round table reports

**DE** Additional loss of workplaces is expected; working time directive will have to take into account flexibility; Craft and SME are taken seriously in Brussels; Support for SME from EU (3,2 Million Euro) will increase investment; 100.000 jobs lost between 2000 and 2006; expected job loss in 2006: 13.000; trainees in 2000: 48.000, in 2006 only 32.000; turnover in 2000: 15,6 million, in 2006: 10,4 million;

**ES** Economical situation = good. Construction boom; The sector is still creating jobs; Problems: late payment, 120 days; Bad training; ANSPI members represent the painting branch in official bodies to design new training schemes; UNIEP should lobby for training; A European regulation or standard is needed to get necessary skills; VAT=15%, the government is asked for a reduction

**UK** Steven Bagnall gave a reasonable optimistic report on the economic situation in the UK.

**NL** Growing economy, FOSAG is dealing with reduced taxes, problem: unemployment in winter

**CH** increasing economy, also in the crafts sector, training should be improved, modular further training intended, 3-3,75% interest rates

**HU** actual enterprises are not registered, should be changed; bad economic situation; low inflation; high interest rates; high shadow economy, no measures from the government; many unemployed; price per hour = 4 Euro; bad education, only from 2006 on 3 years education

**IE** education went better; branch is booming; few people coming from other European countries; number of trainees stays stable

**NO** increasing level of employment; company owners have to pay taxes from 2006 on

**DA** no workers coming from other European Countries; increasing economy; low interest rates; 30.000 new homes have been built; branch is booming; work force needed; lots of trainees

**LU** increasing economy; 4% growth

**FI** intention of the association: TAX reduction for labour intensive services

**AT** turnover increased by 1 million Euro; 16.300 enterprises with 2870 trainees; no reduced TAX possible; building branch booming, painting branch not yet; prices = stable; problem: shadow economy; the Austrian association supports the Spanish proposal for a harmonised training structure in Europe;

UNIEP member associations are kindly invited to answer the following questions from 2007 on:

Number of enterprises:

Thereof number members of the association:

Number of employees:

Employment: increasing/decreasing

Number of trainees:

Trainees: increasing/decreasing

Tendency of the branche: increasing/decreasing

Price for a working hour:

VAT rate:

Interests rate: %

Vocational training: xx years

Main problem: xxx

## 6) UNIEP Financial Report (v.d. Weide)

- Financial report 2005
  - no payment from Belgium for 2005
  - Finland wants to pay a higher contribution (4000 Euro) from 2006 on
- Report from the auditor: Balance is accepted
- The auditor, John Bagnall asked for the discharge of responsibility of the board: accepted unanimously

- Budget 2006 accepted unanimously  
UEAPME increased activities and time paid with additional 8000 Euro for the first step in 2006.  
Italy will start payment in 2008

7) **Election of the board**

The board was re-elected. Unanimously voted: Jürgen Hinz (president), Gerard van der Weide, Manuel Candela, Geir Atle Mjeldheim (vice presidents).  
Stephen Bagnall offered to join the board from 2007 on.

8) **Election of the auditor**

John Bagnall, voted unanimously

9) Cristina Murciano, UEAPME: **European Structural Funds. Direct access for SME**

The European funding tools Jeremy, Jasper and Jessica have been presented.

10) A.o.b The UNIEP flagg has been handed over to the **new Hungarian UNIEP member SZMTOI.**

**Lecture: Othmar Karas (Member of the European Parliament)**

**“The Service Directive and the effects on SME”**

(German language, translation provided into EN, FR)

The Services Directive in the improved version of the European Parliament is a "visiting card of the social free-market economy", said the European parliament delegate Othmar Karas at the congress of UNIEP in Vienna, on 19 May 2006. The EVP delegate thanked the international painter federation UNIEP for its contribution to the reached compromise. "One can make politics only if one involves concerned people" Karas campaigned for the draft. A goal of the European Union is not a free, but a social free-market economy. The Services Directive is a product of this social philosophy. "The market is not a purpose in itself for Europe", stressed Karas, who demanded the responsibility of the policy also for social stability, employment and lasting development. Karas claimed fair trade during the globalisation process. In addition the Services Directive serves not predominantly the liberalisation, it guarantees that industrial law, private law as well as collective agreements of the respective country of destination will have to be considered and that the country of the service provider can be specified as address for jurisdiction.

Minutes: Dr. Ludger Fischer, Brussels, 16 June 2006