

Press release

**SBS – Small Business Standards
first General Assembly and Board of Directors**

Brussels, 10th January 2014

SBS - Small Business Standards - is the new European organism established in defence on the SMEs in standardisation. SBS is the result of the determination of UEAPME, EBC, EFESME and other National organizations and European sectoral Federations. SMEs face more obstacles to participate in the standardisation process and for this reason, since its drafting, our Association committed itself to this project to ensure appropriate representation for SMEs in the standardisation process at European level.

SBS was formally set up on 25th October 2013 by eight founding member associations: UEAPME (inter-professional), EBC (construction), EFESME, Confartigianato (inter-professional), APCMA (inter-professional), CAPEB (construction), ECAP (construction) and PIN-SME (information & communication).

The first constituent General Assembly of SBS was held in Brussels on 13th December 2013, which resulted in an enlargement of the organism to further sectors: metal (EMU), industry/safety equipment (SME-safety), wood industry construction (TISCHLER SCHREINER), scaffolding industry/construction (UEG), cosmetics & medical devices (ICADA), insulation material manufacturers (EMM), textile (DTV) and other association in the inter-professional field (ZDH, CGPME, WKÖ).

Moreover, the General Assembly appointed the SBS Board members: Ms. Gunilla Almgren (President, UEAPME), Mr. David Amadon (CAPEB), Mr. Massimo Bezzi (EFESME), Mr. Gerard Bobier (APCMA), Gerhard Lanz (Confartigianato), Mr. Fabio Massimo (PIN-SME), Mr. François Roubaud (CGPME), Mr. Christoph Schneider (WKÖ), Mr. Karl-Heinz Schneider (ZDH) and Mr. Riccardo Viaggi (Treasurer, EBC).

Yesterday, 9th January 2014 SBS held its first Board of Directors, in which the representatives of the members discussed about operative issues, for instance the appointment of a new project manager.



As regards to the technical experts, the European Commission and SBS have established two separated sessions for expert proposal and examination, the first one starting from 1st January 2014 and the second one starting from 1st April 2014.

Thanks to the strong involvement in the General Assembly and the former contribution to NORMAPME, EFESME was able to appoint two of its technical experts for the first round of expert nomination: Mr. Giuseppe Iotti and Mr. Luciano Faletto were selected, respectively in the CEN/TC10 and in the ISO/TC178.

The next Board of Directors is foreseen for 19th February 2014 and the Board members will decide upon the election of the Vice President of SBS.