

## **SBS – Small Business Standards**

**SBS - Small Business Standards** - is the new European organism established with the support of the European Commission 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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).

The SBS goal is to represent and defend SME interests in the standardisation process at European and international level. Moreover, it aims at **raising SME awareness** about the benefits of standards and at encouraging them to get involved in the standardisation process. To reach these goals, SBS has **appointed 17 experts so far** to take part in the work of CEN-CENELEC and ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation) Technical Committees so as to directly contribute to the creation of standards. The experts, coordinated by SBS, will **monitor that standards are SME-friendly** and will therefore promote a better adaptation of standards to fit SME needs.

Through its members SBS will also put forward SME point of views in all relevant Fora, Working Groups and platforms shaping the standardisation system. Moreover, SBS will consult and keep its members informed about Internal Market policies related to standardisation issues affecting SMEs.