



Finding Your Way

around the small business agenda in Brussels

FSB EU Newsletter April 2010 Issue 4

Welcome

Welcome to the FSB's EU Newsletter. This newsletter is a regular publication produced by the FSB's EU and International Affairs policy and campaigns team. This newsletter aims to give you a short summary of the FSB's activities in Brussels and the latest issues affecting small businesses. We hope you find this letter to be of use. If you have any comments please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

FSB in Action!



Lord Mandelson launches the Point of Single Contact (services Directive) at the FSB's annual conference

Lord Mandelson formally launches the Point of Single Contact

Lord Mandelson formally launched the Point of Single Contact (PSC) at the FSB's annual conference. The PSC which is part of the Services Directive makes it possible for small firms to use a single website to find out everything they need to know to apply for an authorisation or license for almost any services. You can access the PSC via [Business Link](#).

The Services Directive explained – new FSB guide

The FSB has launched a [new guide](#) explaining what this Directive means for small businesses and how they can take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

Delight as MEPs vote to cut red tape for Europe's smallest businesses

The FSB is delighted that MEPs have voted in favour of proposals that would enable Member States to exclude micro enterprises from the scope of the 4th Company Law Directive and thus exempt them from certain burdensome accounting requirements. If implemented in the UK the annual savings for micro entities are likely to be in the range of £103 - £403 million. [Find out more](#).

Maternity victory

Following lobbying by the FSB, European Parliament plans to grant pregnant women twenty weeks of maternity leave on full pay have been shelved pending a full impact assessment. [More](#)

Letter from Brussels: Dr. Edmund Stoiber

Can red tape be cut in Brussels? That was the key question when the FSB's Tina Sommer met Dr. Edmund Stoiber, the man charged with doing just that. [More](#)



Richard Hyslop being interviewed on the Politics Show



Sietske de Groot talks Lord Mandelson through the FSB's guide to the Services Directive



Richard Hyslop discusses Commission proposals to help small businesses with Conservative MEP Nirj Deva



Liberal Democrat MEP Sharon Bowles signs up to the FSB's "Stop the Blockades" campaign



FSB and ESBA discussing accountancy rules for micro enterprises with UKIP MEP Marta Andreasen



Frank Cook MP signs up to the FSB's "Stop the Blockades" campaign

EU to provide 45,000 micro-loans to unemployed and small entrepreneurs

The European Microfinance Facility will have a starting budget of €100 million which could leverage more than €500 million in cooperation with international financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group. The initiative is part of the EU's response to the crisis and is especially targeted at people who cannot normally obtain credit because of the economic crisis and the current lack of credit supply. [More](#)

Spouses directive update

On 8 March, the European Council adopted its first reading position on a draft directive, which aims to strengthen social protection for self-employed workers and assisting spouses. [More](#)

EU extends minimum parental leave for all workers

On 8 March, EU employment ministers adopted a directive extending minimum parental leave (unpaid) from three to four months for each parent. A couple will therefore have at least eight months of parental leave available to them in the EU. The new directive applies to all workers, regardless of whether they have a fixed-term, temporary agent or part-time contract.

FSB discusses the concerns of West Midlands small businesses with Malcolm Harbour MEP

Denise Craig, FSB West Midlands Policy Manager met with West Midlands MEP and [IMCO Committee](#) Chairman Malcolm Harbour to discuss a number of issues of concern to small businesses in the West Midlands. Issues discussed included: the future of the Regional Development Agency, broadband and late payment.

FSB attends business summit at Cambridge University

David Burch, FSB East of England Policy Manager; Richard Hyslop and members of the East of England Area Policy Unit recently attended a business summit at Cambridge University organised by local MEPs Geoffrey Van Orden and Vicky Ford.

More politicians back FSB campaign

Labour MP Frank Cook has become the latest politician to sign up to the FSB's "Stop the Blockades" campaign. To find out more about the campaign and to sign our petition [click here](#).

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