



Finding Your Way

around the small business agenda in Brussels

FSB EU Newsletter December 2009 Issue 2

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!



East of England MEPs join forces to sign up to FSB "Stop the Blockades Petition"

Lisbon Treaty

The Lisbon Treaty entered into force on 1 December. To find out more and to see what impact the Lisbon Treaty has on small businesses [click here](#).

New Commission: Small Business Issues Dominated by France and Italy

A new college of commissioners has now been proposed by Commission President Barroso. Whether they will be good news for small businesses remains to be seen. [More](#)

Proposal for an EU-wide Carbon Tax

The proposal is currently in its draft version, and is expected to be finalised early next year by the new Commission. The main aim of the proposal is to address those sectors not currently covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, such as transport, agriculture and buildings. [More](#)

Spouses Directive

Astrid Lulling MEP, a member of the European Parliament's Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee is concerned that a large number of self employed people and assisting spouses (usually women) are being denied their rights in terms of access to a state pension, maternity leave etc. These people are therefore, she believes, in a vulnerable position. [More](#)

FSB Gives Oral Evidence to House of Lords

On 26 October FSB EU and International Affairs Chairman Tina Sommer and FSB EU and International Affairs Policy Adviser Sietske de Groot, gave oral evidence to the House of Lords Sub-Committee B (Internal Market). Tina and Sietske were giving evidence on the better regulation agenda. To listen to what they had to say [click here](#).



FSB Chairman John Wright shows Baroness Ludford MEP around the FSB's stand at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference



Roger Helmer MEP with FSB EU Policy Adviser Richard Hyslop at the Conservative Party Conference



Former Conservative Party leader
Rt. Hon Michael Howard QC MP
signs up to the FSB's
"Stop the Blockades" campaign



Nigel Dodds MP signs up to the FSB's
"Stop the Blockades" campaign

FSB Sponsors MEP Briefing Session

The FSB recently sponsored a day long briefing conference for Conservative Members of the European Parliament. The event was organised by the Enterprise Forum. Issues discussed at the event included the environment, regulation, the internal market and the current financial crisis. To view images of this event [click here](#).

Letter from Brussels: Dr. Caroline Lucas MEP

In the first of a series of pieces for the FSB from MEPs, Caroline Lucas, leader of the Green Party, offers her top 10 environmentally friendly tips for small businesses. [More](#)

FSB in France

FSB National Chairman John Wright awarded Clyde Union, A Scottish Company in the pump industry, an award for the best British business that has established itself across the border at the Franco British Business Awards. He also told guests that France has been doing a good job helping small firms with access to finance.

More Politicians Back FSB Campaign

Nigel Dodds MP (Democratic Unionist Party) 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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