



Finding Your Way

around the small business agenda in Brussels

FSB EU Newsletter February 2010 Issue 3

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!



FSB and ESBA discussing accountancy rules for micro enterprises with Green Party MEP Dr. Caroline Lucas

European Parliament debates impact of financial crisis on small businesses

The temporary committee on the financial crisis held a workshop looking at the impact of the financial crisis on small businesses. The FSB sent committee members a [briefing](#) setting out the situation for small businesses in the UK.

FSB mass lobby in Strasbourg

The FSB, along with colleagues from ESBA, have been in Strasbourg to ask MEPs to support a European Commission proposal that would exempt certain micro businesses from burdensome accounting requirements. To find out more [click here](#), to view images from our time in Strasbourg [click here](#).

What does the new Commission mean for small businesses?

The European Parliament will take a decision on the whole College of Commissioners on 9 February. Commissioner Antonio Tajani (Industry and Entrepreneurship, Italy) and Commissioner Michel Barnier (Internal Market and Services, France) are set to be the "small business" Commissioners. [More](#)

Commission looks again at late payment

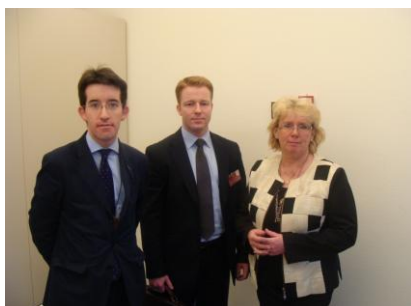
Late payment is once again back on the agenda in Brussels with the European Ombudsman launching a [public consultation](#) on the Commission's late payment problems. The European Parliament has also indicated that it would like to considerably amend the Commission's late payment proposal with regard to public authorities. To access the Late Payment Directive (recast) [click here](#), to read the FSB's views on late payment [click here](#).

Unnecessary red tape consultation – Have your say!

The European Commission has an ongoing online consultation on the reduction of administrative burdens. Members are encouraged to identify unnecessary red tape in order to help the EU improve the quality of its legislation; all FSB members are encouraged to respond. To read the FSB's views on administrative burden reduction [click here](#).



Richard Hyslop and Sietske de Groot from the FSB discuss small business issues with Conservative MEP Dr. Syed Kamall



FSB and ESBA discussing accountancy rules for micro enterprises with Swedish Liberal MEP Lena Ek



UKIP MEP The Earl of Dartmouth becomes the latest politician to sign the FSB's "Stop the Blockades" petition



Richard Hyslop and Holly Conway discuss the FSB's "Stop the Blockades" campaign with Liberal Democrat MP Greg Mulholland

Letter from Brussels: Malcolm Harbour MEP

In the second of a series of pieces for the FSB from MEPs, Malcolm Harbour, Chairman of the Internal Market Committee, urges small businesses to see intellectual property rights as an enabler not an inhibitor. [More](#)

EDM tabled in Westminster in support of "Stop the Blockades" campaign

Liberal Democrat MP, Greg Mulholland, has tabled an Early Day Motion in Westminster in support of the FSB's "Stop the Blockades" campaign. To view the EDM [click here](#). If your local MP has not signed please do encourage them!

FSB welcomes French to London

On the 28 January FSB national Chairman John Wright CBE welcomed a delegation of the Mouvement des Entreprises de France (Movement of the French Enterprises) who were on a fact-finding visit in London. [More](#)

More politicians back FSB campaign

The Earl of Dartmouth MEP (UKIP) 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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