



Finding Your Way

around the small business agenda in Brussels

FSB EU Newsletter June 2010 Issue 5

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!



David Caro, Chairman of the FSB Environment and Energy Committee Speaking in the European Parliament

Working time for lorry drivers – FSB campaigns in Brussels and Strasbourg

Sietske de Groot spoke at a European Parliament public hearing looking at proposals to regulate the working hours of self-employed hauliers. Together with ESBA, the FSB also met with MEPs in both Brussels and Strasbourg to convince them of the need to vote for entrepreneurship and agree with the continued exclusion of the self-employed from working time rules when this issue comes before the Parliament for a vote on 15 June. To read Sietske's speech [click here](#) and to read the FSB's position paper [click here](#). An article by Tina Sommer on this subject can be found [here](#).

FSB makes the case for an SME led low carbon economy

Speaking in the European Parliament, at a conference organised by Friends of the Earth, the Chairman of the FSB Environment and Energy Committee, David Caro set out how small businesses can make a huge contribution to the low carbon economy. To read David's speech [click here](#).



Sietske de Groot addressing MEPs from the EPP and ECR on the issue of working time for truck drivers

FSB head to Brussels to call for a more flexible approach to employment legislation

Benjamin Burgher Chairman of the FSB Employment Committee and fellow Committee member Martina Murphy travelled to Brussels to make the case for a more flexible approach to employment legislation. During their time in Brussels meetings were held with MEPs, UKRep and officials from the European Commission.

The FSB will be launching a report on flexible working later in the year.



FSB National Chairman John Walker discussing small business issues with Malcolm Harbour MEP

Tina Sommer re-elected as ESBA President

Tina Sommer, EU and International Affairs Chairman at the FSB has been re-elected as president of the European Small Business Alliance (ESBA). ESBA is one of the largest voluntary membership business organisations in Europe representing around one million small businesses drawn from 35 countries.



Sietske de Groot discusses Commission proposals on the working time of lorry drivers with Liberal Democrat MEP Grahame Watson



Richard Hyslop discusses accountancy rules for micro enterprises with German Green MEP Heide Ruhle



Malcolm Harbour MEP signs up to the FSB's "Stop the Blockades" campaign



The FSB's Priyen Patel discusses EU finance issues with Conservative MEP Emma McClarkin

SME Week

As part of the Commission's SME Week, Tina Sommer spoke at an event in Belfast, organised by the Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust. The event highlighted the importance of EU engagement for SMEs. Also speaking at the event were Jim Nicholson MEP, Diane Dodds MEP and Bairbre de Brun MEP.

Emma McClarkin MEP signs up for Small Business Fellowship

Emma McClarkin MEP visited the FSB's London office as part of her [Small Business Fellowship](#) offered by the FSB and the Industry and Parliament Trust. Emma met with FSB policy staff to discuss a number of EU issues relating to her work in the Parliament. Later in the year Emma will be spending some time working with a couple of FSB members.

Letter from Brussels: Tina Sommer

Tina Sommer reflects on the e-word and why it is so important. [More](#)

New Green MEP for the South East

The FSB extends a warm welcome to the UK's newest MEP, [Keith Taylor](#). Mr. Taylor replaces Dr. Caroline Lucas as Green Party MEP for the South East of England following Dr. Lucas's election as MP for the Brighton Pavilion constituency.

Commission adopts revised competition rules for motor vehicle distribution and repair

The European Commission has adopted new competition rules for agreements between vehicle manufacturers and their authorised dealers, repairers and spare parts distributors. A link to the new rules and guidelines can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Anticipating that the new rules and guidelines would be written in "Euro speak" the FSB campaigned for the Commission to produce a frequently asked questions document which can be accessed [here](#).

FSB event: Women in the workplace in Europe – What women really want

The event, jointly hosted by the FSB and Marina Yannakoudakis MEP, will bring together female entrepreneurs and business experts from across the EU to debate the barriers to female entrepreneurship and will include discussion on flexible working and maternity and paternity leave. [More](#)

More politicians back FSB campaign

Conservative MEP Malcolm Harbour 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](#).

Contact Details

London

Federation of Small Businesses

2 Catherine Place
Westminster
London
SW1E 6HF

E-mail:

sietske.degroot@fsb.org.uk
richard.hyslop@fsb.org.uk

Website: www.fsb.org.uk

Brussels

Federation of Small Businesses

Logos Public Affairs Building
Rue D'Idalie 9 – 13
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

E-mail:

sietske.degroot@fsb.org.uk
richard.hyslop@fsb.org.uk

Website: www.fsb.org.uk