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# Reaching out to national SME associations in Europe

In PPE and Textile care in the EU and EFTA

Andreas Schumacher, SBS Board Member and Managing Director DTV

# Rationale for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

## Situation

- Representation and participation of SMEs in the PPE and textile care sector in Europe in standardisation-related activities is insufficient
- Absence of a European association representing the interests of SMEs in PPE and textile care
- Voice of SMEs in this sector remained unheard before SBS started to engage in this sector

## Why now?

- The sector is facing major changes due to the new European legislative framework, and consequently with regard to standardisation in support of this new legislation.
  - Regulation 2016/425 (PPE)
  - Regulation 2017/745 (Medical Devices)



## Effects of new regulations to SMEs

### Responsibilities

- Checking that their (reprocessed) products meet the requirements (including testing and certificates)
- Carrying out conformity assessments
- Setting up technical files
- Issuing the EU declaration of conformity
- Affixing the CE marking to their products



## What do SMEs need?

- Standards and regulations which are being understood (along the product chain)
- Follow-up on the implementation of the regulation and helping to transfer this in understandable and applicable (harmonized) standards
- Information that is consistent along the product chain - manufacturers, reprocessors, customers, end users
- Voices that make their interests and challenges heard

# The information and communication gap

## Legislators and standardisers lack

- Information about processes and requirements of SMEs
- Information about effects of changing requirements of standards and legislation for SMEs (e.g. product testing, certification costs, value chains ...)
- Input from SMEs to the legislation and standardisation processes

## European SMEs lack

- Information on upcoming legislation and changes in standards
- Ways to get their voices heard in legislation and standardisation processes
- Clarification in the implementation of new regulations and standards



- SBS, European sectoral organisations as well as national SME organisations can bridge this gap

# Mission of the MoU



- Provide support and representativeness to SMEs on standards-related issues
- Co-ordinate voices and positions of European SMEs in PPE and textile care
- Provide technical expertise and relevant information with the implementation of the legislative framework

## Foreseen actions of the SBS MoU

- spread information about ongoing legislation and standardisation in the field of PPE and Textile Care
- Share and spread the technical information about ongoing standardisation activities with the SME community
- Stimulate feedback and gather SME input by their SME members
- Elaborate consensus-based positions on SME issues relevant to sectoral legislation and standardisation
- Inform members about newly published legislations and standards
- Engage in communication with legislators and standardisation bodies as well as Notified Bodies

# Signing SME Organisations

- Asociace prádelen a čistíren ČR, z.s. (Czech Republic)
- Deutscher Textilreinigungsverband e.V. (Germany)
- Federatie van de Belgische Textielverzorging (Belgium)
- SME Safety a.i.s.b.l. (Europe)
- Sveriges Tvätteriförbund (Sweden)
- Textile Services Association (UK)
- ...


In the next few months SBS will approach more national associations to sign the MoU.



Asociace prádelen  
a čistíren ČR







Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success. (Henry Ford)

Looking forward to working together- thanks for the attention!

**SMALL BUSINESS STANDARDS**

Rue Jacques de Lalaing 4

B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

[www.sbs-sme.eu](http://www.sbs-sme.eu)

[info@sbs-sme.eu](mailto:info@sbs-sme.eu)

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