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**CEEP Public Services Board: EU Parliament report on SME Definition and Questionnaire on in-house**

***Communication sent to members of the CEEP Public Services Board (23/4/2018):***

Allow me first to usher in my first email as CEEP Policy Officer on Public Services by saying how enthusiastic I feel to join CEEP in this position. I look forward working with all of you in this particular EU-political moment.

**I would like to inform you about the two following points and invite you to provide further input:**

**1. European Parliament Draft Motion for a Resolution on EU SME Definition:**

I would like to follow-up on Johannes Imminger's email from 23 March 2018 regarding the Draft Parliament Motion for a Resolution on the SME Definition. As you know, the rapporteur, Markus Pieper Member of the European Parliament (MEP), presented his [draft report](#) to the European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) on 21 March 2018, after which point other MEPs could table amendments.

I am glad to inform you that the CEEP proposals referring to the need for equal treatment between SMEs with and without public participation were successfully tabled by Patrizia Toia, Martina Werner and Jens Geier MEPs. They reflect the excellent cooperation between CEEP and its members who respectively contacted the MEPs they are working with. I would like to particularly thank VKU, GdW, FedEpl and Utilitalia for their efforts and the coordination of all activities.

Please find hereafter [the full set of amendments](#) as well as below the exact wording of the amendments that are directly addressing our concerns:

**Amendment 8:**

**[The European Parliament] « *whereas SMEs are disproportionately affected by administrative burdens and financial obstacles by comparison with larger firms and regardless of their organizational structure;***

***whereas at EU, Member State, regional and local level further efforts could be made to create an SME-friendly environment which go beyond the political pledges already given; »***

**Amendment 34:**

**[The European Parliament] « *calls on the Commission to terminate the general exclusion of SMEs with public participation because of their ownership structure, as they face the same regulatory and financial challenges as other businesses of the same size, are deeply rooted in their local business environment and, inter alia, create the right preconditions for the growth of all other SMEs; emphasises that, as regards partners and related undertakings, the Commission communication on the definition of SMEs is appropriate and sufficient to prevent harmful corporate structures and that, in accordance with the principles of EU competition law, the criteria for SMEs should only be of a quantitative nature. »***

**Amendment 141:**

**[The European Parliament] « *underlines that small local public service enterprises that meet the SME criteria fulfil important tasks for local communities;***

***notes that having public ownership does not necessarily imply financial or regulatory support by the public entity due to national legislation, state aid laws and financially weak public entities; stresses that they thus face the same challenges as SMEs, which may lead to unfair competitive disadvantages for these enterprises when they are financially independent, organized under private law or are operating under competitive conditions with private companies; therefore, urges the Commission to re-examine and consider a deletion of the exclusion of enterprises with a public ownership of more than 25% from the SME definition; »***

This is a positive first step towards recognising a more appropriate legal status for local public services enterprises at EU level in the European Parliament Motion for a Resolution. According to our information, the vote on this report, including all tabled amendments, is scheduled to take place in the next session of the ITRE Committee over the week of 14-17 May. In this perspective and in order to secure a positive vote, we would like to invite you to continue joining all forces and calling in favour of these amendments among the Members of the European Parliament from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

**2.Questionnaire on Transposition of In-house rules**

Furthermore, following the discussions at the last meeting of the Public Services Board, I would like to draw your attention on [the questionnaire on the transposition of the in-house rules](#) within the 2014 Public Procurement Package kindly drafted by Luigi Del Giacco that you can find here.

It aims at providing CEEP with a precise picture concerning the implementation of EU in-house regulation and the state-of-play of domestic in-house regulation in your respective countries. Having such material available is critical for CEEP to disseminate reliable information about the reality of in-house public services "on the ground" among EU decision- and policy-makers. I would therefore ask you to **please return this questionnaire to me by 21 May at the latest.**

Please feel free to get back to me for any comment and any further question.

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## CEEP Water Task Force: Update and upcoming activities

### ***Communication sent to members of the CEEP Water Task Force (20/4/2018):***

I would like to inform you about the following points:

**The EU Water Conference will take place on 20 – 21 September 2018.** The conference is jointly organised by the European Commission and the Austrian EU Presidency. The primary focus of the conference will be on progress achieved in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive. The Commission's implementation report on the second River Basin Management Plans and the first Flood Risk Management Plans, and the European Environment Agency's State of Water Report are due to be published during the second quarter of 2018, and will serve as a basis for the discussions at the Water Conference. The Conference will also include a session dedicated to the forthcoming evaluation of EU water policy.

The Conference will serve as a platform for consultation and debate between Member States, stakeholders, the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and other EU institutions about the findings of the different water-related reports. It will also provide a valuable opportunity to learn from each other's experiences in view of the next water planning cycles.

Interested participants will find further information and registration details on the [Conference Website](#). Please note that registrations will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Christiane Barth, CEEP representative in the **Working Group Groundwater of the CIS-process**, will participate in the Working Group's next meeting on 24 and 25 April in Bern. Please find hereafter the [meeting's draft agenda](#). Should you wish to comment/highlight one of the agenda items, please do not hesitate to inform me about it.

For your information, I am currently putting together the list of **amendments to the Commission's proposal for a review of the EU Drinking Water Directive (DWD)** that we discussed and decided at last week's Water Task Force phone conference, in order to prepare meetings with representatives of the European institutions involved in the legislative process. I will send them to you at the beginning of next week.

In this context, CEEP also supports the activities of Task Force members. Next week, CEEP will meet the French Rapporteur Michel Dantin MEP together with its French member FedEpl. Already this Monday, Michele Falcone, Chair of the CEEP Water Task Force organised in Milano a successful event with the participation of Lanfranco Fanti, member of the cabinet of the EU Commissioner for the Environment, Karmenu Vella, who discussed the Commission's proposal.

Should you have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## CEEP Energy Task Force: Final Draft Recommendations on Trilogue & Invitation to Commission Event

### ***Communication sent to members of the CEEP Energy Task Force (19/4/2018):***

I would like to inform you about the two following points:

#### **1. Final draft CEEP Recommendation for trilogue negotiations on market design proposals**

First of all, I would like to thank all participants of last week's phone conference that allowed to finalise the draft of our CEEP Recommendations for the trilogue negotiations on the future electricity market design proposals, expected to start in July.

Please find hereafter the [final draft CEEP Recommendations](#) (in track changes the amendments decided during the phone conference). Should we receive no comments from you by next week Monday, 23 April, CoB at the latest, we shall consider this final draft as adopted and will send it to the European institutions' representatives that will be involved in the upcoming trilogue negotiations.

## **2. Invitation to Commission meeting in view of long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy**

The Commission services have begun working on some background to developing a long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy, which has already included work on technology assumptions for modelling decarbonisation scenarios.

With a view to advancing this work, the Commission invites CEEP to participate in a stakeholder meeting devoted to the discussion of technology assumptions as input to modelling of decarbonisation pathways that will take place on 16 May 2018 from 9.30am to 16.00pm in the Albert Borschette Conference Centre, room 3B, Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels. Please find hereafter the [meeting's agenda](#), which divides the meeting into four distinct sessions.

At the meeting, the interim findings of the project on a review of some of these technologies will be presented. That project is led by the ASSET consortium, please find hereafter the [draft assumptions](#). With this project the Commission hopes to obtain modelling input based on the best available knowledge today and that is robust and representative of current projects, academic literature as well as industry's expectations and view.

Should you be interested in participating on behalf of CEEP, please send me back [this document with all the required information](#) as well as the precise session you wish to attend, **by Tuesday, 1 May 2018, at the latest**. Afterwards, I will register the CEEP delegation.

Should you have any questions and comments that you would like to address to the Commission regarding the draft assumptions, please also send them to me by this same date.

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## **CEEP – Latest News**

Latest copies of CEEP Newsletters:

[CEEP Newsflash – 13 April 2018](#)

[CEEP Newsflash – 20 April 2018](#)

## **Social Europe Newsletter – 17 April 2018**

Latest Social Europe e-newsletters attached: [Social Europe Newsletter – 17 April 2018](#)