



Press Release

Federation of European Movers Associations (FEDEMAC) e.V.

Revision of the LATE PAYMENTS DIRECTIVE

By decisive majority, on 28 April 2010, members of the European Parliament's Internal Market Committee (IMCO) adopted the report of MEP Barbara WEILER on the revised version of the late payments directive.

FEDEMAC on behalf of the professional Removal and Storage companies throughout Europe commends the decision taken by the European Parliament Internal Market Committee and invites action by Council of the EU to make sure that matters are now put into practice via the Small Business Act.

(Hattersheim, Germany, 3 May 2010) FEDEMAC strongly welcomes the decision by IMCO as it portrays a strong position by the European Parliament on the need to protect Small & Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) from unfair late payments by public authorities and other business customers. The majority of removal companies fall into the category of SMEs as defined by the European Commission.

FEDEMAC President, Arnaldo Righetti commented: "This is an important step for SMEs and a strong message to the Council of Ministers. The Parliament's committee decision confers agreement to putting the principle for 30 day settlement by public authorities and the commitments of the Small Business Act and of the EU Recovery Plan into practice. These steps will also helping a move towards a more level playing field and the further reduction of administrative burdens.

Member States now need to prove their responsibility by adopting the improved revision of the late payments directive. In the past many smaller enterprises have been hindered from tendering for public procurement contracts because of the real risk of late payment and the unacceptable credit periods which often prove to be unsustainable and impractical for any small company to bear, even more so in times of economic crisis."

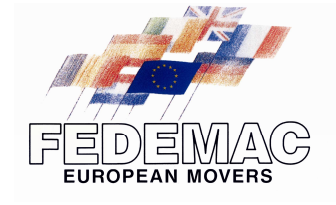
FEDEMAC is reassured to note that the MEPs have also voted in favour of tougher 60 day settlement provision for transactions between private enterprises. Sub-contractors and large companies often impose unacceptable terms of payment which often appear as if SMEs are being held to ransom simply in order to gain or stay in business. It is disappointing therefore to note that this important principle has been compromised by the changed the wording of the directive stating that *this limit is valid unless the debtor and the creditor agree differently* which could still leave the burden of proof on the dependant business partner.

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About FEDEMAC

FEDEMAC was founded in 1959 when a number of forward thinking National Removers Associations within Europe formed a coalition in order to exchange views and information. FEDEMAC's main function is to co-ordinate national activities at a European level. Much of this work is centred on lobbying at the EU Parliament and Commission; liaising with national associations and other trade organisations such as the IRU, MPE, WCO and BEUC; and undertaking other activities at national and EU level as appropriate. FEDEMAC works continuously towards the harmonisation of working methods, quality standards, training and co-operation within the Moving industry. Communication, magazines, newsletters, directories and the use of modern IT tools form an important part of this work. Today it represents the interests of around 4,000 Professional Removals Companies in 25 European countries.

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