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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CECIMO – NORMAPME cooperation agreement signed:  
a stronger voice for SMEs on standardisation**

BRUSSELS, 2 December 2011 – CECIMO signed a cooperation agreement with the European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for Standardisation (NORMAPME). The cooperation agreement aims at strengthening the collaboration between CECIMO and NORMAPME in the areas of standardisation.

NORMAPME is an international non-profit association created in 1996 with the support of the European Commission; it represents over 12 million European Crafts and SMEs on standardisation issues. As an advisory body, NORMAPME contributes to the development of SME friendly standards. The purpose of the activities of NORMAPME in standardisation is the advocacy and promotion of SMEs' interests. In particular, NORMAPME supports the participation of technical experts to the Technical Committees of CEN, CENELEC, ETSI and ISO as SME representatives. According to the agreement, the two parties can collaborate in monitoring the current and upcoming legislative initiatives taken by the European institutions with regard to standardisation.

NORMAPME will inform CECIMO about its calls for experts related to the participation in relevant SME technical committees of the European and international standardisation bodies. CECIMO will also be updated by NORMAPME about relevant SME standardisation draft mandates issued by the European Commission and relative amendments. The agreement gives to CECIMO experts, who represent SMEs' views, access to NORMAPME Mirror Committees. Finally, the cooperation agreement enables partners to take part in and/or organise joint meetings, conferences and workshops promoting issues of mutual interest, as appropriate.

This agreement will help raise the voice of SMEs represented within CECIMO, which are accounting for more than 80% of European machine tool companies; through this agreement, SMEs will be heard on the standardisation processes of European and international standardisation bodies.

About CECIMO

CECIMO is the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries. We bring together 15 national Associations of Machine Tool Builders, which represent approximately 1500 industrial enterprises in Europe\*, over 80% of which are SMEs. CECIMO covers more than 97% of total Machine Tool production in Europe and more than one third worldwide. It accounts for almost 150,000 employees and a turnover of nearly €17 Billion in 2010. In 2010 about three quarters of the production in CECIMO countries was shipped abroad, more than half of which was exported outside Europe\*.

\*Europe = EU + EFTA + Turkey

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For further media enquiries:

**Contact person:** Filip Geerts, Director General  
Tel +32 2 502 70 90 / Fax +32 2 502 60 82  
[filip.geerts@cecimo.eu](mailto:filip.geerts@cecimo.eu)