



SME GLOBAL OF THE IDU WELCOMES JÖRGEN WARBORN AS NEW PRESIDENT, RECOGNIZES PAUL RÜBIG AS HONOURARY PRESIDENT

SME Global is a global centre-right network dedicated to advocating for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups worldwide. SME Global is a specialist group within the International Democracy Union (IDU), the global alliance of the centre-right uniting over 80 parties from more than 60 countries.

SME Global is thrilled to announce the appointment of Jörgen Warborn as its new President. Jörgen Warborn, a distinguished Member of the European Parliament representing the Swedish Moderates and serving as Vice President of SME Europe of the European People's Party, brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his new role. He succeeds the esteemed **Dr. Paul Rübzig**, who founded SME Global in 2003 and now assumes the position of Honourary President. Reflecting on his tenure, Dr. Paul Rübzig expressed pride in SME Global's accomplishments and confidence in Jörgen Warborn's leadership, stating:

"I am incredibly proud of what SME Global has achieved during my tenure as President, and I am confident that Jörgen Warborn will lead the organization to even greater heights in the years to come," said Paul Rübzig. "I look forward to supporting Jörgen and the entire SME Global team in their efforts to empower SMEs and drive economic growth worldwide."

Jörgen Warborn brings to SME Global a wealth of experience and a vision for advancing the interests of SMEs worldwide. His dedication to fostering fair competition, promoting trade, and advocating for the needs of SMEs aligns perfectly with the mission of SME Global and the broader goals of the IDU:

"I am honoured to step into the role as president of SME Global and look forward to building a robust organization alongside the new board. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the IDU and Prime Minister Harper for their trust. SMEs are truly the cornerstones of our society – the drivers of innovation and job creation. Together, we will strive to facilitate trade and digitalization for SMEs, and above all, dismantle regulatory burdens,"- says Jörgen Warborn, President of SME Global."

The **Right Honourable Stephen Harper**, 22nd Prime Minister of Canada and Chairman of the IDU, offered his congratulations to SME Global on their choice and declared his support for this leadership transition:

"We are delighted to welcome Jörgen Warborn as President of SME Global, a leader who will bring political expertise and entrepreneurial experience to the forefront of our work. SME Global's role within IDU is crucial, and we are committed to supporting SMEs worldwide. With Mr. Warborn leading the way, we anticipate pragmatic and effective leadership to build an enabling environment for small and medium enterprises globally." Said Chairman Harper.

Jörgen Warborn's appointment comes at a critical time as SMEs navigate unprecedented challenges, including the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, evolving regulatory landscapes, global conflicts, the green transition, and the increasing pace of technological change. His leadership will be instrumental in guiding SME Global's efforts to address these challenges head-on and to champion policies that empower SMEs to succeed.

For more information about SME Global and its initiatives, please visit <https://www.idu.org/about/economics-sme-global/>