

[What is CGPME ?]



The General Confederation of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (CGPME), is an interprofessional, private, independent organisation for employers and is a recognised French social partner.

It ensures the representation and defence of French small and medium sized enterprises in the field of industry, commerce and services at a national level, working alongside public authorities and other social partners, as well as at European and international levels. As a member of the European Economic and Social Committee, CGPME is represented in Brussels (European office located in the heart of the European area), and is therefore close to European institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, EU Council through the French Permanent Representation to the European Institutions).

It embraces professional federations and interprofessional groups.

Created in January 1945, CGPME has been chaired by Jean-François Roubaud since October 2002.

It is worth noting that the 2,908,500 SMEs registered in France represent approximately 80 % of employment in the private sector, 45 % of exports and 63 % of investments.

The key objective of CGPME is to cover all policy areas which have a direct or indirect impact on SMEs. Its intention is to be involved in all national and European decision-making processes concerning SMEs.

CGPME sits on all the official investigative, debating and decision-making committees, for economic or social concerns, as well on those at national, regional, departmental or local level.

Alone or in partnership, it has created and manages a number of additional bodies, such as AGEFOS-PME (financing ongoing vocational training for SMEs' employees), ACL-PME (housing advice for employees) and the GSC (unemployment insurance for owners of SMEs).

CGPME has formed several technical committees. Currently, there are seven CGPME committees

- Economic affairs
- Legal and fiscal affairs
- Social affairs
- Vocational training
- External relations
- Energy
- Environment.

These committees are composed of experts nominated by professional and constituency members.

CGPME is working on six main topics:

- to discover new financing tools to support the creation of new companies and to guaranty loans,
- to motivate and support new entrepreneurs' growth,
- to support the international development of SMEs,
- to define a new entrepreneurial statute with specific proposals on unemployment and retirement benefits,
- to create conditions of fair trade by improving the rights of sub-contractors and retailers in their relationships with large companies and large distribution systems,
- to create new social laws to meet the needs of society today.