

Declaration of European SME Envoys and Business Organizations* on the visibility of European support for SMEs in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

European small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) are the key to creating sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs across the European Union. This fact is clearly reflected in both the European Small Business Act and the European SME-Action Programme.

SMEs benefit from the EU programmes which help them, in particular, to access appropriate funding, find business partners in other markets, innovate, and become more competitive.

The SME Envoys call for the continuation of the support to European SMEs in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). It needs to be delivered in a simple, efficient and integrated way.

During the current funding period, COSME supports the competitiveness and growth of SMEs by financial and non-financial activities. It is the only EU programme exclusively addressing SMEs throughout their life-cycle and therefore is of key importance. With a budget of € 2.3 billion, it is delivering significant European added value to the competitiveness and growth of SMEs. COSME assures visibility of the EU action in favour of SMEs. It gives a strong signal that the EU cares for its small businesses.

For all these reasons, we ask to maintain a visible, dedicated, stand-alone SME programme within the next MFF, in order to signal the European Union's commitment to its more than 23 Million SMEs and their importance for innovation, sustainable and inclusive growth, employment, and social cohesion. This dedicated future SME track could build on proven measures as well as set new impulses, in particular in the fields of digital transformation and internationalization of businesses and ecosystems.

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