

Workshop “How to support the internationalisation of SMEs and microenterprises”

Press release

The workshop on "How to support the internationalisation of SMEs and microenterprises" is organised by the Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The workshop's organisation is supported by the Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services, and takes place in the European Parliament, Brussels.

Wednesday, 12 October 2016, 12:45 - 14:30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak, 3C050

For registration click [HERE](#)

Link to the draft agenda: [HERE](#)

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This workshop will be chaired by Jerzy BUZEK, Chair of the ITRE committee and will open the debate on the barriers, challenges and opportunities for European SMEs serving markets outside the Internal Market, and EU instruments supporting them in this endeavour. The workshop consists of a series of 6 presentations by external experts from academia, business associations and SMEs. The presentations will cover the following issues in particular:

- The **main challenges, barriers and drivers in SME internationalisation**. This will include consideration of the extent to which *challenges* such as access to innovation finance or business networks, and regulatory barriers, but also the *drivers* such as scope for internationalisation or integration into global value chains vary between micro, small and medium and between economic sectors.
- The **policy rationale** for the promotion of SME internationalisation, with a focus on the European level.
- The **implementation and effectiveness of the different EU support instruments** within scope in promoting SME internationalisation, such as COSME and Horizon 2020.
- **Challenges to encouraging SME participation** in different EU support instruments, such as levels of awareness, and the issue of the incentives/ disincentives for SMEs in applying for and taking part in different EU funding programmes such as low success rates, and lack of access to international networks.

Organising such a workshop now is very timely given the major contribution SMEs can make to economic recovery in Europe. Any measures facilitating the internationalisation and growth of SMEs will likely lead to the creation of jobs and will constitute a step towards the achievement of the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for **smart, sustainable** and **inclusive growth**. Consequently, the European Commission has made SME internationalisation a political priority since the adoption of a Communication ‘Small Business, Big World – a new partnership to help SMEs seize global opportunities’ in 2012. The workshop should provide input to the EU’s strategy on SME internationalisation and contribute to more targeted and effective EU support to SMEs in this regard. The workshop will be followed by another press release and a report summarising the outcome of the discussions and any next steps agreed.