



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Regional Development

2012/2134(INI)

6.12.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on improving access to finance for SMEs
(2012/2134(INI))

Rapporteur: Vladimír Maňka

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the EU Action Plan on improving access to finance for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in line with the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy, so as to enable them to surmount the difficulties they are facing during the current economic and financial crisis;
2. Points out that SMEs, which are the backbone of the EU economy, have been hard hit by the above-mentioned crisis; acknowledges that ensuring sufficient and timely access to finance for SMEs stimulates and reinforces the economic growth, job creation, labour productivity and social cohesion which are vital for the prosperity of all EU regions, while generating strong local, regional and national development and protecting jobs;
3. Supports an increase in the capital of the European Investment Bank (EIB) as a means of improving the provision of loans to SMEs and undertaking new investments with a view to relaunching economic activity, creating employment and generating wealth;
4. Acknowledges that, at a time of fiscal constraint and reduced lending capacity in the private sector, cohesion policy is one of the main sources of support for the EU's SMEs and the main investment tool for convergence and sustainable development of the EU; understands that future financial support – coordinated with other sectoral measures in support of SMEs – should be focused on strengthening the research and innovation capacity of SMEs, boosting their performance in order to generate further employment and foster the recovery of the EU economy and the restoration of its competitiveness;
5. Highlights the need further to stimulate simplification of administrative procedures at the European, national, regional, local and cross-border levels in order to establish a clear and transparent legal framework, endeavouring to limit the regulatory complexity which is often an obstacle for beneficiaries, especially SMEs, when applying for EU funds, for example by creating a one-stop agency for applicants, shortening the authorisation procedures for obtaining finance and paying out subsidies more promptly;
6. Supports the Commission's decision to create a broad range of tailored new financial instruments in the future regulatory cohesion policy targeted at SMEs, in order to improve, step up the provision of information about those financial instruments, together with their use and the monitoring of their activities; recommends that the use of structural funds, together with EIB financing, be further explored, inter alia for the purpose of financing venture capital funds and funds which can multiply their value for money by generating additional financing for SMEs.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.11.2012
Result of final vote	+: 30 -: 1 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Luís Paulo Alves, Victor Boştinaru, John Bufton, Salvatore Caronna, Nikos Chrysogelos, Francesco De Angelis, Tamás Deutsch, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Danuta Maria Hübner, María Irigoyen Pérez, Seán Kelly, Mojca Kleva, Constanze Angela Krehl, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Iosif Matula, Erminia Mazzoni, Jens Nilsson, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Jan Olbrycht, Younous Omarjee, Ewald Stadler, Georgios Stavrakakis, Oldřich Vlasák, Kerstin Westphal, Hermann Winkler
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jan Březina, Andrea Cozzolino, Ivars Godmanis, Karin Kadenbach, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Vilja Savisaar-Toomast, Elisabeth Schroedter