



"The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe"

Banks agree to better inform SMEs if loan applications are declined

President Rabmer-Koller welcomes banks' commitment and asks for swift implementation at national level

Brussels, 6th June 2017 – Today, the European Banking Associations and European Business Associations, in the presence of Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis, signed an agreement on "High-level principles on feedback given by banks on declined SME credit applications⁽¹⁾". Agreeing on principles at European level and leaving it up to the national organisations to implement them in practice entails recognising the subsidiarity and the structural and cultural differences in SME finance among Member States. Speaking at the signature ceremony, UEAPME⁽²⁾ President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller welcomed the commitment taken by all banking associations to improve the information given to SMEs throughout a whole credit application process. Ensuring that SMEs can better understand the expectations of banks is an important step which will help SMEs access loans. Now the focus has to be put on the implementation at national level to transform our high-level principles into a positive practical experience for SMEs in Europe.

President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller offers the following quotes:

"I would like to thank all European Banking Associations and our partners from the other business federations for the constructive work over the last year and for their commitment in helping SMEs with their credit applications. The additional information provided to SMEs will also improve their financial literature."

"In case of a declined loan application, it is of the utmost importance for SMEs to understand why a bank has refused to provide a loan. It will make SMEs able to improve their projects, the financial standing of their company and will teach them that a loan is not the appropriate instrument for them."

"Today's agreement is an important step towards better access to finance for SMEs, which helps to improve loan application processes or guidance to alternative forms of finance."

"I am grateful that the Commission has initiated this project in the framework of the Capital Market Union and I asked Vice-President Dombrovskis to continue with their support by monitoring and evaluating the national implementation."

(1) http://www.ueapme.com/IMG/pdf/High-level_principles_on_feedback_given_by_banks_on_declined_SME_credit_applications.pdf

(2) *the European SME Employers' Association*

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EDITORS' NOTES: UEAPME is the employers' organisation representing Crafts and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 64 member organisations covering about 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner. For further information please visit <http://www.ueapme.com/> or follow [@UEAPME](https://twitter.com/UEAPME) on Twitter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Gerhard Huemer, Economic Policy Director, Tel +32 2 230 75 99, Email: g.huemer@ueapme.com

Jenny Manin, Press and Communications Officer, Tel. +32 496 52 03 29, Email: pressoffice@ueapme.com