

European Commission
President Jean-Claude Juncker
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 8th September 2017
Prot Nr. 273/GH

A contribution from SMEs to the Future of Europe Debate

Dear President,

At the extraordinary Social Summit end in March, I informed you that UEAPME, the Association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe, very much welcomes the debate you initiated with the White Paper on the Future of Europe and that we will contribute to this crucial debate for our constituency.

Discussions with our member organisations on the White Paper and the reflection papers have led to more clarity regarding the options for the future development of the European Union. As a result, SMEs expect the debate to aim for progress as regards three dimensions: **improving the conditions for growth and job creation**, **improving fairness** for carrying out business within the single market – in a global context and for companies of all sizes, and **ensuring a stable political and societal environment**.

To achieve these aims, the **future Europe has to be able to better deliver** on:

- making the EU more competitive, less bureaucratic and more attractive for private investments;
- ensuring a fair distribution of the positive effects from globalisation, digitalisation and technological developments;
- guaranteeing openness and fairness within the single market;
- allowing a better functioning of economic governance and improving the stability of the Eurozone;
- supporting the interests of SMEs in the next Multiannual Financial Framework; and
- tackling the challenges of migration and refugees.

With this in mind, it becomes clear that not one particular scenario included in the White Paper of the European Commission alone will be able to deliver what our companies expect from the future Europe. In addition, UEAPME envisages a meaningful combination of the different options and is asking for an **“SME scenario”**. This could be called a **scenario for growth, jobs and welfare in a stable economic, social and political environment**.

Dear Mr President, UEAPME will finalise its contribution for the Tripartite Social Summit in October. However, I wanted to share with you our considerations ahead of your speech on the State of the European Union on 13th September and hope that the expectations of our SMEs will be reflected in your ideas for our joint future. I am looking forward to continuing this discussion with you at the meeting in October.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ulrike Rabmer-Koller', written in a cursive style.

Ulrike Rabmer-Koller
President

Copy to:

President of the European Council Donald Tusk

President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani