

# 8 ESBA Golden Rules for MEPs

To Apply the “Think Small First” Principle in EU Regulatory Initiatives

*99.8% of EU all businesses are SMEs*

## 1 No SME Impact Assessment = No new EU Legislation

Impact assessments accompanying EU legislation affecting business should include a proper application of the ‘SME Test’ to ensure that small business will not suffer unnecessary administrative burdens.

## 2 SMEs are Employers. Simple and flexible employment rules equal more and better jobs

SMEs account for 2/3 of the EU workforce. EU decision-makers must consider the specificities of SMEs when designing new EU employment law.

## 3 Think EVEN smaller: 91,8% of all EU companies have less than 10 employees

More than 90% of all companies are micro enterprises with less than 10 employees. EU policies must fully recognize the importance of micro entities and self-employed as major source of employment and wealth creation.

## 4 Single Market: Don’t speak about it, DO IT

The completion of the EU Single Market is of key importance to further facilitate SME cross-border trade in the EU. Less than 15% of all EU SMEs benefit from the Single Market because it is not practical enough.

## 5 ACCUMULATION of red tape slows down competitiveness, job creation, and innovation potential of SMEs

EU decision-makers need to increase their efforts in the reduction of red tape. Administrative burdens are the largest obstacle to small business.

## 6 SMEs need financial rules and actors supporting entrepreneurship not vice versa

EU is the region in the world with (by far) the largest financial savings. The financial sector should support entrepreneurship and SMEs development and gear financial innovations towards the real economy rather than pure speculation.

## 7 Invest in innovation, invest in the future

Take advantage of the huge innovation potential of SMEs by creating a cost and time effective EU intellectual property regime.

## 8 SMEs are referred to as the “backbone” of the economy, so take care of your backbone!

SMEs are an important part of the solution to recover from the economic turmoil and to get the European economy back on track. MEPs should push for a proper implementation of the Small Business Act across the European Union.



EUROPEAN SMALL BUSINESS ALLIANCE

[www.esba-europe.org](http://www.esba-europe.org)