

Brussels, 27 MAI 2015

Dear Mr Gibbels,

Thank you for your letter on the Small Business Act (SBA) addressed to President Juncker, to the First Vice-President Timmermans and to me. President Juncker has asked me to reply on behalf of all of us. Let me first thank you for your active participation in the SME Envoys' work and your valuable contributions to EU SME policy. As you write in your letter, the numerous and convergent replies to the public consultation reflect the positive results achieved with the SBA and deliver a clear message from stakeholders on the need to continue a strong EU SME policy also in the coming years.

The Commission's Work Programme 2015 focuses on major initiatives which will be delivered this year, in line with the ten priorities of President Juncker's Political Guidelines. Promoting jobs, growth and investment is the first priority. The SME dimension will be mainstreamed into 2015 initiatives, in particular in the Internal Market Strategy for goods and services and as shown in the Digital Single Market initiative.

As announced in the Communication on the Commission's Work Programme 2015 (COM (2014) 910 final), the Commission will propose other actions to fulfil the ten priorities it has identified in the coming years. In this context, the Commission will consider the best way to pursue a strong SME policy taking into account, among other things, the results of the public consultation.

Mr. Patrick Gibbels
Secretary General
ESBA
Clos du Parnasse 3A
1050 Brussels

In the meantime, we will continue to implement the SBA, including the work on burden reduction (e.g. the SME Test and the 'Think Small First' principle) and the monitoring of the implementation in the Member States through the SME Performance Review. Your support and input into this work continues to be of utmost importance.

As you may know, I will be the next EU SME Envoy. In this capacity I am looking forward to having the opportunity to work more closely with you and to discuss concrete ideas on promoting a strong SME policy both at EU level and in the Member States.

The same letter has been sent to the other signatories of the joint letter.

Yours sincerely,



Elżbieta Bieńkowska