

Mr. Antonio Tajani
Vice-President
European Commission
200, rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

20 June 2011

Dear Vice-President, *Cher Antonio,*

Subject: Implementation of Council conclusions on the review of the Small Business Act – Next EU Multiannual Financial Framework

On 30 May 2011 the Competitiveness Council adopted conclusions on the review of the Small Business Act to which BUSINESSEUROPE attaches great importance.

Regarding SME access to finance, we have noted with satisfaction that the Council conclusions (point 18) underline that *“the particular needs of SMEs in Europe related to competitiveness, growth and innovation should be duly and visibly taken into account”* in the Commission’s policy and financial initiatives.

With a view to meeting the SME needs referred to above, we believe that the upcoming Commission Financial Framework proposal should maintain and improve the following types of EU financial instruments:

- the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF), initiated under the 7th RDT Framework Programme;
- the High Growth and Innovative SME Finance Facility (GIF) and the SME Guarantee Facility (SMEG), which were initiated under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

Thank you for the consideration you may give to our views.

Yours sincerely,

Conchelyne

Philippe de Buck

Philippe