

EUROCHAMBRES Rebooting Europe online event series, 12-14 October 2020: outcomes

SMEs
12 October

Skills
13 October

Single
Market
13 October

What the EU can do – more, less, or differently - to enable businesses, especially SMEs, to **survive, revive and drive the recovery** process? This was the theme of the Rebooting Europe series: six online events involving high-level EU officials and politicians, representatives from across the European chamber network and other key stakeholders.

Feedback from chambers confirmed the scale of the economic challenge and that the recovery will be neither quick nor easy. The discussions underlined the importance of a **coordinated EU approach** and the significant boost that the **€1.8 trillion EU rescue package** can provide if swiftly finalized, efficiently rolled out and intelligently used on measures that will help rebuild the economy.

Long-term EU policy objectives must be pursued in a manner that contributes to the recovery; the **twin transition** must be a growth strategy as committed to by the Commission, the **single market** must be strengthened, **regulatory burdens** must be avoided, and the interests of **SMEs** must be factored in to every initiative.

Trade
14 October

Sustainable
finance
14 October

Final high level
panel
14 October

https://bit.ly/Rebooting_Europe
www.eurochambres.eu

SMEs

- Ensure adequate access to finance and solvency support for SMEs to recover and build up resilience
- Mitigate working capital shortages and bolster liquidity for the recovery, for example by relaxing the de minimis rules
- Strengthen the SME dimension at all stages of EU policymaking by respecting the “Think Small First” principle and conducting rigorous SME tests
- Boost SMEs’ competitiveness and cross-border value chains by reinforcing collaboration and synergy between the Enterprise Europe Network, Digital Innovation Hubs and chambers

Skills

- Ensure adequate funding for investment in re/upskilling SME employees within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027, e.g. via InvestEU
- Encourage member states to invest EU funds for youth employment in broadening the provision of work-based learning, particularly apprenticeship schemes
- Support member states in strengthening the digitalisation and excellence of vocational education and training
- Liaise with the chamber network to stimulate Europeans’ entrepreneurial skills and attitudes through the European Action on Entrepreneurship Skills

Single Market

- Coordinate and communicate the response to COVID-19 more effectively at EU level to avoid the adoption of unilateral measures that may undermine the functioning of the single market
- Pursue an ambitious agenda to tackle the main remaining barriers to the single market identified by the business community
- Implement the Long-Term Enforcement Action Plan for the single market without delay
- Develop the new Single Market Enforcement Task Force into an inclusive consultative body involving chambers and other key stakeholders

Trade

- Include in the new EU trade strategy concrete proposals for the revitalization and resilience of EU businesses, especially SMEs
- Deliver tangible benefits for companies from free trade agreements through dedicated, SME-friendly, trade implementation action plans, facilitated by chambers and the wider business community
- Promote diversification of trade and open markets instead of protectionism
- Strengthen the multilateral trading system through EU leadership for a comprehensive WTO reform that matches 21st century business needs

Sustainable Finance

- Ensure a framework that safeguards the financial system’s stability and promotes investment in a wide variety of innovative solutions and technologies, including transitory technologies
- Enable all sectors to transit to a more sustainable production mode, without classifying any as intrinsically non-sustainable
- Support both more traditional businesses and highly innovative startups through coherent financial legislation
- Minimize additional administrative burdens, notably reporting requirements, in relation to sustainable finance for SMEs