



## Cross-Border Enterprises

### Programme:

#### 4.30 pm: Opening words

**Mrs. Annette Godart-van der Kroon**,  
President LVMI Europe

#### 4.45 pm: Keynote speech

**Mr. Stéphane Ouaki**, Head of Investments  
and SMEs Unit in DG RTD

**Mr. Stefan Moritz**, Managing Director of  
European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME:  
*The project DigitaliseSME and ways for more  
cross-border business in the European Single  
Market.*

#### 5.15 pm: Panel discussion

**Mr. Andreas Pinkwart**, Minister für  
Wirtschaft, Innovation, Digitalisierung und  
Energie des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (tbc)

**Mr. Gert Gijbels**, director of Netwerk  
Ondernemen (tbc)

**Moderator: Philip Stafford**, Editor, FT  
Trading Room at Financial Times

#### 6.15 pm Closing remarks

#### 6.30 pm Networking reception

### Topic explanation

According to a communication of the European Commission and the Industry Committee of the European Parliament, it turns out that more than 99% of all European enterprises are SME's, providing more than 90 million jobs and generating 3.9 trillion euro in value added. It is obvious that SME's deliver a determinant contribution to the creation of jobs and growth and hence achieve and contribute to the economic success of a country.

### Cross border mobility

Another important fact is, that 35% of the businesses do not invest in foreign markets, because of their lack of knowledge of those markets. This could be improved by the necessary information about options for internationalization in the form of and exchange of experiences. Export credit guarantees and reducing trade barriers would be of help.

To handle the decision-making process geared toward international activities, cross-border cooperation, strategic alliances and the innovative forms of corporate cooperation must be structured so that their culturally diverse constituents can interact effectively.

*Event co-organised and sponsored by*



## INVITATION

Conference:

### Cross-Border Enterprises

**Date:**

10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Time:**

4:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**Venue:**

Residence Palace

Rue de la Loi 155,

1000 Brussels

Room Maelbeek

## Legal definition of SMEs

The Industry Committee of the European Parliament concluded (dd 16-5-2018), that more clarity on the definition of small and medium sized-enterprises (SMEs) is needed to ensure legal certainty for businesses.

Other suggestions by the Industry Committee to the European Commission included considering not only the number of employees, but also turnover and balance sheet totals as important criteria for defining an SME's status. MEPs propose future adjustments to ensure that the definition remains relevant. Since many EU legislative acts include SMEs, MEPs urged the EU Commission to better shape their legal definition to identify the right beneficiaries of SME schemes more accurately and to provide the specific support that these businesses need.

### The reason is the following:

Because of this incomplete definition, it is not possible to collect comparable data in the EU member states. Those SME's are also excluded from funding programmes and easing of the burden of bureaucracy.

Not only that, but the fact that highly specialized SME's play an important role as suppliers for bigger enterprises and because of their generational economic acting, those companies offer material security and hence deliver a not insignificant contribution to the economic growth.

## DigitaliseSME

DigitaliseSME is an EU funded project that helps Small and Medium Sized Enterprises to start their digitalisation. The project offers to SMEs the support by digitalisation experts for 1 month, that enable the companies to design their digitalisation. Companies and digitalisation experts have to register on digitalisesme.eu. The project pairs the companies with experiences digitalisation experts from abroad, pays for their travel costs and honorary. The companies take over board and lodging for max. 1 month of presence of the expert at their facilities.

## Information about the organisers

### *Der Mittelstand-BVMW*

BVMW is a politically independent association which caters for all commercial branches and professions and represents the interests of small and medium sized businesses in politics, with administrative authorities, with trade unions and major companies. It represents together with the *Mittelstands Allianz* more than 900.000 companies in Germany and 12 million employees. BVMW organises more than 2.000 events per year thanks to its 320 regional offices all over Germany. [bvmw.de](http://bvmw.de)

### *European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME*

European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME is a Brussel-based confederation which currently counts 20 European associations of small and medium enterprises representing more than 2 million companies and 18 million employees. [cea-pme.com](http://cea-pme.com)

### *Réseau Entreprendre International*

The Réseau Entreprendre International was created by Réseau Entreprendre in 2009 in the aim of offering the Réseau Entreprendre concept outside of France.

The vision of the network is: in order to create employment, you must first create employers

Mission: to contribute to the success of new entrepreneurs with potential by offering them human and financial support, free of charge and on a long-term basis, provided by passionate and experienced entrepreneurs, still in activity.

### *Netwerk Ondernemen (Flanders)*

Is a network of entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs, where young companies are to be supervised to grow (inter)nationally and to create jobs.

They strongly believe in qualitative matchmaking between an experienced entrepreneur (the mentor) and a young growing company (the founder).

## *Ludwig von Mises Institute Europe*

The Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe was officially established on 12th October 2002 as a non-partisan think tank fostering an open and free society.

Since its foundation, the Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe has successfully organized a variety of conferences, symposia, discussions, targeted dinner debates and lunch debates.

Members include former Prime Ministers, MEPs, former European Commissioners, key politicians, senior academics, business leaders and prominent journalists.

The Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe primarily aims at:

- Exchanging and reintroducing the basic values and principles of Liberalism, especially the ideas of the Austrian School.
- Bridging the gap between "Brussels" and the European citizens and between Eurocrats and Euro-skeptics.
- Acting as an interface between the academic, the political and the business world.
- Connecting liberal-minded individuals and organizations at national and international levels.