

SMEunited General Assembly: Enable SMEs to drive the transition

Paris, 9 May 2022 – The SMEunited General Assembly at its meeting today called on the European Institutions to create a simple and predictable regulatory environment. SMEunited members complain that they spend almost 20% of their working time on regulatory and administrative compliance. SMEunited calls on the European Institutions to act in the spirit of the Versailles Declaration and create an environment that facilitates and attracts private investment.

“Businesses are more and more concerned about growing administrative burden, such as sustainability reporting and due diligence. Policy makers have to be aware that companies are overwhelmed by manyfold challenges,” stated Petri Salminen, SMEunited President. “SMEs require a simple and predictable regulatory environment. Therefore, we ask to “think small first” and act accordingly.”

The SMEunited General Assembly also said that the European Institutions should carefully assess the proposals of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE). The EU must prioritise immediate action on the post-covid recovery and the impact of the war in Ukraine. Any proposal requiring a treaty change should be assessed on its added value and implemented in an adequate timeframe.

SMEunited members ask the European Institutions to create a more diversified, secure and less dependent EU energy supply. This is possible by fostering the deployment of renewables, ensuring interconnectivity, developing energy storage solutions and stimulating energy efficiency. We are convinced that the EU should invest in and develop the necessary skills allowing enterprises to innovate more and faster. Investment of public funds is necessary, especially from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, above all in the much-needed infrastructure and support measures for SMEs in view of the digital and green transition. Moreover, SMEunited members call on the EU to boost research and innovation to develop and commercialise the technologies required for the twin transition.

Last but not least: SMEunited members want Europe to learn lessons from the pandemic, such as emergency preparedness, the openness of the single market, etc. We hope that this experience will lead to concrete actions to make economies more resilient in the future.

[Conclusions \(in PDF\)](#)

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EDITORS' NOTES: SMEunited is the association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe with 65-member organisations from over 30 European countries. SMEunited represents national cross-sectoral Craft and SME federations, European SME branch organisations and associate members. Combined, we represent more than 12 million enterprises with around 55 million employees across Europe. SMEunited is a recognised employers' organisation and European Social Partner. SMEunited was formerly known as UEAPME.

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