

## Note to Jean Claude Juncker President of the European Commission

Brussels, 20 November 2014

### The Jobs, Growth and Investment Package should also aim to create jobs, foster growth and attract investment in SMEs

Dear President Juncker,

The European Commission is currently finalising the 300 Billion Euro Job, Growth and Investment Package. A Package you initiated and which should realise your personal commitment to kick-start the European economy, by creating new jobs and strengthening growth.

In order to prepare this package you founded a taskforce, which includes the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and representatives from Member States. The taskforce is currently working on potential investment projects, which could then become part of the package. Reporting on the work of this taskforce creates the impression that the package is only targeted to large investment projects for big business, currently in the pipeline, but having problems to be financed. However, to be successful such an investment package also has to be beneficial for Crafts and SMEs considering they are the backbone of Europe's economy, i.e. 99.8% of companies, 2/3 of private employment and close to 60% of added value. Moreover, SMEs are a strong driver for innovation and created more than 80% of new jobs over the last years.

Therefore, please allow me, on behalf of UEAPME, the European Association of Crafts and SMEs, representing about 12 Million enterprises from all over Europe, to put forward considerations aiming to make such a package even more inclusive.

In order to use SMEs' potential for jobs, growth and investments, UEAPME requests to include Crafts and SMEs as target group in your package and we want to propose two concrete measures:

1. The package should include a European initiative to improve energy efficiency in buildings. One which would not only support Europe's targets on GHG reduction, energy efficiency and energy security, but would also create a push for new jobs, growth and investment in the construction sector dominated by Crafts and SMEs at local level.

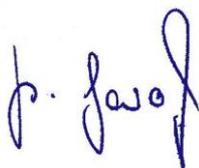
Such an initiative would be able to mobilise private investments in the area of private housing and at company level and could be realised within a short period of time. Furthermore, support in the form of financial instruments could be realised without specific risks and therefore, to a large extent, without additional taxpayers' money.

2. The package could also include additional measures and instruments allowing SMEs to finance investments. These instruments could include guarantee systems able to cover the risks involved in financing long-term investments, risks not taken-up by the banking sector. A second possibility to strengthen the financing of SME investments would be the provision of long-term loans or subordinated loans by semi-public financial intermediaries at European or national level.

Dear President,

UEAPME fully supports your idea to make a fresh start in supporting jobs, growth and investment to bring the European Union out of the current crisis. However, such a recovery will only be sustainable if it is founded on a strong and competitive private sector. This means Europe has to put the competitiveness of our economy at the top of its agenda, as recommended by the main European business organisations, including UEAPME, in the attached document.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Faross

Secretary General

Enclosure: Competitiveness First