

Take right measures for SMEs' fair and sustainable recovery

SMEunited puts forward SMEs' demands at Tripartite Social Summit

Brussels, 24/3/2021 – Continuation of crisis measures, focus on economic elements towards Porto summit and effective use of the Recovery funds were the key points President Maggiar emphasised during the Tripartite Social Summit.

A. Maggiar highlighted the importance to continue the current measures, due to the persistent lockdowns, which hit especially SMEs who dominate severely impacted sectors. Hence, “we must continue liquidity support, short-time work schemes and fix-cost compensation as long as needed”, he explained.

Regarding the Porto Social Summit on 7 May, he stated: “Only if SMEs are able to make a fresh start, finance their investments and innovation actions, we can have a true recovery. Therefore, it is important that the economic dimension be tackled as much as the social one. The renewed commitment to the Pillar of Social Rights and its implementation requires a joint effort from Member States and social partners at all levels.” Thus, SMEunited continues its commitment within the boundaries of SME absorption capacity. The focus on job creation, entrepreneurship and skills development is the right way forward.

Finally, Mr Maggiar reminded the summit that National Recovery and Resilience Plans should hit the right balance between investments and reforms. “From what our members say, that isn't always what it should be. We urge all governments to focus actions allowing SMEs to rebuild their investment capacity and transform for their twin transition”, he concluded.

Secretary General Willems intervened emphasising that “We acknowledge an ambitious programme is necessary to regain global leadership. However, we have to take into account the reality on the ground if you want to make these ambitions reality.”

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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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