

# SMEUNITED GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARATION ON SME STRATEGY

SMEUnited<sup>1</sup> proposes a detailed policy agenda “[Strengthening Crafts & SMEs for the Future of the European Union](#)” and calls on the European Institutions to take it as a basis for its future SME Strategy. Furthermore, we call on the European Commission to strengthen governance by the following:

1. The SME strategy must address all micro, small and medium sized enterprises & Crafts in Europe, high-tech innovative and so-called traditional companies alike, in metropolitan as well as in rural areas
2. The SME strategy must follow a coherent, integrated and cross-cutting approach, inserting the SME view in all key political guidelines such as the Green Deal, the Industry strategy, the action plan for the European Pillar of Social Rights, etc. This should also reduce uncertainty stemming from policy development
3. The SME strategy must go beyond words and deliver for SMEs: the cross-Directorate-General SME Taskforce has to ensure the application of the “Think Small First”- principle in all policy fields impacting SMEs and the inclusion of the SME policy in the European Semester should guarantee implementation on the ground, strengthened by an exchange of best practices with SME organisations
4. European funding intended to support SMEs must be allocated exclusively to SMEs, including traditional SMEs
5. A common denominator from all SMEs, all heterogeneity aside, is to reduce regulatory and administrative burdens and allow them to do what they do best: do business!

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<sup>1</sup> SMEUnited is the Association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe with around 70 member organisations from over 30 European countries. SMEUnited is a recognised employers' organisation and European Social Partner and acts on behalf of crafts and SMEs in the European Social Dialogue and in discussions with the EU institutions.