



**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Improving the effectiveness of EU policies for SMEs**  
**organised by the European Economic and Social Committee**  
**on 6 February 2017 at 9:30**

Date: Monday, 6 February 2017  
Venue: European Economic and Social Committee  
Rue Van Maerlant 2 – 1040 Brussels  
Meeting room VMA 3

**PROGRAMME**

- 9.00 *Registration of participants and coffee*
- 9.30 Welcome speech by **Mr Martin Siecker**, President of the Section for the Single Market, Production and Consumption, EESC
- 9.40 Introduction by **Mr Panagiotis Gkofas**, President of the SMEs, Crafts and Liberal Professions Category, EESC
- 9.50 Presentation of the Study on the assessment of the effectiveness of the EU SMEs policies 2007-2015, **Mr Stefan Petranov**, professor at the Sofia University
- 10.15 Brief presentation of the preliminary draft opinion on the *Effectiveness of policies for SMEs* by the rapporteur, **Ms Milena Angelova**, EESC
- 10.20 **Panel discussion moderated by Ms Milena Angelova with the following speakers**
- Ms Maria Spyraiki**, Member of the European Parliament
- Ms Maarit Nyman**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG GROWTH, European Commission
- Ms Katja Reppel**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Mr Dimitris Dimitriadis**, EESC Member
- Social partners
- UEAPME**, Mr Luc Hendrickx, Director of Enterprise Policy and External Relations
- CEEP**, Mr Thierry Durnerin, Chair of the CEEP Public Services Board
- Made in Bulgaria Union**, Mr Plamen Grozdanov, Secretary General
- IndustriALL**, Mr Luc Triangle, General Secretary
- 12.15 **Open debate followed by questions and answers**
- 12.50 Closing remarks by **Mr Stefano Palmieri**, President of the Study Group, EESC
- 13.00 *End of the hearing*

Interpretation provided  
from BG, EN, FR, IT, NL, PL  
into EN, IT, NL, PL