

Press Release

30 September 2022

ROUNDTABLE LUNCH - "CEE – SMEs between Transition, War and Global Competition"

On Tuesday, 13th September 2022, the SME Connect, Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (ZPP) and European Enterprise Alliance (EEA) organized the ROUNDTABLE LUNCH on: "CEE – SMEs between Transition, War and Global Competition" at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The event assembled several MEPs; MEP Andrzej **HALICKI**, MEP Ivan **ŠTEFANEC**, MEP Martina **DLABAJOVÁ**, MEP Inese **VAIDERE**, MEP Radan **KANEV**; and other high-level officials of different EU - CEE Member States to debate key issues such as:

- the SME's chances and obstacles through the green and digital transition
- the macro-economic trends of SMEs development in Central and Eastern European countries
- the impact of the war in Ukraine, the actual energy crisis, and SMEs' economic recovery after the COVID-19
- a closer look was aimed at the key barriers SMEs face with respect to the external environment and their own internal structures

Statements of the Hosts:

MEP Ivan ŠTEFANEC

"SMEs must be at the core of our interest, and entrepreneurs have to be assured that we are advocating for their interest during a current difficult time. "

MEP Andrzej HALICKI

"Many of the measures will be essential to the survival of many SMEs. However, it will be important that short-term subsidies do not distract from or delay longer-term transitions. In the EU, National Recovery and Resilience Plans have been developed, which should help support longer-term SMEs' investment needs, particularly to support their energy transition. Policymakers will need to monitor short-term measures closely to ensure they work to support, rather than counteract, longer-term objectives."

For further information please contact:

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