

# Declaration of Entrepreneurial Rights

## Submission to the EU institutions on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUROCHAMBRES

### Summary of the 12 Entrepreneurial Rights:

#### 1. A fully functioning single market

Many unnecessary differing national requirements continue to hinder cross-border trade, particularly in the services sector. In the digital era, single market rules and architecture must ensure that 'digital by default' goes hand in hand with 'cross-border by default'.

#### 2. Fair and favourable trading conditions beyond the EU

The strong correlation between internationalisation and growth must be harnessed if the EU is to remain a global economic frontrunner. An SME inclusive approach to trade policy, promotion and support is central to this process.

#### 3. An adequately skilled, qualified and flexible workforce

Skills mismatches and shortages are a growing concern for European businesses as markets, society and technology evolve with increasing pace. Skills forecasting, mobility, vocational training and business-education cooperation are key elements in meeting these concerns.

#### 4. The effective economic integration of migrants

Addressing the humanitarian challenge of the refugee crisis can only succeed through effective socio-economic integration. Migrants can also help reduce skills shortages in Europe if an efficient, partnership-based procedure with specific support for SMEs is put in place.

#### 5. Available and appropriate financing solutions

Asymmetry between the supply of financing and the needs of entrepreneurs undermines investment and growth. More must be done at EU level to ensure a better match between the expectations of financing providers and businesses seeking capital.

#### 6. SME friendly drafting, implementation and monitoring of EU legislation

The need to 'think small first' is widely recognised and formally acknowledged by policy-makers, yet they still too often fail to apply this principle in practice. This must change if the next EU term is going help SMEs - 99% of all European businesses and well over half of employment and value added – to prosper and drive competitiveness.

#### 7. Measures to stimulate an entrepreneurial mindset across Europe

Policy-makers can be instrumental in making entrepreneurship more appealing. Entrepreneurship education should be integrated into curricula and particular attention paid to women and migrants. Europe must become a hotbed for entrepreneurs!

#### 8. An ecosystem that facilitates the creation and expansion of businesses

Building on the vibrant start-up ecosystem in parts of Europe, more needs to be done to help both young and established businesses to expand. Completing the single market is the clearest way in which the EU can create opportunities for businesses to scale-up, but much more can and should be done at European level.

#### 9. A second chance after failure and the facilitation of business transfer

Europe must work to minimize avoidable business failure and to enable the transfer of ownership of viable companies. Guidance and advice are important to both of these aims given the huge complexity involved. The EU should play a proactive role in driving reforms and ensuring adequate support at all levels.

#### 10. An economic and legal environment that allows risk-taking and stimulates innovation

Policy-makers must acknowledge the inescapable element of risk in business, particularly in relation to high-growth, innovative activities. Officials and politicians from EU level down therefore need to understand responsible risk-taking and innovation and reflect this in their decisions and actions.

#### 11. Advanced, interconnected and accessible digital infrastructure

Digitalisation is a key component of most business models, so enablers such as connectivity and security are crucial. The EU is instrumental in defining the legislative and infrastructure framework for digitalisation and must do so in a manner that is business – particularly SME – friendly.

#### 12. Affordable and secure supplies of energy and raw materials

EU policy is driving the union's pursuit of a low carbon, renewable based and fully circular economy. These important commitments can only be met with the active engagement of the broad business community, which requires the right framework conditions, targeted support and a market-based approach.



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