

Mr Werner Hoyer
President
European Investment Bank
100, Bd Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg

Brussels, 13 May 2020

Subject: **Swift deployment of EIF support measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SMEs**

Dear President,

EUROCHAMBRES welcomed the extraordinary response from the Commission and the European Investment Bank/Fund in unlocking €1 billion in investment funds through the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility and the InnovFin SME Guarantee. Alleviating the effects of the pandemic on the European economy depends on the deployment of critical measures such as loan guarantees and counter-guarantees, coverage of working capital, payment deferrals and better financing terms and conditions for firms.

Feedback from national Chambers of Commerce and Industry indicates that the majority of businesses are not benefiting from measures taken since the outbreak of the crisis. There is a growing risk that cash-strapped and increasingly vulnerable companies could shut down before support measures reach them. Large-scale defaults could postpone any short-term prospects to recapitalise Europe's economy. A stronger commitment from financial intermediaries and liquidity providers in support of SMEs is therefore necessary in order to avoid temporary liquidity problems morphing into long-term solvency problems.

Administrative procedures to access liquidity must be transparent and easy to understand, to enable rapid access. Furthermore, EUROCHAMBRES calls for the European Investment Bank to regularly inform all business stakeholders about any support measures planned to be adopted in the coming months.

Chambers remain available to support you in your efforts to ensure that measures taken to help our struggling businesses reach them in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Leitl, President EUROCHAMBRES

CC: *Executive-Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis*
Commissioner Thierry Breton