

!!!Keep this date free!!!: 27 September 2005 (afternoon) for a UNICE seminar

SME access to finance: a better understanding



Seminar Outline

In the European Union, nine out of ten companies are small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). They provide almost two out of every three jobs. They are the driving force of European growth and job creation. UNICE, representing almost 20 million entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized companies is organising this seminar to state their concerns about accessing finance, and push for change: **Let SMEs grow!**

SME growth largely depends on the possibility to invest in restructuring, innovation and qualification. All of these investments need capital and therefore access to finance.

Participants

Participants will be representatives of companies, business organisations, representatives of the European Institutions (Council, Commission, and European Parliament). All will have the opportunity to ask questions to the panel of experts and give their own views.

Speakers

Speakers will be CEOs of SMEs with first-hand experience of financing their business – venture capital and private equity investors and representatives of banks large and small.

Opening remarks: Philippe de Buck, UNICE Secretary General

Panel I: SMEs and banks: dealing with a new environment

Panel II: Venture capital / private equity and SMEs: making it happen

Concluding remarks: European Commission

Drinks reception

Date – Time - Place

We kindly invite you to block the date in your agenda: the seminar will take place on 27 September 2005, from 13.00 – 17.00 hours in the UNICE Conference Centre, 168 Av. de Cortenbergh, Brussels, followed by a drinks reception.

There will be a Conference fee of: €90

Your participation in this event will be important for all concerned to benefit from your views and contribute to the 'Conclusions' of the seminar.

The official invitations with full details for registration will follow. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Ms Nathalie Dejong at n.dejong@unice.be
