

**SMEs Access to Finance for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
Welcoming the Members of the Working Group on Access to Finance
Establishing Work Plans
24 November 2015 – DG NEAR, J54, rue Joseph II
Programme**

The purpose of this first Access to Finance meeting is to introduce the members of the working group, and discuss the preliminary findings of both the mapping exercise and the focus group meetings with respect to public policies and programmes for SMEs financial inclusion, such as bank loans, guarantee instruments, risk capital, start-up financing, micro-finance, and other newer financial instruments. The meeting will also discuss and exchange views to identify key challenges in this area and the way forward.

09:00-09:15	<p>Welcome and Opening Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Ingrid Schwaiger, Deputy Head of Unit “Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South”, DG NEAR <p>Welcome and Introductory Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Marie-Jo Char, Project Leader, EBESM/GIZ
09:15-09:30	<p>Introducing the Members of the Working Group on Access to Finance (EBESM/GIZ will invite members to introduce themselves and will present briefly their mandate/role)</p>
09:30-11:00	<p>Mapping Study on Access to Finance for MSMEs</p> <p><i>Introduction: EU policies on SME access to finance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Armando Melone and Mr Maciej Otulak, Policy Officers, SME Access to Finance, DG GROW <p><i>Preliminary findings of the mapping exercise</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the Working Group on Access to Finance Countries Group 1 <p>(Each country will have 15 minutes to present preliminary findings and state of play in the area of access to finance, as well as major obstacles and challenges faced by MSMEs with access to finance)</p> <p>Debate about state of play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitators: Mr Christophe Malherbe and Mr Francois-Louis Billon, Experts, EBESM/GIZ
11:00-11:15	<p>Coffee break</p>
11:15-13:00	<p>Mapping Study on Access to Finance for MSMEs (<i>Continued</i>)</p> <p><i>Preliminary findings of the mapping exercise</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the Working Group on Access to Finance Countries Group 2 <p>(Each country will have 15 minutes to present preliminary findings and state of play in the area of access to finance, as well as major obstacles and challenges faced by MSMEs to access to finance)</p> <p>Debate about state of play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitators: Mr Christophe Malherbe and Mr Francois-Louis Billon

13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-14:45	Presentation of the Needs in Funding of 14 Clusters in the Cultural and Creative Industries to Boost Competitiveness - Mr. Gerardo Pataconi, Unit Chief, Clusters and Business Linkages Unit, UNIDO
14:45-15:00	Coffee break
15:00-16:30	Round Table to Identify Key Challenges and the Way Forward - Facilitators: Mr Christophe Malherbe and Mr Francois-Louis Billon
16:30-17:00	Next steps and conclusions - Mr Vladimir Rojanski, Programme Manager Private Sector Development, DG NEAR - Mr Tom Diderich, DG GROW: update on the 10 th Ministerial Meeting on Euro-Mediterranean industrial cooperation in 2017 - Ms Marie-Jo Char

- (*) *Countries Group 1: Morocco, Tunisia, Israel*
 (**) *Countries Group 2: Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon*
 (***) *Simultaneous translation will be available in French & English*