



MALTA EU 2017

Think Ahead



## INVITATION

# “Preventive restructuring and second chance for entrepreneurs: what’s in it for SMEs?”

**28 February, BusinessEurope premises, Avenue de Cortenberg 168  
12.30-14.45pm , preceded by a sandwich lunch**

In November 2016, the European Commission, as part of its single market strategy, published a [proposal on preventive restructuring frameworks and second chance for entrepreneurs](#) and measures to increase the efficiency of restructuring, insolvency and discharge procedures, which entails two overarching objectives. The first consists in ensuring that any viable enterprise in financial difficulties located in the EU can have access to national preventive insolvency frameworks enabling its early restructuring, with a view to preventing insolvency. The second relates to giving honest bankrupt entrepreneurs a second chance.

The Directive is especially intended to benefit less resourceful small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a welcomed objective. Naturally, the proposal also raises challenges and concerns given how insolvency rules affect a plethora of stakeholders (creditors, debtors, shareholders, courts, etc) and are deeply intertwined with many areas of law. Therefore, it is now timely to raise further awareness on this important initiative and to discuss the way it should be carried forward.

ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants), BusinessEurope, and UEAPME are delighted to invite you to take part in a lively conference organised under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to discuss what’s in the insolvency proposals for SMEs.

Please reply by 17 February to Cécile Bonino, ACCA’s Head of EU Affairs to [cecile.bonino@accaglobal.com](mailto:cecile.bonino@accaglobal.com)

### **Draft agenda**

**11.45am** Registration and sandwich lunch

**12.30pm** Welcome Speech, Markus Beyrer, Director-General BusinessEurope

**12.40pm** Keynote speech, Salla Saastamoinen, DG JUST Director, European Commission

**12.50pm** Keynote speech, Angelika Niebler, MEP & JURI Rapporteur on insolvency

**13.00pm** Panel discussion moderated by John Cullen – ACCA Council member & Partner, Menzies

- Luc Hendrickx, Director Enterprise Policy and External Relations -UEAPME
- Case-study SME
- Gary Simmons, High Yield Managing Director, AFME
- Hilde Blomme, Deputy-CEO, AccountancyEurope

**14.10pm** Q&As

**14.30pm** Concluding remarks, Kevan Azzopardi, Official Receiver, MFSA, Chairman of the Council Working Party on civil law matters (Insolvency), Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU

**14.40pm** Conclusions