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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Improving the effectiveness of EU policies for SMEs**  
**9 November 2017, 9:30 - 13:00**

Date: Thursday, 9 November 2017

Venue: Grand Hotel Sofia

1 Gurko Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Triaditza 2 conference room

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

9.30 Opening by **Mr Vasil Velev**, Chairman of the Governing Board of Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA)

9.40 Keynote speech by **Mr Tomislav Donchev**, Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister (TBC)

10.00 *How does Bulgaria endeavors to improve the effectiveness of SMEs policies*

*Panel discussion moderated by Ms Milena Angelova with the following speakers*

**Mr Tomislav Donchev**, Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister (TBC)

**Mr Petar Georgiev Kanev**, Chair of the Committee on Economic Policy and Tourism, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria (TBC)

**Mr Emil Karanikolov**, Bulgarian Minister of Economy (TBC)

**Ms Marieta Zaharieva**, Executive Director of the Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency

**Ms Eleonora Negulova**, President of the Bulgarian National Association of Small and Medium Business

11.00 **Coffee break**

11.30 *The European approach to promoting SMEs*

*Panel discussion moderated by Mr Dimitris Dimitriadis with the following speakers*

**Ms Iskra Mihaylova**, Member of the European Parliament (TBC)

**Ms Katrin Sturm**, Secretary General of the European Association of Guarantee Institutions, AECM

**Mr Stefano Palmieri,** EESC Member

12.45 **Closing remarks by …**

13.00 End of the hearing

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| Interpretation provided  **from** BG, EN **into** EN, BG |