

## SME Week Youth Essay Competition 2019

What concrete or initiative would you propose to apply the « Think Small First Principle »?

99% of the companies in the EU are SMEs. As I said in my introductory speech, they are the backbone of our economy. But first, do we all know what a SME is all about?

They are these companies which employ not less than 250 employees and couldn't go beyond the threshold of a €50bn turnover. They may be called small and medium sized enterprises, they are nonetheless at the core of our economy : they provide jobs to 66% of the European workforce. But, in our economy, they face some hurdles... How could we ever deny their need of getting rid of the red tape they witness on a day to day basis? They don't have time for bureaucracy, they rather need time to be more innovative in an ever-changing world.

We all complain that there is not a single European high-tech giant. Indeed, do we provide the necessary facilities to unleash tomorrow's talents? As I did emphasise during my speech FabLabs could bring what Europe needs : more cooperation between member states of the European Union. By cross-cutting research teams which could work on tomorrow's technologies. Not only on Artificial Intelligence but also on how being able to contain climate change and our unsustainable way of consuming goods and services. We do need to be at the forefront of the world's most disruptive innovations. Please, do not forget that these teams have something unique : being truly European! Europeans who share together common values for a common future. This is something that I see achievable through the program *Erasmus for sustainable entrepreneurs*.

But now, let's go back to the red tape burden. I want a convergence within the euro zone area when it comes to the tax rules. I acknowledge how reluctant member states could be on that matter, but we could achieve so much more by reaching together a consensus! Don't we have a common goal ? The one of making Europe a prosperous place? Wouldn't it be easier for companies doing business throughout Europe?

If we take this into practice, they will not have anymore to take into consideration any dumping from any of the 19 member states. Afterwards, thanks to this first common tax policy it would be possible to tend towards a convergence of the national accounting standards. I want a new accounting standard aiming to be environmentally reliable : an excessive CO2 emitting company has to be penalised from its rival!

I believe the European private company status introduced in 2008 by the European Business Act was a step forward and paved the way to a competitive European Union by lowering significantly the paperwork for companies. But I want now to make it greener. This is my pledge under my first 100 days in office. I will do my utmost so that this Green Deal will happen. I will do my utmost during the forthcoming MFF negotiations to make all of my measures fully implemented.

Estelle Beuve