**The Employers' Group seminar**

**Placing European SMEs at a Horizontal Priority**

**in the post-2020 Policy Making Process**

**24-25 October 2019,**

**Chania, Greece**

**Draft Programme**

**Interpreting: EN-FR-EL**

**24 October 2019**

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| **9:30 – 10:00** | **Registration and welcome coffee** |
| **10:00-10:20** | **Welcome remarks:**   * **George Topolianakis,** President of Chania’s Traders Association * **George Karanikas,** President of ESEE (The Hellenic Confederation of Commerce and Entrepreneurship) |
| **10:20 – 10:50** | **Opening speeches:**   * **Stavros Arnaoutakis**, Governor of Crete * **Ioannis Malandrakis**, Mayor of Platanias * **Emmanouel Giannoulis**, Member of the Board of Directors SETE (Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises) |
| **10:50-11:00** | **Keynote speech by:**   * **Jacek Krawczyk,** President of the Employers' Group |
| **11:00-11:40** | **Panel 1 –** **urban regeneration: best practices for vital European city centres**  Presentation of study "The future of retail in city centres", commissioned by the Employers' Group  Speakers:   * **Valia Aranitou,** Director of INEMY – ESEE * **András Edelényi**, Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, EESC Member **(tbc)**   **Q&A** |
| **11:40-12:20** | **Panel 2 - Digital Opportunities and Threats for SMEs**   * **Ariane Rodert,** INT Section President, EESC * **Prof. Dimitris Milonakis,** Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Crete   **Q&A** |
| **12:20-13:00** | **Panel 3 - Access to Finance for SMEs**  Presentation of the study :"How the state aid rules affect access to finance for SMEs and enterprises", commissioned by the Employers' Group  Speakers:   * **Milena Angelova**, Vice-President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Secretary-general of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association * **Denitsa Berkhoff**, Head of Group Risk Unit, European Investment Fund * **Prof Constantinos Zopounidis**, University of Crete   **Q&A** |
| **13:00-14:30** | **Networking lunch** |
|  | **Panel 4 - SMEs and Single Market**  Moderator Violeta Jelić, EESC, Vice president of the Employers’ Group  Speakers:   * Pietro de Lotto – SME Category Spoke Person; EESC * Janusz Pietkiewicz, Member of the Employers' Group, Employers of Poland |

