



To: Commissioner Nicolas Schmit

Cc: Joost Korte, Director General DG EMPL, Ann Branch, Head of Unit E1 DG EMPL

Subject: Response to EC publication of microfinance market analysis

Dear Commissioner Schmit,

Thank you again for the good work done by your service in the publication of the microfinance market analysis¹. Amongst the many good findings and recommendations we particularly note the estimated size of the financing gap for the sector (EUR 12,9bn per annum).

Over the past 7 years EUR 409m in EaSI guarantees mobilised an expected EUR 3.3bn in financing. This had made a substantial difference to the sector and to inclusive entrepreneurship across Europe. However, at the same time, this is still an order of magnitude removed from addressing the total financing gap, so there is no doubt that a sustained effort will be needed in the next MFF.

We count on you to ensure that the EaSI guarantees programme sees a powerful successor as soon as the next MFF and InvestEU start being implemented. Microfinance providers across Europe are asking us when the new measures will be made available, and so far we have no clear message to share. We cannot wait for the Social Economy Action Plan to be published before designing new industry measures – this will leave the sector without any support for too long.

In early 2020 we were scheduled to have a physical meeting together, which sadly could not go ahead due to the pandemic. We would like to pick this up again at your earliest convenience, and set up a meeting to discuss the future place of microfinance in the EU.

Thanks again for the work you are doing, and we look forward to continuing our good exchanges.

Sincerely yours,

Elwin Groenevelt
President
European Microfinance Network

Lucia Lucija Popovska
President
Microfinance Centre

¹ [Microfinance in the European Union](#): market analysis and recommendations for delivery options in 2021-2027