



Working Party on Euro-Mediterranean Industrial cooperation 21-22 January 2014 - Brussels

***Converging towards the "Small Business Act" for Europe -
steps towards a Euro-Mediterranean SBA?***

***Luis Cuervo Spottorno, Policy Officer
SME Access to Markets, DG Enterprise & Industry***



Outline

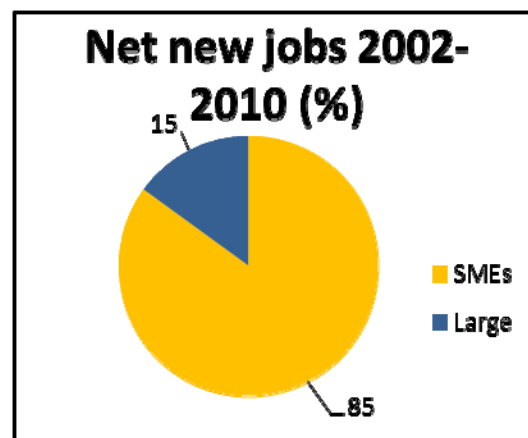
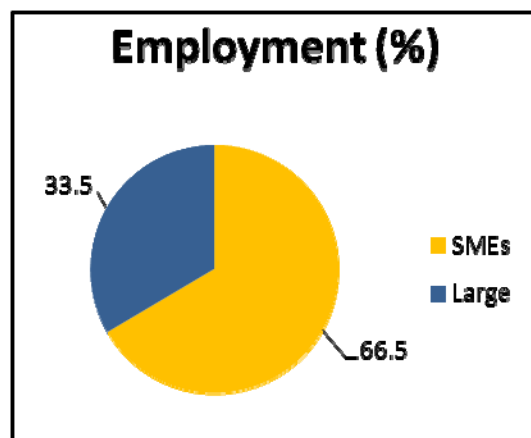
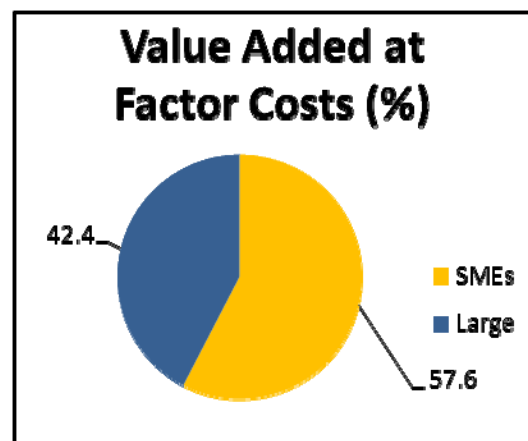
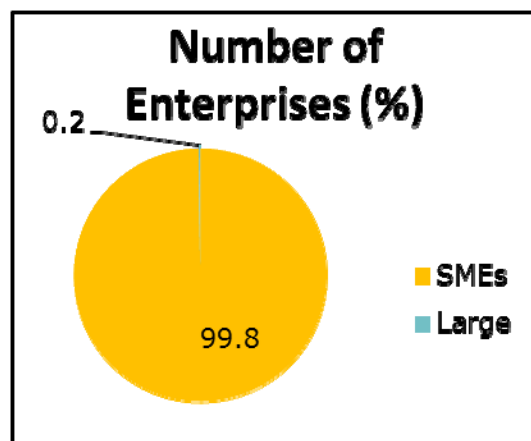
- *Why are SMEs important?*
- *Why specific policy actions for SMEs*
- *'Small Business Act' for Europe (SBA)*
- *Achievements: access to finance; reduction of regulatory burden; access to markets; entrepreneurship; governance*
- *Way forward for a future Euro-Mediterranean SBA*



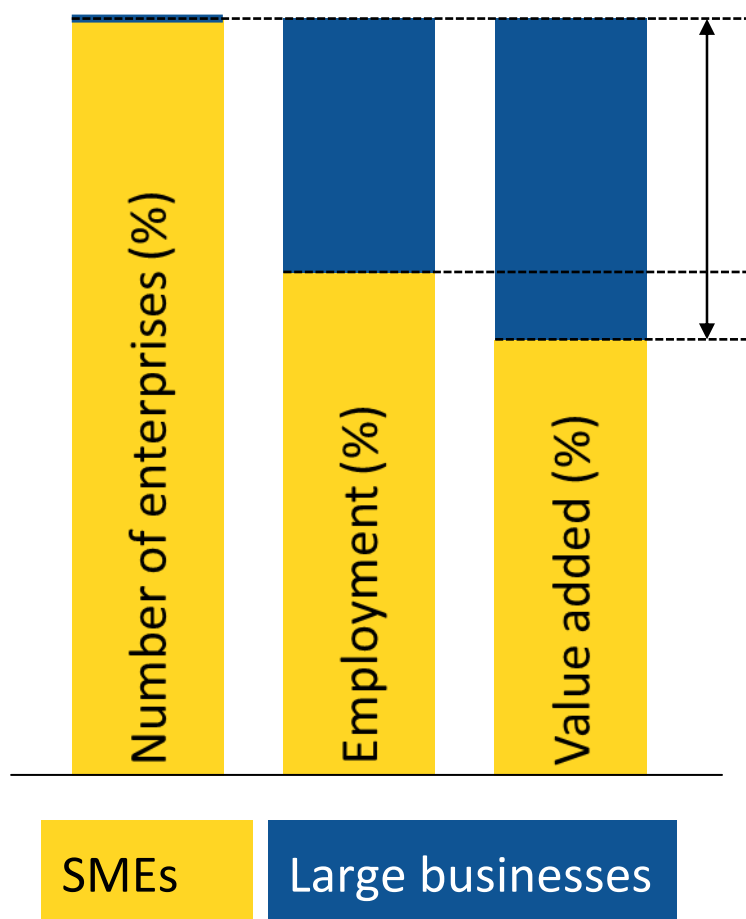


European
Commission

Why SMEs are important



Why specific policy actions for **SMEs**



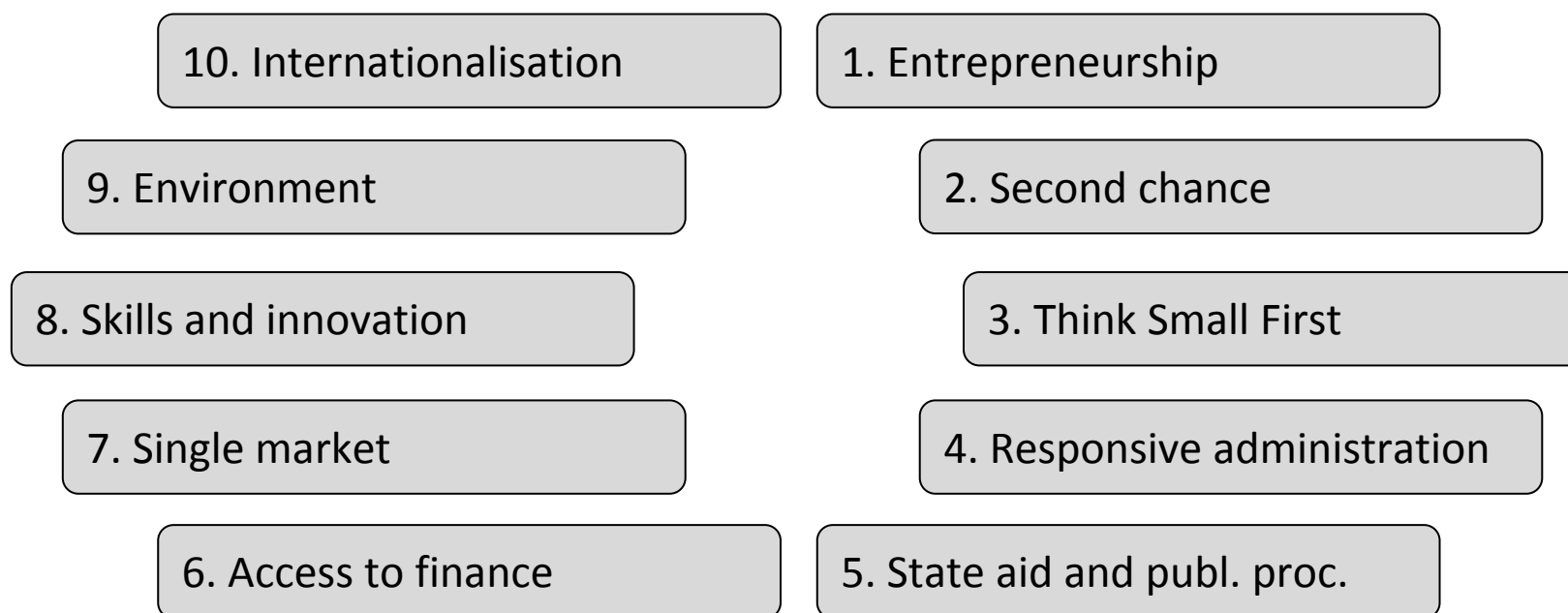
Smaller economies of scale

e.g. greater variety of tasks per employee – usually smaller degree of specialisation

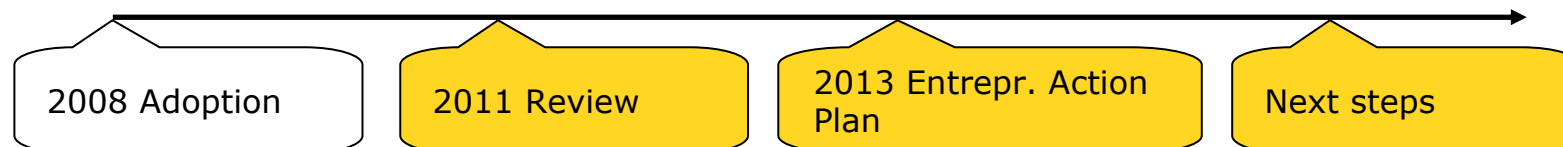
Lower apparent productivity compared to large companies

Need for a dedicated SME policy

SBA in ten principles



SBA's history and future timeline



What have we achieved? - Access to finance

CIP financial
instruments

The portal on
access to finance

The directive to
combat late
payments

The SME Finance
Forum

What have we achieved?

- Reducing regulatory burden

SME Test in the
Commission's
Impact
Assessments

TOP 10 public
consultation and
the follow-up

Specific **focus on
micro-enterprises**
(exemption)

**EU Regulatory
Fitness and
Performance**
(REFIT)



What have we achieved? - Access to markets

Enterprise Europe
Network

'Missions for
Growth' led by VP
Tajani

Proposal for a
Common
Consolidated
Corporate Tax
Base (CCCTB)

Review of the EU
public
procurement
directive

Revision of the
European
standardisation
system

What have we achieved?

- Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship
2020 Action Plan
(EAP) (9.1.2013)

3 pillars of the EAP:

Entrepreneurial
education and
training

Creation of an
environment
where
entrepreneurs can
flourish and grow

Developing role
models and
reaching out to
specific groups

Governance framework – engaging Stakeholders

**SME Envoys
network** – co-
operation with MS

SME Assembly –
annual event

SBA Follow-up –
stakeholder
consultations

**Enterprise Europe
Network** –
business support
on your doorstep



What way forward for an Euro-Mediterranean SBA ?

- *2004 Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise*
- *Assessment of SME situation in Med countries – Euro-Med Industrial Policy dialogue*
- *Issues to consider:*
 - benefits for EU & Med SMEs?
 - benefits for employment & innovation
 - political and business support in MED countries to implement it
 - make it realistic! ⇒ policy to provide real added value + in line with MED businesses requirements
 - concrete options for implementation!





Thank you for your attention !

Contact:

luis.cuervo-spottorno@ec.europa.eu

European Commission

DG Enterprise and Industry

Unit D-2: "SME Access to Markets"