



1ST PREPARATORY MEETING OF SME FORUM 2020

11 September 2020, participation via Webex

- Organised in collaboration with SME4Space -

ABOUT

Part of the ESA SME Initiative, the SME Forum is an annual consultation process for ESA to collect feedback from SMEs and their associations on factors that affect their business environment. The resulting recommendations will feed into ESA's SME Policy. The main conclusions of the SME Forum consultation process will be received by and discussed with the ESA Director of Industry, Procurement and Legal Services on the occasion of the SME Forum meeting on 9 October in ESA HQ (more details to follow).

Objectives of the 1st preparatory meeting

Participant SMEs find out, compare and contrast their experience in terms of obstacles, difficulties and potential solutions for improving their business environment, in a dialogue structured by ESA in collaboration with SME4Space.

This meeting will be one of the stepping stones in the process of preparing the 9 October SME Forum.

AGENDA

09:30 - 09:35 **Welcome**

Luca del Monte, Head of Industrial Policy and SME Division

09:35 - 09:50 **SME Forum objectives, process and expected outcome**

Jens Kauffmann, Head of the SME and Analytics Section

09:50 - 10:10 **The life of an SME in 2020: pluses and minuses (preliminary feedback)**

Rosario Pavone, SME4Space Secretary provides an outline on preliminary feedback from SMEs

10:10-10:50 **Open discussion: life of an SME in 2020 and beyond**

Moderator: Teodora Secara, Industrial Policy Officer, SME Office, ESA

Main topics:

1. Covid-19 crisis impact on SMEs, and recovery measures
2. Access to finance for SMEs
3. Internationalisation and exports

10:50-11:00 **Way forward**