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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: 2016 Report of the SME Envoy Network to the Competitiveness Council
- *Information from the Commission*

In September 2013, the Competitiveness Council decided to improve the monitoring of SME-policies by setting up a network of SME envoys. The Council invited the envoys to report on a regular basis on progress in the implementation of the 2008 Small Business Act (SBA) and other SME initiatives.

The first report, which gave an overview of the activities of the Network, was presented to the Competitiveness Council in December 2014.

The second report was presented to the Competitiveness Council in November 2015.

The 2016 Report of the SME Envoy Network to the Competitiveness Council gives an overview of the Network's activities in the field of digitalisation, skills and training, access to finance (venture capital) and entrepreneurship education. Special attention is given to start-ups and scale-ups, which are also the focus of the Commission, which will release its start-up and scale-up initiative on 22 November 2016. Finally, the report lists the key issues for 2017 and beyond.

The SME Envoy report has been included in the agenda of the Competitiveness Council of 28 November (under AOB) to allow Ms Bieńkowska, who is also the EU SME Envoy, to present the progress achieved in implementing the Small Business Act as requested by the Council, based on the report of the SME Envoys Network 2016.
