



Council of the
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NOTE

From: Czech delegation
To: Council

Subject: Outcome of a conference on support for SMEs (Brno, 29-31 May 2019)
- *Information from the Czech delegation*

Delegations will find attached a note from the Czech delegation to the Council with a view to the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 26 September 2019.

Competitiveness Council of 26 September 2019

AOB: Outcome of a conference on support for SMEs (Brno, 29 – 31 May)

- Information from the Czech delegation

The Czech Republic would like to inform the Competitiveness Council about its activities in the field of support for small- and medium-sized enterprises (“SMEs”).

SMEs play an important role in creating jobs and generally act as a factor strongly assisting social stability and economic development. That is why the EU pays special attention to their needs. To enhance support for SMEs at both national and EU levels, the Czech Republic hosted a conference dedicated to State aid and SME definition during the dates of 29 - 31 May 2019 in Brno.

The main aim of the conference was exchange of practical experience and best practices in verifying the SME status based on the SME definition (codified by Commission Recommendation of 2003). Experts from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, with the participation of the European Commission, discussed practical problems brought about by the application of the Recommendation in the complex business structures of nowadays.

The conference led to the conclusion that a timely revision of the current SME definition is needed.
