

Department of SME Studies

SME Policy Forum

“The SME Policy Form” is organized as an invitation-only event and is planned to take place annually. Its target audience comprises influential professionals from academia, policy, the press and senior expert practitioners. It aims at becoming a focal meeting place for the community, providing a unique opportunity for a public exchange of views and analysis with leading experts and decision makers in the field. Moreover, the conference is open to the press and is supposed to attract substantial interest from the media.

SME Policy Forum 2019

February 1, 2019

Program

Organizers:

Günter W. Beck, University of Siegen and COSMERP

Petra Moog, University of Siegen and COSMERP

Friederike Welter, IfM Bonn and University of Siegen

Location:

Representation of the State

of North Rhine-Westphalia

to the European Union

Rue Montoyer 47,

1000 Bruxelles

Program:

08:30 – 08:55

Registration and Coffee

08:55 – 09:00

Welcome

Helmut Siekmann (Goethe University Frankfurt and COSMERP)

09:00 – 10:30

Debate 1: Digitization and SMEs:

Chair: **Petra Moog** (University of Siegen and COSMERP)

David B. Audretsch (Indiana University)

Hans-Peter Klös (German Economic Institute)

Max Lemke (European Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology.)

T.B.A. (Representative of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia)

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30

Debate 2: Changing financial environment and access of SMEs to finance

Chair: **Günter W. Beck** (University of Siegen and COSMERP)

Uwe Burkert (LBBW)

Alexandr Hobza (EU Commission, Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs)

Joachim Nagel (KfW)
Hans-Helmut Kotz (SAFE und Center for European Studies,
Harvard University)
Helmut Kraemer-Eis (European Investment Fund)

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

**Debate 3: International challenges for SMEs in a globally
uncertain political environment**

Chair: **Friederike Welter** (IfM Bonn and University of Siegen)

Speakers:

Robert Blackburn (Kingston University London)

Rogier van den Brink (World Bank)

Joaquim Oliveira Martins (OECD, Centre for
Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities)

Kristin Schreiber (European Commission, Directorate-
General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and
SMEs)

15:30 – 15:40

Closing Remarks

Günter Beck (University of Siegen and COSMERP)