

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Market Access, Industry, Energy and Raw Materials

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Enterprise Europe Network and Internationalisation of SMEs

Brussels, 11th July 2018 TRADE/G3/FPC/MP/agg/ARES(2018)3842631

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the 9th joint EU-US Workshop on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which will take place in Vienna, Austria, on 15 November 2018.

This Workshop is conducted in the framework of the EU-US Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC). Since 2011, the TEC has included a specific work stream with the objective to enhance transatlantic cooperation on issues relevant for US and EU SMEs in order to increase trade and investment opportunities.

The Workshop is organised by the European Commission and the US Administration with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. Participants will include senior officials from European Commission services, US Administration, EU Member States, and executives from SMEs and business associations.

A draft agenda for the workshop is attached to this invitation. The sessions cover discussions on support policies to SMEs, access to finance, developing entrepreneurship competencies and intellectual property protection.

We would be grateful if you could send your participation request by email (your name, organisation and contact address) to the European Commission: <u>TRADE-G3-SEC@ec.europa.eu</u> and <u>GROW-H2@ec.europa.eu</u> by 15 September 2018 at the latest. Your participation would be confirmed until mid-October.

Yours faithfully,

[e-signed]
Francisco PÉREZ CAÑADO

[e-signed] Giacomo MATTINÒ