

European Commission





### **Joint Investment Conference**

# Unlocking the Investment Potential



16 November 2017 Ljubljana, Slovenia

# DOBRODOŠLI \*\*\* WELCOME

Dobrodošli na mednarodni konferenci "**Nov naložbeni zagon**", ki jo skupaj organiziramo Banka Slovenije, Evropska investicijska banka in Predstavništvo Evropske komisije v Sloveniji.

Konferenca bo naslovila naložbeni potencial v Evropi in še posebej finančne priložnosti, ki jih nudi naložbeni načrt za Evropo s t.i. evropskim skladom za strateške naložbe (EFSI). Diskusije bodo postavile v ospredje tudi naložbeno okolje v Sloveniji, vključno z novo naložbeno zakonodajo in ukrepi za spodbujanje alternativnih virov financiranja.

Visoki predstavniki Banke Slovenije, Evropske investicijske banke (EIB), Evropskega investicijskega sklada (EIF), Evropske komisije, resornih ministrstev, Gospodarske zbornice in finančnih institucij bodo skupaj razpravljali o ključnih tematikah za gospodarsko rast.

Želimo vam zanimive razprave in izmenjavo mnenj in upamo, da bo konferenca za vas tematsko koristna.

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We would like to welcome you to the International Conference "**Unlocking the Investment Potential**", jointly organised by the Bank of Slovenia, European Investment Bank and the European Commission Representation in Slovenia.

Objective of the conference is to discuss investment potential in Europe, especially financing opportunities offered by the Investment Plan for Europe and its European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). The discussions will also put in focus investment environment in Slovenia, including new investment legislation and efforts to promote alternative sources of finance.

High-level representatives of the Bank of Slovenia, the European Investment Bank, the European Investment Fund, the European Commission, relevant Ministries, Chamber of Commerce and Industry and financial institutions will together address very relevant topics, contributing to growth.

We hope that the conference will result in fruitful exchange of ideas and as such prove to be valuable for all its participants.

Boštjan Jazbec Governor Bank of Slovenia Vazil Hudák Vice President European Investment Bank Zoran Stančič Head of the Representation in Slovenia European Commission

## PROGRAM

### Kraj: Premier Best Western Hotel Slon, Ljubljana Četrtek, 16. novembra 2017

08:30 – 09:00	Registracija in kava	
09:00 – 09:30	Uvodni nagovori	
	Boštjan Jazbec, guverner, Banka Slovenije Vazil Hudák, podpredsednik, Evropska investicijska banka Zoran Stančič, vodja Predstavništva v Sloveniji, Evropska komisija	
09:30 – 11:00	Panel I: Investicije in financiranje investicij	
	Investicije in financiranje investicij: Slovenija: EU, Letno poročilo EIB in Raziskava EIB o investicijah v Sloveniji Debora Revoltella, glavna ekonomistka, Evropska investicijska banka	
	Investiranje za rast v Sloveniji Kerstin Jorna, namestnica generalnega direktorja DG ECFIN, Evropska komisija	
	Povezava financiranje-investicije-rast Arjana Brezigar Masten, direktorica Analitsko raziskovalnega centra, Banka Slovenije	
	Investicijsko okolje v Sloveniji Miranda Groff Ferjančič, državna sekretarka, Ministrstvo za finance Aleš Cantarutti, državni sekretar, Ministrstvo za gospodarski razvoj in tehnologijo	
	Komentira Sonja Šmuc, generalna direktorica, Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije	
11:00 – 11:30	Odmor	#investEU
11:00 - 11:30	Svečani podpis InvestEU projekta lastniškega financiranja: EIF – SID banka	
11:30 – 13:00	Panel II: Alternativni viri financiranja	
	Financiranje investicij Peter Jacobs, vodja Pisarne v Sloveniji, Evropska investicijska banka Paolo Bozzolo, vodja projekta CEE Project & Commodity Finance, UniCredit	
	Dostop do lastniških virov financiranja Gabriele Todesca, vodja divizije mandat upravljanje kapitala, Evropski investicijski sklad	
	Udeležba Slovenije v Srednjeevropskem skladu skladov (CEFoF) Maja Tomanič Vidovič, direktorica, Slovenski podjetniški slad	
	Dostop do lastniških virov financiranja v regiji Pekka Mäki, upravljavski partner, 3TS Capital Partners	
	Razprava: Aleš Ipavec, predsednik uprave, Ljubljanska borza Primož Damjanovič, namestnik direktorja, Agencija za trg vrednostnih papirjev Sibil Svilan, predsednik uprave, SID banka	
	Moderira Áron Gereben, višji ekonomist, Evropska investicijska banka	
13:00 – 13:15	Zaključek	
	Boštjan Jazbec, guverner, Banka Slovenije Pier Luigi Gilibert, izvršni direktor, Evropski investicijski sklad Zoran Stančič, vodja Predstavništva v Sloveniji, Evropska komisija	
13:15 – 13:30		
	Svečani podpis prvega InvestEU infrastrukturnega projekta v Sloveniji: EIB-DARS	

### PROGRAMME

### Conference Venue: Premier Best Western Hotel Slon, Ljubljana Thursday, 16 November 2017

08:30 - 09:00	Welcome coffee and registration
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Remarks
	Boštjan Jazbec, Governor, Bank of Slovenia Vazil Hudák, Vice President, European Investment Bank Zoran Stančič, Head of the Representation in Slovenia, European Commission
09:30 – 11:00	Panel I: Investment and Investment finance
	Investment and Investment Finance: Slovenia vs the EU, EIB annual report and EIB Investment Survey on Slovenia Debora Revoltella, Chief Economist, European Investment Bank
	Investing for Growth in Slovenia Kerstin Jorna, Deputy Director General DG ECFIN, European Commission
	Finance-investment-growth nexus Arjana Brezigar Masten, Director Analysis and Research, Bank of Slovenia
	Investment environment in Slovenia Miranda Groff Ferjančič, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance Aleš Cantarutti, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
	Commented by Sonja Šmuc, Director General, Chamber of Commerce and Industry
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break #investEU
11:00 – 11:30	Solemn signature of equity project: EIF – SID bank
11:30 – 13:00	Panel II: Alternative sources of finance
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# **SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHY**



#### **BOŠTJAN JAZBEC**

#### GOVERNOR, BANK OF SLOVENIA

He graduated from the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, and continued his studies at the Central European University in Budapest and Prague. After completing his Ph.D. studies in Economics at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna he defended his doctoral thesis on real exchange rate determination in transition economies at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana. His research interests focused on the macroeconomic topics including the impact of structural reforms on the exchange rate determination and the convergence of the transition countries to the European Union (EU). He worked as a short-term consultant for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank in Washington, DC. In July 2003, he was appointed to the Board of the Bank of Slovenia and continued his post until 2008. After 2008, he worked as a consultant to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the Central Bank of Kosovo and the Central Bank of Suriname. In July 2013 he was appointed

Governor of the Bank of Slovenia and the member of the Governing Council of the ECB. In September 2016 he became a member of the Bank for International Settlements' (BIS) Central Bank Governance Group.



#### VAZIL HUDÁK

#### VICE PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Vazil Hudák joined the European Investment Bank as Vice-President at the beginning of October, 2016. Prior to this office, he was appointed as the Chief Negotiator of the EU Budget during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union. He has served as Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic from 2015 until 2016. Before this, he was State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Representative of the Slovak Republic on the Board of Governors in the European Stability Mechanism. He was also Industry Head for Public Sector of Eastern Europe in J.P. Morgan Chase and has worked for the Citi Group and EastWest Institute in U.S and Europe. Vazil Hudák started his career at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia. He studied at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in Moscow, Charles University in Prague and Harvard Business School.



#### ZORAN STANČIČ

#### HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN SLOVENIA

Zoran Stančič took up office on 1 January 2016 as Head of the European Commission Representation in Ljubljana. Mr Stančič joined the European Commission in 2004 as Deputy Director-General for Research (DG RTD). In 2009 he moved to the same position at the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology. From 2000 until 2004 Mr Stančič served as the Slovenian State Secretary for Science in the Ministry for Education, Science and Sport. Before moving to the Ministry, he held the position of the Deputy Director of the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Moreover, he made his name as a prominent researcher. He taught at several Faculties of the University of Ljubljana and worked as visiting Professor or researcher at the Sorbonne University in Paris, University of Trieste (Italy), Boston University (USA) and University of Reading (UK). He started his academic career as a researcher at the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.



#### **DEBORA REVOLTELLA**

#### CHIEF ECONOMIST, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Debora Revoltella is the director of the Economics Department of the European Investment Bank, and has held this position since April 2011. The department provides impact-driven economic analysis to support operations, the global positioning as well as the policy and strategy definition of the bank. Debora holds a degree in economics and a masters in economics from Bocconi University as well as a PhD in economics from the University of Ancona in Italy. After the experience as an adjunct professor in macroeconomics at Bocconi University, Debora joined the research department of Banca Commerciale Italiana, a leading Italian Bank. In 2001, she joined UniCredit as the chief economist for Central and Eastern Europe. During these years, the department developed into a leading research centre for the region. Debora is a member of the Steering Committee of the Vienna Initiative, an alternate member of the Board of the Joint Vienna Institute and a member of the Boards of the SUERF and the Euro 50 Group.





#### **KERSTIN JORNA**

#### DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL DG ECFIN, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Kerstin Jorna is a German national and a civil servant at the European Commission where she has held various positions, amongst others as Head of Cabinet of several Commissioners and different Director posts in the areas of Intellectual Property, Innovation and Standards, Single Market Policy, Regulation and Implementation. Since December 2016 she is Deputy Director General in the Economic and Financial Affairs general directorate. Her areas of responsibility include, amongst others, macroeconomic surveillance of EU Member States, structural reforms, finance matters including the European Investment Plan and coordination with international financial institutions. Mrs. Jorna has recently been appointed non-resident board member at the European Investment Bank.



#### **ARJANA BREZIGAR MASTEN**

#### DIRECTOR OF ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, BANK OF SLOVENIA

Arjana Brezigar Masten is Director of Analysis and Research Department at the Bank of Slovenia. She also is Assistant professor of Economics and programme coordinator of the undergraduate study of Mathematics in Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies, Koper (Slovenia). As an assistant professor, she also cooperates with the Faculty of Business Studies, Catholic Institute, Ljubljana (Slovenia). Previously she worked at the Institute for macroeconomic analysis and development, where she helped to establish and then led the modeling unit. She also participates in several international research programmes and business consulting projects. Her main research interest is applied econometrics, forecasting, macroeconomics and financial markets. Her publications include articles in academic journals publications in collected volumes and working papers.



#### MIRANDA GROFF FERJANČIČ

#### STATE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Miranda Groff Ferjančič in 2000 completed specialization in international business at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, where in 2004 she acquired a master's degree in the field of public-private partnership in financing infrastructure projects. In 2006 she acquired international certificate and a degree in public sector accounting and auditing. In 1988 she started to work in the company Rotomatika, where she also worked as the chief financial officer. From 1997 to 2001 she was head of one of the SKB bank units, then she moved to the Ministry of Finance, where she inter alia served as the head of the Public Property Directorate. From April 2013 to July 2016 she was deputy Secretary General of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.



#### ALEŠ CANTARUTTI

#### STATE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Aleš Cantarutti, born on 15 August 1972, has a degree in Sociology - Human Resource Management and Development. After completing his internship at Javor Pivka, d.d., he worked for Formitas BBDO advertising agency as a key account manager. From January 2000 to June 2006 he worked as a sales and marketing manager at Javor Pivka, d. d., and as a sales manager in Moscow in 2005. From June 2006 to June 2007, he was the manager of Fabrika plus, s. p., which provided market communications and strategic marketing services. He also lectured in Business Communication and Management at the Postojna Higher Vocational College. In 2008, he took employment at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia as head of the international relations department, and was made the director of the Centre for International Relations at the Chamber in 2009. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed him a state secretary at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology on 18 December 2014.

# **SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHY**



### Sonja Šmuc

#### GENERAL MANAGER, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Sonja Šmuc is General Manager of the CCIS since October 10, 2017. Before that she held the position of Executive Director of the Managers' Association of Slovenia for 12 years. With her work she actively supports the development of management and leadership in Slovenia and beyond. She focuses on different aspects of the Slovenian economy, especially the labour market, tax system and business ethics. She is specialized in women's leadership. She is a member of different professional bodies (Board of Summit100 Business Leaders of SEE, Accreditation Committee of Bank Assets Management Company, Slovenian Council for Equal Opportunities, International graphic centre) and award boards. She is co-author of a book on managing export risks. Before joining MAS she was Editor-in-Chief of Manager, a magazine specialized in leadership and management. She has written more than 700 business related articles. She has a Master's Degree from the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana and deepened her knowledge at

Stanford University of California, Vienna's Wirtschaftsuniversität and IEDC - Business School of Bled.



#### PETER JACOBS

#### HEAD OF LJUBLJANA OFFICE, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Peter Jacobs has been working for the EIB since 2000. He started as a Senior Loan Officer and Deputy Head of Benelux Division in Operations Directorate and focused on debt underwriting across the public, corporate and banking markets in the Benelux. From 2008 to 2011 he worked as the Head of Western Europe Implementation Division. From 2011 to 2016 he headed the Structured and Project Finance Division of Western Europe (IRL, UK, FR, B, NL, Lux). This division has been a leading multi-billion euro underwriter of greenfield transactions in its markets and a prominent contributor to EIB/EFSI in 2015 and 2016. Since November 2016 he is the Head of EIB office in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



#### **GABRIELE TODESCA**

### HEAD OF DIVISION, MANDATE MANAGEMENT – EQUITY, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND

Gabriele Todesca joined the European Investment Fund in 2006. Previous appointments include working at Francisco Partners, a technology-focused private equity firm, both in Menlo Park and London, and as an associate at Soros Private Equity Partners, London. Earlier in his career, Mr. Todesca worked as a Corporate Finance Analyst at Schroder Salomon Smith Barney (now Citigroup) in London. Mr. Todesca holds an LLM in Banking and Finance from the London School of Economics, awarded with Merit, and law degrees from the Università degli Studi di Trento, Italy, and the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain.



#### MAJA TOMANIČ VIDOVIČ

#### DIRECTOR, SLOVENIAN ENTERPRISE FUND

Specialized in managing financial incentives and financing the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises and fastmoving globally oriented enterprises. In 2002 she became assistant director of the Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF), and then in 2007 she took over the position of director. She is still a director today, runs already her third mandate this year. She has numerous domestic and foreign experience in the field of financial management of micro, small and mediumsized enterprises, financing of the entrepreneurial sector, financial planning and formation of strategic measures to promote the development of young innovative enterprises with high-growth potential. As a lecturer in entrepreneurship she collaborates with various educational institutions, she is also a member of various expert groups for financial planning and supporting the entrepreneurial sector in Slovenia as well as in Europe. Already during her studies in economics she gained experience as a journalist on national television, where she was employed three years after graduation. Then she

continued her professional career in the ministry responsible for the economy. She has performed several different functions in connection with the promotion of entrepreneurship, including the management of the sector for the promotion of entrepreneurship.





### Pekka Santeri Mäki

#### MANAGING PARTNER, 3TS CAPITAL

Mr. Mäki is the Managing Partner of 3TS and is primarily responsible for general management. 3TS Capital Partners is one of the leading European technology focused private equity and venture capital firms. Previously, Mr. Mäki was the Managing Partner of Red Catalyst Ltd., a strategic business development consultancy and an investment boutique. He has also been an entrepreneur and executive in management consulting and with advertising agencies across Central and Eastern Europe and in Finland. A true European Mr. Mäki speaks five languages and has studied at Helsinki University of Technology, IESE Business School in Barcelona, Universidad Complutense in Madrid and Wirschaftsuniversität in Vienna.



#### PAOLO BOZZOLO HEAD OF CEE PROJECT & COMMODITY FINANCE, UNICREDIT S.P.A. VIENNA

Paolo Bozzolo has over 25 years of project finance experience having led over 30 transactions across a variety of geographies in the power and infrastructure sectors. He started his career in Crédit Lyonnais New York (now Crédit Agricole) where he focused on financing the U.S. independent power sector. He subsequently became Head of Power at Crédit Lyonnais Paris where he was responsible for advisory and arranging mandates for projects in Europe and emerging markets in Latin America and North Africa. In 1997 Paolo joined the then leading Italian Project Finance institution which was subsequently integrated into the Unicredit Group. During this 14-year period he became Deputy Head of the Project Finance Department, co-managing 18 professionals. His main tasks included originating and leading financial advisory and arranging efforts for projects in the Italian, French and Spanish power and infrastructure sectors. In 2011 Paolo became Head of Project and Commodity Finance for the Central and Eastern European Region at Unicredit. In his role, he is responsible for the

origination, coordination and execution of advisory and arranging of project finance initiatives for the Unicredit Group in the CEE/CIS region, focusing on the Power and Infrastructure sectors. Paolo has a Bachelors degree in Chemistry and an MBA in Finance from Wake Forest University, North Carolina, USA. He is fluent in several European languages.



#### ALEŠ IPAVEC

#### CEO, THE LJUBLJANA STOCK EXCHANGE

Before becoming President of the Ljubljana Stock Exchange, Aleš Ipavec, Master of Economic Sciences, worked for Hypo Alpe-Adria Bank where he held various management positions, such as Head of Treasury Sales and Director of Financial Markets and Balance Sheet Management. In 2015 he became the Director of Financial Controlling, Treasury and Balance Sheet Management. He has rich experience predominantly from the field of banking and trading in securities, which he obtained in his more than 12-year-long career, which he began in Abanka Vipa and continued in Hypo Alpe-Adria Bank.



#### **ÁRON GEREBEN**

#### SENIOR ECONOMIST, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Áron Gereben works as a senior economist in the Policy and Strategy team of the European Investment Bank's Economics Department. His main areas of interest are the economic development of Central and East Europe, and the interaction between financial sector and the macro-economy. Prior joining the EIB, he was Director of Financial Analyses at the National Bank of Hungary. He has a background in central banking, and held various management and analytical positions in the National Bank of Hungary and in the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

# **SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHY**



#### PRIMOŽ DAMJANOVIČ

#### BOARD MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES MARKET AGENCY

Primož Damjanovič graduated in 2000 from the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana. After graduation he started working at the Ministry of Finance in the Financial System Department. Since 2003 he has been working at the Securities Market Agency (SMA), where he initially as a consultant and then as an adviser to the director performed the most demanding individual tasks in the field of regulation of investment and pension funds. In 2008 he took over management of the Funds Department, which is responsible for regulating investment and mutual pension funds. During the service at the Agency he led numerous projects, among others the introduction of ETF funds, umbrella funds with sub-funds, the introduction of alternative investment funds, the renovation of the investment fund's reporting system and its integration with the Bank of Slovenia, the development and introduction of user-friendly applications of e-legislation, the introduction of umbrella pension funds of life-cycle investment strategy. He

is a member of the Investment Management Standing Committee, which operates within the framework of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), President of the Examination Committee in the field of marketing of investment funds and technical editor for the English language. Primoz Damjanovic is a member of the Council of the Securities Market Agency and the Council of Experts of the Insurance Supervision Agency. Since November 2015 he is the Deputy Director and Head of Funds Department.



#### SIBIL SVILAN

#### PRESIDENT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND CEO, SID BANK

Sibil Svilan is the President of the Management Board and CEO of SID bank Inc., Ljubljana. SID Bank is national promotional and development bank with the mission of financing and insuring sustainable development of Slovenian economy. He strives to promote a competitive economy, creation of new jobs and sustainable development of Slovenia and sees circular economy, amongst others, as a way to implement sustainable development. As a development banker he has worked in banking sector for more than 30 years in various leading positions in Slovenia and EU countries. For over 10 years he worked in Germany in LHB Internationale Handelsbank AG, Frankfurt am Main. He was State Secretary for Financial System and International Relations at the Ministry of Finance of Slovenia, a Member of Board of Directors of the EIB and member of other national or international supervisory bodies such as EFC. Security and Insurance Commission, commercial banks and companies. Mr. Svilan is the author and coauthor

of several books as well as Slovene and German magazine and newspaper articles in the field of finance, banking, management, risk management and education.



#### **PIER LUIGI GILIBERT**

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND

Pier Luigi Gilibert is the Chief Executive of the European Investment Fund (EIF) since 17 March 2014. Before he was working for the European Investment Bank (EIB) as Director General of the Directorate for Operations in the European Union and Candidate Countries (2010-2014), as Director General of the Risk Management Directorate (2003 - 2010), as Head of Division and Director of the Credit Risk Department (1996 - 2003), as Head of Division, Financial Research Department (1987 - 1996), as Economist in the Financial Research Department (1984 - 1987). Pier Luigi was Economist in the Research and in the International Departments of Banca Commerciale Italiana, Milan (1977 - 1984). He holds degrees in Economics from the University of Turin (Italy) and Rochester (N.Y., USA) (1970 - 1977).

#### Naložbeni načrt za Evropo spodbuja rast po vsej EU

Cilj naložbenega načrta za Evropo je spodbujati naložbe, da se ustvarjajo delovna mesta, povečata rast in konkurenčnosti, zadovoljujejo dolgoročne ekonomske potrebe in krepijo proizvodne zmogljivosti in infrastrukture krepitev evropske.

V ta namen podpira naložbe v realno gospodarstvo s seznamom projektov EU, ustvarja naložbam prijazno okolje tako, da odstranjuje ovire zanje, ter mobilizira javne in zasebne vire. Ključni element pri tem zadnjem sklopu je Evropski sklad za strateške naložbe (EFSI), ki spodbuja naložbe v infrastrukturne projekte ter mala in srednja podjetja (MSP).

Z zagotovitvijo skupnega jamstva v višini 21 milijard evrov za poslovne in infrastrukturne projekte, od česar je 16 milijard evrov iz proračuna EU, 5 milijard evrov pa prispeva Evropska investicijska banka, želi EFSI v obdobju treh let sprostiti dodatne naložbe v višini vsaj 315 milijard evrov. Po podatkih iz septembra 2017 je financiranje EFSI imelo potencial za sprostitev 236,1 milijarde evrov ali 75% tega ciljnega zneska.

Gospodarske koristi pobude bodo znatne tudi v prihodnje. Pričakuje se, da bo od naložb EFSI MSP imelo koristi več kot skoraj 454 000 manjših podjetij.

Te številke kažejo dodano vrednost EFSI za gospodarstvo EU tako zdaj kot v prihodnjih letih.

> 618 TRANSAKCIJ ŽE ODOBRENIH V 28 DRŽAVAH EU

#### **Investment Plan for Europe triggers EU-wide growth**

The Investment Plan for Europe aims to encourage investment in order to create jobs, boost growth and competitiveness, meet long-term economic needs and strengthen the EU's productive capacity and infrastructure.

To this end, it supports investment in the real economy through a pipeline of EU-based projects, creates an investment-friendly environment by removing barriers to investment and mobilises public and private resources. The key element in this last strand is the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which encourages investment in infrastructure projects and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

By providing a total guarantee of EUR 21 billion for business and infrastructure projects, of which EUR 16 billion is from the EU budget and EUR 5 billion is from the European Investment Bank, the EFSI aims to unlock additional investment of at least EUR 315 billion over 3 years. As of September 2017, EFSI financing had the potential to trigger EUR 236.1 billion or 75% of this target amount.

The initiative will continue to bring considerable economic benefits. Close to 454 000 smaller companies are expected to benefit from EFSI SME investments.

These figures underline the added value that the EFSI brings to the EU's economy, both now and in the years to come.

618 TRANSACTIONS ALREADY APPROVED IN 28 EU COUNTRIES

