

EBF reacts to EU Parliament President Schulz's call for more lending by banks

During a press conference at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Wednesday the freshly re-elected European Parliament President Martin Schulz called on banks to improve lending policies.

Guido Ravoet, Chief Executive of the European Banking Federation says:

"European banks are committed to serving their customers and the economy. Indeed, a great majority of SMEs does not consider access to finance as a pressing problem, while rejection rates for bank loans in the Euro area as a whole remain low. It is precisely the economy and its prospects that remain a source of concern and uncertainty."

"To achieve economic growth in all EU member states we need an economic climate that is conducive to growth. Policies are still not sufficient to encourage entrepreneurship nor do they set out a predictable and reliable framework for investment. Ultimately, banks can only play their role as lenders when economic conditions are such that companies seek loans with a view to investing in the future. We look forward to working together with the European Parliament and its committees towards our common goal of strengthening the European economy."

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