

EBF underlines need to match EFSI funds with stable economic framework

The European Banking Federation sees the creation of the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) as a first important step towards a European Union agenda that is more focused on growth and jobs. The EBF calls on policy makers to match the EFSI funds with additional measures that inspire confidence among businesses and investors, including a stable and predictable economic and regulatory framework.

Regulatory certainty and stability is vital for channelling long-term funding in the European Union that can help ensure economic recovery. The lack of demand for credit and new investment projects indeed shows that it is vital to create a favourable European environment in which funds can be allocated efficiently. This involves not only bank loans but also other mechanisms, such as greater policy integration among EU member states, better access to capital markets and use of national and multilateral development banks. Finally, faster and more visible progress in budgetary and financial integration is also essential for restoring business confidence and investment intentions.

European banks are well positioned to help channel investments to where they are most needed. European banks already cooperate with the European Investment Bank and look forward to contributing to the European growth agenda by working together with the European Commission.

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About the European Banking Federation: *Launched in 1960, the European Banking Federation is the voice of the European banking sector from countries in the European Union and the European Free Trade Association. Members of the federation are 32 national banking associations. The EBF represents the interests of some 4,500 banks, large and small, wholesale and retail, local and cross-border financial institutions. Together these banks account for over 80 percent of the total assets and deposits and some 80 percent of all bank loans in the EU alone. Website: www.ebf-fbe.eu*

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