

## GROW ACCES DOCUMENTS

**From:** [REDACTED] (GROW)  
**Sent:** mercredi 18 janvier 2023 19:19  
**To:** [REDACTED] (GROW)  
**Subject:** FW: FYI: today's meeting between Kerstin and FR business organisation CPME

Dear [REDACTED]  
 Please find below my main take aways of the meeting.

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**From:** [REDACTED] (GROW)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 5:19 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (GROW); [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu; [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu; [REDACTED] (GROW); [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu; [REDACTED] (GROW); [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu;  
 [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu  
**Subject:** FYI: today's meeting between Kerstin and FR business organisation CPME

Dear [REDACTED] and colleagues,

This is to debrief you about today's meeting between Kerstin and CPME, a FR business organisation representing 243 000 SMEs (4 million workers).

CPME requested the meeting to present their concerns on the impact of the proposal for a directive on corporate sustainability due diligence (CSDD). Even if CSDD does not apply to most SMEs, CPME fears that SMEs will be impacted if they are suppliers of large businesses subject to CSDD.

To start the meeting, Kerstin used the FR SME fiche (drafted by E5 in cooperation with A2) to present our assessment of the situation of FR SMEs and asked CPME about their diagnostic.  
 CPME said that after COVID, the recovery had been fast in all economic sectors, but SMEs have now difficulties to find workers. CPME thinks that FR should adopt two reforms to help business to find the skills they need: (i) develop the possibilities for students in the technical curriculum to switch to the general curriculum and vice versa, (ii) the unemployment insurance scheme should be reformed to increase incentives for unemployed people to look for a job (the FR government plans to make this reform soon) and the training for unemployed people must be improved.

Kerstin also asked CPME's position on the revision of the late payment directive: CPME said that they are against the shortening of payment terms. This is because they believe large businesses will have the means to oblige SMEs to comply with shortened terms, whereas SMEs will not have the means to oblige large businesses to comply with shortened terms.

I also took opportunity of this meeting to exchange contact details with the new CPME representative in Brussels:

Best regards,

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] – suivi de la France et du Luxembourg  
 Country desk officer for France and Luxembourg



**European Commission**

DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Unit GROW.E5 – European semester and Member States competitiveness

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