

**Ms. Elżbieta Bieńkowska**

**Commissioner for  
Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs  
European Commission  
1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM**

**Brussels, 11 August 2017**

**Invitation to participate as speaker at EAPB Annual Members' Conference Evening reception – 28 November 2017 in Brussels**

Dear Commissioner Bieńkowska,

The European Association of Public banks will hold its Annual Members' Conference in Brussels and would like to invite you as key note speaker for its evening reception on 28 November 2017.

The EAPB gathers member organizations (financial institutions, funding agencies, public banks, associations of public banks and banks with similar interests) from 15 European Member States and countries, representing directly and indirectly the interests of over 90 financial institutions towards the EU and other European stakeholders. With a combined balance sheet total of about EUR 3,500 billion and a market share of around 15%, EAPB members constitute an essential part of the European financial sector, providing financial services and funding for projects that support sustainable economic and social development with, amongst others, activities ranging from the funding of companies/SMEs and the promotion of a greener economy to the financing of social housing, health care, education and public infrastructure at national, regional and local level.

EAPB members operate viable business models but their aim is not to maximize profit, they address financing needs underserved by the market and desirable from a public policy perspective, they promote social and economic development, help the real economy and bring concrete benefits for citizens.

We would be particularly interested to hear about **"The European Defence Fund"**, as our institutions could be called upon to play a particular role in this field in the near future, but we are also open to other suggestions. We would be pleased to meet you to discuss the exact topic at your convenience.

The audience will be composed of the CEOs and Board members of our member institutions, representatives from other stakeholder organizations from different sectors (banking, SMEs, industry, etc.) as well as from EU institutions and Member States. We expect a participation of about 200 people.

We would like to thank you for your consideration and are looking forward to your reaction.

With kind regards,

