

# SMEs very concerned about refusal of Brexit agreement

No deal Brexit would be a disaster for SMEs and must be avoided

Brussels, 16<sup>th</sup> January – Europe's SMEs are very concerned about yesterday's British Parliament's rejection of the EU-UK Brexit Agreement. The vote increases the SMEs' concerns of a no deal Brexit, the likelihood of this outcome being much higher with this decision. According to SMEUnited President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller, a Brexit with no agreement will not only be a disaster for SMEs in the United Kingdom, but will also render major problems for the SMEs in the rest of European Union. European SMEs need to urgently intensify efforts to be prepared in case of a no deal scenario. SMEUnited expects a swift reaction from the UK government, one that clarifies how to avoid a no deal Brexit.

In a first reaction to the UK parliament vote on the Brexit Agreement, **SMEUnited President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller** "regrets the rejection of the agreement negotiated between EU27 and the UK Government, as it will significantly put the future economic perspectives of SMEs at risk."

The vote increases the likelihood of a no deal Brexit with serious damages for SMEs, not only in the United Kingdom but also in the rest of the European Union. Therefore, Ms Rabmer-Koller asks the UK government to "urgently come forward with a plan to avoid such a disaster." Avoiding the disaster scenario also seems to be in the interest of the majority of British politicians.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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**EDITORS' NOTES:** SMEUnited is the association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe with around 70 member organisations from over 30 European countries. SMEUnited represents national cross-sectoral Craft and SME federations, European SME branch organisations and associate members. Combined, we represent more than 12 million enterprises with around 55 million employees across Europe. SMEUnited is also a recognised employers' organisation and European Social Partner. SMEUnited was formally known as UEAPME.

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