

***Message for the EBAN website on the European Business Angels Week
by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission***

Dear participants in the European Business Angels week,

Business Angels have been playing an important role in Europe's recovery, by financing start-ups that create jobs and by bringing European innovation to consumers and businesses worldwide. They are an essential element of the creativity, innovation and solidarity within our overall growth and jobs strategy.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute the European Business Angels Network (EBAN) for organizing this European Business Angels Week that will not only help grow awareness for private citizen's investments in start-ups but also continue to foster innovation and jobs creation on a European-wide level.

Access to finance is crucial for many entrepreneurs, especially for those with innovative products or services, and a pre-condition for smart growth and competitiveness. At the European Commission, recognising this, we are working through programmes such as Horizon 2020, COSME and the SME Initiative to provide much needed financing for SME's and start-ups by mobilising guarantees, loans and risk capital. The Commission will continue to provide the possibility for co-investments with business angels, such as currently in the European Angels Fund, as well as disseminating good practices.

The European Commission would like to take the opportunity on the occasion of the European Business Angels Week to thank all stakeholders in the innovation and entrepreneurial society and economy for working together to create a better Europe for our citizens, and a more innovative and sustainable Europe.

I wish you a great event.

***José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission***