

## **Neelie Kroes videomessage to Angel Investors – November 2013**

"Today in Europe, we must do all we can to tackle rising unemployment, and stimulate weak growth.

I know digital technology holds the answer with a huge growth potential, and vital to competitiveness in a global internet economy. The EU's most senior politicians agree.

We best support that growth by supporting the most innovative, creative and dynamic companies. Particularly small businesses and web startups.

Because it is those companies who can come up with the ideas and create the jobs for our future. Yet time and again I hear about the problems they face: particularly a lack of access to finance. Both as they start out, and as they make the leap to get their product to market. The Startup Manifesto, prepared by some of Europe's top entrepreneurs, sets out how we can tackle some of those problems – I hope you and your members have signed up.

I know business angels have an essential role to play, creating the conditions for small businesses to access finance, across Europe. And I hope we can get your advice on how to enable a true European single market for risk capital, where business angels can operate across borders.

So well done for launching the European Business Angels Week. I hope you find lots of successful deals and great thinking. And I look forward to hearing the results. "

NEELIE KROES