

## European Commission unlocks fund for guaranteeing loans to more than 1 lakh SMEs

The European Commission has unlocked Euro 1 billion from the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) that will serve as a guarantee to the European Investment Fund (EIF), part of the European Investment Bank Group. This will allow the EIF to issue special guarantees to incentivise banks and other lenders to provide liquidity to at least 1 lakh European SMEs and Small Mid- Cap companies hit by the economic impact of the Corona Virus pandemic, for an estimated available financing of Euro 8 billion. The announcement made on April 6 fulfills the commitment in the Commission Communication of 13rd March to bring immediate relief to hard- hit SMEs with money able to flow already in April. It is part of the package of measures announced by the EIB Group on March 16 designed to rapidly mobilise support for Europe's SMEs and Mid-Caps. One of the immediate economic consequences of the Corona Virus pandemic is the sudden lack of liquidity affecting small and medium sized businesses.

The Euro 1 billion unlocked from the EFSI under the COSME Loan Guarantee facility and the INNOVF in SME Guarantee under Horizon 2020 allows the EIF to provide Guarantees worth Euro 2.2 billion to financial intermediaries, unlocking Euro 8 billion in available financing. The Guarantees will be offered through the EIF to the market, to several hundred financial intermediaries, comprising Banks and alternative lenders. Key features of the Guarantees will be

- Simplified and quicker access to the EIF Guarantee
- A higher risk cover- up to 80 % of losses on individual loans (as opposed to the standard 50%)
- Focus on working capital losses across the EU
- Allowing for more flexible terms, including postponement, re-scheduling or payment holiday.

### Notifications

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

Prime Minister interacts with President of USA

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1628807>

Prime Minister addresses annual session of CII

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1628587>

Minister suggests NPC to leverage its strength

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1628705>



DGFT

Amendment in export policy of alcohol based sanitizers

[https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/noti%2008%20eng\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/noti%2008%20eng_0.pdf)

Extension of duration of validity of MEIS /SEIS scrips

<https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/PN%2008%20English.pdf>