

ECI REGISTERED

Today, the European Citizens' Initiative, ACT4Growth, begins collecting signatures of citizens across the European Union. The initiative has one year to gather 1 million signatures so that its proposals can be considered for EU legislation. ACT4Growth invites all to SIGN as it calls on the European Commission to act in support of women entrepreneurs. It is an economic imperative!

NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP - PLEASE

Due to the strict requirements of the European Commission, it will still be a few weeks before we can start

collecting our 1 million signatures. In the meantime, we need you to raise the profile of our initiative through

your social media and networks, and at the same time please pre - register at

www.act4growth.org

<<http://www.act4growth.org/>>. Follow us on Twitter @Act4Growth Facebook Act4Growth Sign up: www.act4growth.org<<http://www.act4growth.org/>>

Recognizing that policies to support women-owned businesses have fallen off the European Commission's legislative agenda, 27 citizens, one representing each member state, have initiated a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) to make women in business a focus of ECONOMIC policy. An ECI is an instrument set up within the European Treaty and legislative process to enable citizens of the EU to have a voice. In this case, the initiative known as Act 4 Growth, presents 4 key pieces of policy needed to increase the number of female entrepreneurs and create the infrastructure to support them. Significant measures are needed to capitalize on the full potential of enterprises for sustainable economic growth and job creation in Europe--especially following the crisis. ACT4Growth proposes: 1) The creation of an office of European Women's Business Ownership in order to establish infrastructure that supports female entrepreneurship; 2) A Women's Enterprise Director to be appointed within the Commission to raise awareness about the economic benefits of encouraging more women to start and grow businesses; 3) The initiative asks for the collection of gender-disaggregated data on women's enterprises across European regions; 4) Lastly, it seeks the enforcement of current gender equality legislation with a focus on improving transparency in the allocation of resources and funds by gender. It is crucial, for the viability of the European economy, that these proposals become legislation. In 2013 and beyond, the role of women-owned businesses is more important than ever. As the US statistics show, the role of female entrepreneurs in growing the economy, by creating and sustaining new jobs, is the key to recovery. The same 4 pieces of policy succeeded in doubling the number of women owned businesses in the US across 10 years in 1988. Europe is now 35 years behind! At the same time, we are preparing to collect signatures from Non-EU citizens to inform their governments of the need to help female entrepreneurs in their respective countries around the world. For further details, and to read the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on which this initiative is based, please visit www.ACT4Growth.org<<http://www.act4growth.org/>>. For press enquires or offers of support, please contact Madi@act4growth.org or Maikipaul@Act4growth.org.<image002.gif><<http://www.entrepreneurenvoy.org/>>

If you are entrepreneurial and believe in the entrepreneurial spirit and are not yet a member of the global network

of like-minded entrepreneurs please join us
www.EntrepreneurEnvoy.org<<http://www.entrepreneurenvoy.org/>> let's

turn 'Ideas to Action-Together' Madi Sharma - Founder "Madi Group" - Make A Difference Ideas
group of International

Private and Social Enterprises.

UK Member, Employers Group, European Economic and Social Committee

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