



# European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME

Confédération Européenne des Associations de  
Petites et Moyennes Entreprises

*The largest European Confederation of voluntarily associated Small and  
Medium-sized companies*

[www.european-entrepreneurs.org](http://www.european-entrepreneurs.org)

# Joint Forces for Europe's *Mittelstand*



## Europe's SMEs matter

European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME has been founded in 1992 and is an ideologically neutral Confederation of national business organisations. It represents the interests of **voluntarily associated small and medium-sized enterprises** of all sectors towards the European institutions with the aim **to give SMEs a voice commensurate to their importance for the European economy.**

*President Prof. Maurizio Casasco*

President of European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME is **Prof. Maurizio Casasco** since March 2021. He succeeded to Mr. Mario Ohoven, former president of BVMW and leader of our confederation from 2002 until he passed away in October 2020.

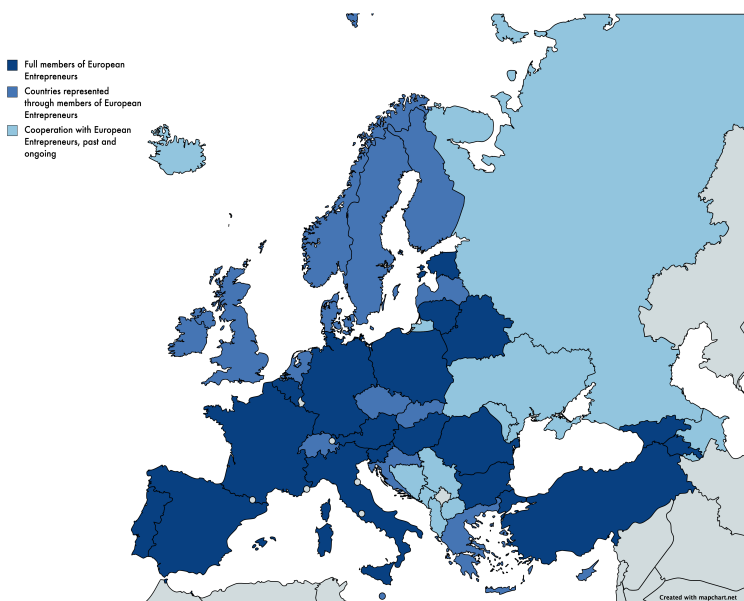
The Executive Director of BVMW, **Mr. Markus Jerger** is our Co-president since May 2021. The Vice-presidents of European Entrepreneurs are: **Ms. Marina Kaas** (EVEA / Estonia), **Mr. Jorge Portugal** (COTEC / Portugal), **Ms. Marlena Miasko** (CCI Katowice / Poland) and **Mr. Theodor Grassos** (EVBB / Europe/Greece).

Further members of the Executive Board are **Mr. Walter Grupp** (Founding member and Secretary General), and the Treasurer **Mag. Stephan Blahut** (ÖGV /Austria).

The Managing Director is **Mr. Stefan Moritz** (s. front page).



*from the left: Ms. Valérie Guimard, Mr. Patrick Meinhardt, Mr. Mario Ohoven, Mr. Didier Reynders (EU-Commissioner for Justice), Prof. Maurizio Casasco, Mr. Walter Grupp*



The confederation currently comprises **26 full members**, and with the associates of its members and its partners it covers **practically the whole EU** and many neighbouring European countries. It represents the interests of **more than 2.1 Million enterprises** with **20+ Mio employees.**

European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME offers **extensive information and advice** to members and their associated companies in all matters related to **European legislation, EU-Policies, Internal market, European programmes and structural funds.** It promotes **cooperation and exchange of experience** among its member associations.



# Engagement and values



## Producing tangible results

European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME has actively contributed e.g. to:

- improve the EU's "**Small Business Act**" of the EU
- add "**SME-chapters**" to the **TTIP** and **CETA** trade agreements
- achieve an **exemption from the new VAT-rules on intra-EU online trade up to 10.000€**, or to
- lay down the basis for a future "**ERASMUS for SMEs and their employees**" from 2021 onwards (result of our **MobiliseSME** project).

- Make digitalisation easier for **many SMEs** all over Europe, leveraging investments of **+20 MEuro**

## Our Values

The basic values shared by all our members are:



## Our Priorities for SMEs

- "**Think small first**"-principle in all legal acts of the EU
- **Cutting red tape: less bureaucracy** in Europe and in the member states for SMEs
- Upgrading of the **Single market**, opening more chances for SMEs in all member states
- Better **access to finance** for SMEs, public and private
- More **flexible labour markets**
- **Entrepreneurship education**
- **Reduce the shortage of skilled workers,**

**improve education and professional training** in all EU-Members States (Critical Thinking, Dual System) and **increase the mobility of workers in the EU**

- A **simple and competitive tax system**
- **R&D and innovations** in and for SME – in particular the **Digital Agenda for SME !**
- Sustainable and affordable **energy supply**
- A **protected environment** without punishing businesses
- Supporting a fair **European monetary union**.

# Added Value for members



## Platform in Europe to broker your interests

European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME organises regularly events in Brussels, for example the “*MittelstandTalk*”, in the European Parliament and in other distinguished locations around the institutions, where **members of the European Commission and the Parliament meet entrepreneurs** and their representatives. Moreover, we publish **position papers** on various issues, address the European decision makers with our **newsletter**, and organise **meetings with single MEPs and high-level EU-executives**.

## Access to finance and opportunities – our EU-projects

European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME regularly leads **EU-research and SME-support projects**, implemented with our member associations, for example:

- In the field of vocational training, “**European Dual System**” (EU-DualS - [www.europeandualsystem.eu](http://www.europeandualsystem.eu), 2015-2018)
- In building **cross-border business links** between SME thanks to **short-term mobility periods of SME employees** in another SME abroad (**MobiliseSME** - [www.mobilisesme.eu](http://www.mobilisesme.eu), 2016-2017, EaSI)
- Or supporting the **digitalisation of SMEs** with Digital Experts from all over Europe (**DigitaliseSME** – [www.digitalisesme.eu](http://www.digitalisesme.eu), 2018-2020, Horizon 2020).
- Making **Digital Skills** easier accessible thanks to [DataSkills4SMEs](http://DataSkills4SMEs) is also our purpose (ERASMUS+).
- In 2020 we opened the **business to business platform African-European-Entrepreneurs** and in 2021 the **SME2B Platform** to facilitate doing business among the **SMEs in Europe and beyond**.



As a key player in many EU-networks, European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME can reach a huge amount of SME and involve strong partners.



## Networking and cooperation among SMEs in Europe

The membership in our confederation opens to the associated companies a **large community of entrepreneurs abroad**, which may become **future business partners**. For this purpose, we celebrate **networking events in Brussels and elsewhere**, and **facilitate contacts** among the members in dedicated working groups on EU-levels, as well as co-organising **business exploration visits** of delegations from country to country.

### For further information, please contact:

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