

EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURS CEA-PME

Confédération Européenne des Associations
de Petites et Moyennes Entreprises

*The largest confederation of voluntarily
associated small and medium-sized
enterprises in Europe.*

CEA-PME
European Entrepreneurs





01/01/2024

*Designed by
Giorgia Morossi*

Forces
Mittelstand
ation of voluntarily
medium-sized



Joint Forces for Europe's Mittelstand

EUROPE'S SME MATTER

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

President of European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME is **Mr. Christoph Ahlhaus** since November 2023, and Executive Chairman of BVMW. He also leads as Secretary General the Federal Economic Senate, an exclusive business club of leading Mittelstand entrepreneurs of BVMW, since 2017. From 2008 to 2010 he was Senator (Minister) for the Interior and then in 2010-2011 First Mayor (Prime Minister) of the German City-State Hamburg.



President Mr. Christoph Ahllhaus



Co-President
Mr. Jorge Portugal

The Co-President is **Mr. Jorge Portugal** (COTEC Portugal).

The Vice-presidents of European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME:

Ms. Marina Kaas (EVEA / Estonia)

Ms. Marlena Miasko (CCI Katowice / Poland)

Mr. Theodoros Grassos (EVBB / Europe).

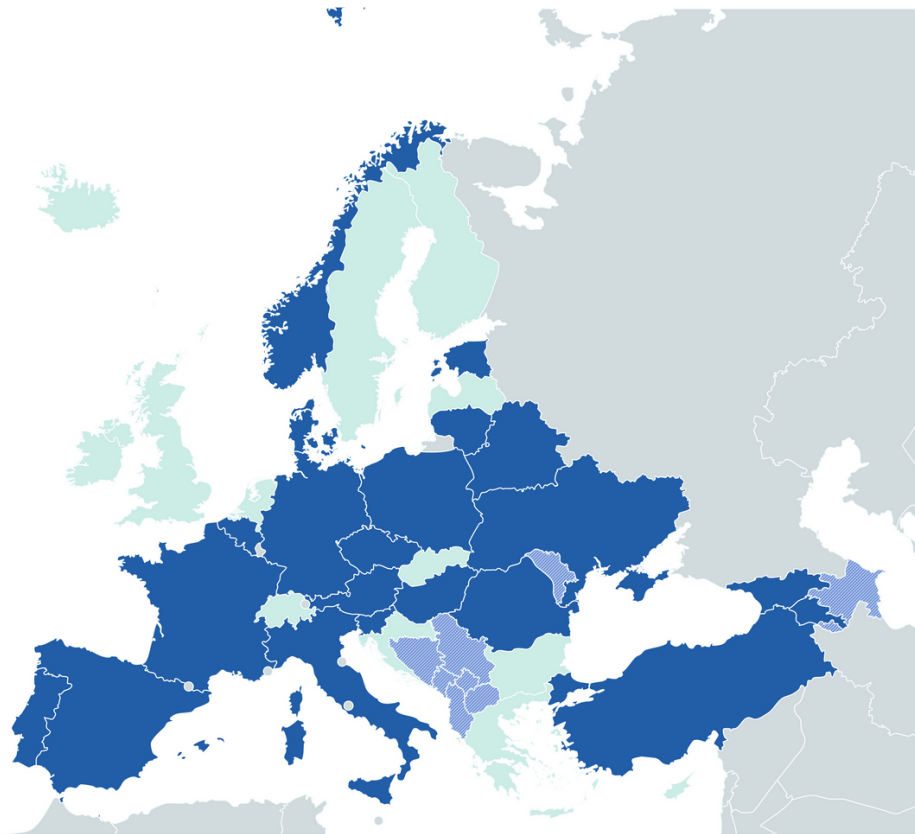
Further members of the Executive Board:

Honorary President **Mr. Maurizio Casasco** (CONFAPI / Italy)

Treasurer Mag. **Stephan Blahut** (ÖGV / Austria)

Mr. Stefan Moritz is the Secretary General.

- Full members of European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME
- Countries represented by European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME
- ▨ Cooperation with European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME



30 Member associations

2.4 Million enterprises represented

mapchart.net

The confederation currently comprises **28 full members** and **2 associate members**, and with the associate companies of its member organisations and their partners it covers practically **the whole EU** and many neighbouring European countries. It represents the interests of more than **2.4 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

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



Improve the EU's
"Small Business Act" of the EU

01



Add **"SME-chapters"** to the **Free trade agreements**

02



Achieve an exemption from the **VAT-rules** on intra-EU online trade up to 10.000€

03



Lay down the basis for a future **"ERASMUS for SMEs and their employees"** from 2021 onwards (result of our MobiliseSME project).

04



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

05

Our Values

www.european-entrepreneurs.org



- Creativity
- Risk
- Performance
- Regional affinity
- Cultural Openness



- Freedom
- Responsibility
- Business Sustainability
- Trust
- Competition and Cooperation



www.european-entrepreneurs.org



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1000 Brussels, Belgium



Our Priorities for SMEs



01

“Think small first”

Principle in all legal acts of the EU



02

Cutting red tape:

Less bureaucracy in Europe and in the member states for SMEs



03

Upgrading of the Single market

opening more chances for SMEs in all member states



04

Better access to finance for SME and Mid-Caps



05

More flexible labour markets



06

Entrepreneurship education



07

Reduce skills mismatch and shortage of workers

by improving education and professional training (e.g. Critical Thinking, Work-Based Learning), and by increasing the mobility of workers in and to Europe.



08

A simple and competitive tax system



09

R&D and innovations

in and for SME – in particular for the Green and Digital Transitions !



10

Sustainable and affordable energy supply



11

A protected environment

without punishing businesses



12

Supporting a fair European monetary union.

ADDED VALUE FOR MEMBERS

PLATFORM IN EUROPE TO BROKER YOUR INTERESTS

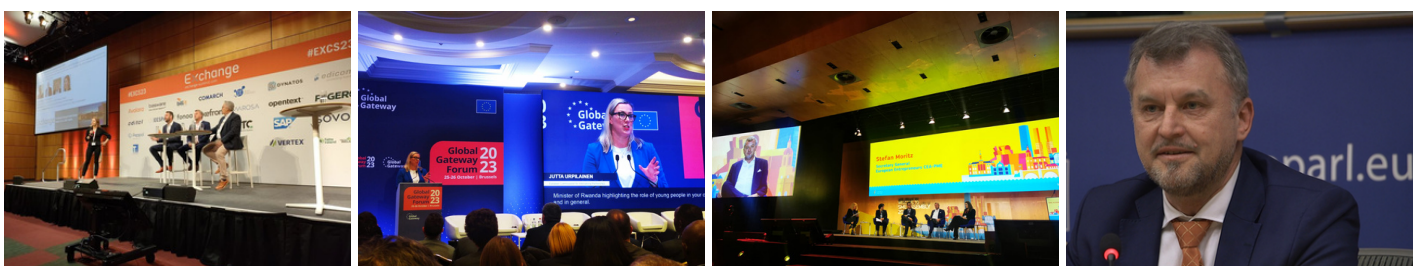
European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME organises regularly events in Brussels, for example the **"MittelstandTalk"**, in the European Parliament and in other distinguished locations around the institutions, where **members of the European Commission and the Parliament meet entrepreneurs** and their representatives. 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.



The working Groups and alliances

European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME is part of **7 important working groups** and alliances of the **European Commission / European Union**:

1. **SME Envoy Network** - Observer (2023)
2. **Global Gateway Business Advisory Group** (2023)
3. **Expert Group at DG INTPA** - Structured Dialogue with private sector on economic cooperation with African countries (2017-2022)
4. **European Alliance for Apprenticeship** (2023)
5. **Technical Expert Stakeholder Group (TESG) on SMEs** - Empowering EU capital markets for SMEs - at DG FISMA (2020-2021)
6. **Stakeholder Advisory Group SAB** on Alternative Dispute Resolutions ADR at EUIPO (since 2020)
7. Member of the Network **"Ideas powered for business Ipfb"** - an initiative of EUIPO (since 2022)



SME2B – The Networking and Trade Platform for SME



The SME2B platform has been launched in 2020, now available now available at www.sme2b.eu and features **more than 3.000 companies** from Europe and all over the world, offering a space for owners and managers of small and mid-sized companies for **economic cooperation, trade and international networking**

The screenshot displays the SME2B platform's search results page. On the left, there are filters for '161 Opportunities found', 'Service (79)', and 'Applies To'. The 'Service' filter is active, showing 'Research & Development (26)' and 'Marketing & Advertising (19)'. The 'Applies To' filter shows 'Business Development (45)' and 'Computer and IT related (29)'. The main content area shows two product listings. The first listing is for 'HELIOFLOAT XL OFF SHORE TUNA & SWORD FISH FARM' in Niamey, Niger, updated on Dec 26, 2023. The second listing is for 'Export of cocoa and Cotton, any raw materials' in Vienna, Austria, also updated on Dec 26, 2023.

- New opportunities to get involved in **European affairs for MSME and Mid-Caps**, in particular for what regards
- **Foreign trade and business cooperation** with partners in Europe and beyond, and
- New know-how, appropriate SME solutions and interesting chances in the fields of the **digital and green transitions**, offered by SME for SME.

Visit the SME2B platform here
<https://sme2b.eu>

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:



Ø In the field of vocational training, “**European Dual System**” (EUDualS - 2015-2018)



Ø In building cross-border business links between SME thanks to **short-term mobility periods of SME employees** in another SME abroad (MobiliseSME, 2016-2017, EaSI)



Ø Engagement of **Digital Enablers** to enhance the digital transformation of small and medium-sized companies as well as mid-caps in Europe (DigitaliseSME, 2020).



Ø **Supporting the digitalisation of SMEs and making Digital Skills easier accessible** for SME all over Europe (DigitaliseSME – 2018-2020, Horizon 2020, M).



Ø **Fostering of the entrepreneurial spirit** among VET students, to improve their integration in the labour market (EntreVet, 2021-2023)



Ø Development of **new skills for SMEs** activating in the tourism sector and **increase employability**, as well as a fairer and more sustainable and resilient model in tourism (TourX, 2022-2026).



Ø **Capacity building** and sustainable development in Africa to bridge the gap between the education system and the labor market (Smart Step, 2023).



Ø Bridge the gap between education and the labour market through the research and design of an innovative and affordable game-based methodology for **training and evaluating soft skills**. (Megaskills, Horizon 2023)



Ø **Training path for SMEs** and their managers for a better understanding of the **Net0** concept and how **SMEs can embrace the Net0 practices** in their daily operations.

NETWORKING AND COOPERATION AMONG SMES IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD

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 various country .



Learn more about us here:



www.european-entrepreneurs.org