



25 May 2011

8:00 - 9:30

BREAKFAST DEBATE

How to encourage innovative SMEs in ICT

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are at the core of the European economic system. SMEs provide two out of three of the private sector jobs and contribute to more than half of the total value-added created by businesses in the EU.

SMEs are the true back-bone of the European economy, being primarily responsible for wealth and economic growth, next to their key role in innovation and R&D.

This EIF breakfast will provide a roundtable of innovative entrepreneurs, who will discuss their "on the ground" experience of innovating online and the challenges facing SMEs in the EU today.

What are the critical factors to encourage and promote the development of innovative and competitive SMEs? What are the available tools and mechanisms in support of SMEs? What else needs to be done?

Challenges like ensuring an adequate level of IPR protection, funding and investments requirements, obstacles to participation in EU research programmes, access to public markets, as well as cutting red tape and fully exploiting a real single market are some of the issues that our guests will discuss with present participants.

Programme- 25th May 2012

Welcome and Introduction:

Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP and EIF Governor

Roundtable Discussion:

Damir Tomicic, CEO of Axinom & board member of ACT – Association for Competitive Technology, represents 1000 European SMEs in the ICT sector

Nigel Gibbons, Chairman UNITECH on high growth online start-ups in Europe

Theodore Zahariadis, CTO at Synelixis Solutions on the Future Internet Public-Private Partnership

Evrard Van Zuylen, Darts-ip on Votre Entreprise en Ligne an initiative by Belgacom, Google and Bpost

Exchange of views with participants

Speakers



Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij

MEP, EPP

European Parliament

Venue

European Parliament, Members' Salon, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels, Belgium



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