

Background information on workshops

12-30 – 14.00

Breakout Session: Women's Enterprise – Fostering Business Creation

Current Speakers:

- Maria Cappone, Member of Bulgarian parliament, entrepreneur, Vice-President of SME Women
- Catherine Trautmann, Member of European Parliament, Vice Chair Committee Industry, Research and Energy
- Belinda Pyke, Director, DG Employment and Social Affairs
- Viviane Ribeiro, Director, General of Lefebvre Software
- Pilar Manchon, CEO, Intelligent Dialogue Systems
- Ana Bela Silva, President of the Portuguese Association of Women Entrepreneurs

Moderator: Thaima Samman, Associate General Counsel, Microsoft EMEA

Description: Women represent only on average 25 % of all entrepreneurs in OECD and CEI countries. With the European Union being responsible for over 70% of all laws being adopted in Europe and directly affecting the Member States, it is increasingly important to foster the participation of women in the decision making process at the EU level. This breakout session will explore the different challenges faced by women entrepreneurs: education systems, lack of role models in entrepreneurship, gendering of entrepreneurship, social status, time flexibility and access to finance. Furthermore, we will be discussing innovative ways to foster women participation in the entrepreneurial sector and their chance to become successful entrepreneurs in Europe.

14.30 – 16.00

Breakout Session: Better Regulation: can we move to a Small Business Act by swimming through red tape?

Current speakers:

- Mechthild Wörzdörfer, Head of Unit Promotion of SMEs competitiveness, DG Enterprise & Industry
- Ben Butters, Director European Affairs, EUROCHAMBRE
- Patrick Voller, Secretary General, SME UNION of the European People's Party

Moderator: Andreas Schwab, Member of SME Circle of EPP-ED, MEP, Germany

Description: While everyone agrees more must be done to empower Europe's economic engine, there is disagreement on exactly what political framework needs to be developed and what regulatory obstacles stifling the success of high-growth entrepreneurs need to be removed. SME-UNION hosts will investigate these issues in an interactive political panel discussion with Members of the European Commission and European Parliament. What should the Small Business Act look like and what action can take place to accelerate the better regulation initiative?

Breakout Session: Igniting the entrepreneurial Spirit in the Next Generation - a critical look of Europe's education system

Current Speakers:

- Maruja Gutierrez Diaz, Head of Unit "Lifelong learning: Innovation and Creativity" at DG Education and Culture
- Luis Filipe Costa, President of the Portuguese SME Public Agency
- Philippe Mustar, Ecole nationale supérieure des mines de Paris, (tbc)
- Gabiza Albescu, President AIESEC International
- Tanya Muller-Borges, President JADE

Moderator: Christian Weinberger, Head of Unit Entrepreneurship, DG Enterprise & Industry

Description: This session is designed to look very critically at the European education systems and their contribution to a climate of entrepreneurship and risk-taking amongst youth. The moderator will challenge the skills and expertise we are promoting in Europe through formal education and how this can enable or disable European competitiveness. How could the transformation of education play a determining role in the ecosystem that fosters innovators and entrepreneurs?

Breakout Session: From Research to Revenue – Process of commercialization of great European-generated IP

Current Speakers:

- Ian Robertson, NCGE
- Michael Rauhofer, Managing Director INITS
- European Software Association
- INRIA Transfer (FR)
- Mathieu Carenzo (ESP)
- Amadeus Capital Partners (UK)

Moderator: William Stevens, Europe Unlimited

Description: Helping turn ideas into viable products and solutions, creating a business proposition around these ideas, is not straightforward. This session examines some successful models and frameworks where third-level institutions, incubators, investors and private sector can collaborate to help the process of commercialization of great European-generated IP.

16.30 – 18.00

Breakout Session: Social Entrepreneurs taking on society's tougher challenges

Current Speakers:

- Catherine Guy-Quint, MEP Socialist (France)
- Eva Varga, Enterprise Development Director, NEsT
- Social Entrepreneurs (TBC)

Moderator: Mirjam Schoening, Director of the Schwab Foundation

Description: Risk taking, vision and passion are inherent to successful entrepreneurship whether or not it is for profitable gain. "Social entrepreneurship" as a concept has been around throughout our history helping to fill the gap between rich and poor. A new age of social entrepreneurship is here where individual Europeans are stepping up to address society's most pressing issues by pioneering creative solutions through technology which can have a sustainable impact for the future generations. Join an interactive exchange between a wide range of stakeholders from NGOs, foundations, members of governments, and corporations to reflect on what works and what doesn't and evaluating the impact business is having on society.

Breakout Session: Patent Reform and the Community Patent

Current Speakers:

- Daniel Doll-Steinberg, CEO Tribeka
- Alain Pompidou, former president of the European Patent Office
- Andre Carter, CEO Irimi, Author of The Little Blues: Building a Culture of Intellectual Property in Small Technology Firms
- Margot Froehlinger, Director for Knowledge Based Economy, DG MARKT

Moderator: Jonathan Zuck, President Association of Competitive Technology (ACT)

Description: The European Commission and four successive presidencies have been focused on patent reform and the possibility of a community patent. There are still a number of issues to be addressed both in the areas of litigation reform, language translation and jurisdiction. Separately, efforts are underway to introduce alternative dispute resolution (ADR) into the patent system. The Association for Competitive Technology (ACT), an international trade association for IT SMEs will explore the issues surrounding patents and SMEs, litigation reform, ADR and hopes for a community patent. Furthermore, the politics of these reforms and the role that SMEs can play will also be discussed.