

**Informal Intergroup on Startups**  
**European Parliament, 15.5.2018, 6.30pm**

[Brussels, 15 May]

*"Policy decisions affect startups first. That's why we want decision makers to speak to startup founders,"* Lenard Koschwitz, Director for EU Affairs at Allied for Startups explains the underlying rationale for the Informal Intergroup on Startups. For another lively discussion on startups, platforms and technology, Allied for Startups invited John Atty, co-founder & CEO of Fishbrain, Olga Egorshева, co-founder & CEO of Lobster.media, Michal Borkowski, CEO of Brainly and Zdenek Komenda, Chief Business Development Officer at Kiwi.com to the European Parliament on 15 May 2018.

After introductory remarks by the host, MEP Virkkunen, founders shared the stories of their businesses with the selected group of policy makers. A lively discussion with MEPs from three political groups, representatives of the European Commission and other institutions, followed.

*"Many startups choose to be platforms; and almost all startups use platforms in one way or the other"* Lenard Koschwitz summarises the importance of online platforms behind startups' successes. He adds: *"Tonight, entrepreneurs have shown the various roles through which platforms help startups in Europe, allowing founders to focus on building their amazing products."* Furthermore, it became apparent that startup stands for more than fast growing tech companies. It represents an entrepreneurial mindset, a way of advancing products/services with the users interests at heart as well as the interplay of unique innovation ecosystems. Koschwitz says: *"These elements all need to be taken into account to understand entrepreneurial ecosystems and for Europe to be the startup and scaleup continent. We believe the Informal Intergroup is the perfect place to have this conversation beyond 2019."*

This was the second meeting of the Informal Intergroup on Startups. Going forward, Allied for Startups will continue working hard to ensure startups get a seat at the policy table.

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Allied for Startups is a worldwide network of over 40 organisations focused on improving the policy environment for startups. We are working together to create a consensus on policies that can positively impact startups and grow digital entrepreneurship and digital economy at large. Our mission is to ensure that the voices of startups are heard in government.