

[Brussels, October 16]

Allied for Startups launches campaign to make Europe a permanent home for startups

17 startup associations from across Europe joined forces to launch Europe♥Startups, a campaign aimed at working with candidates in next year's elections for the European Parliament to give entrepreneurs a seat at the policy table. The group of startups entrepreneurs and national associations will use the initiative, launched today at the [Allied for Startups](#) Annual Summit 2018, to show that Europe's economies and citizens benefit immensely from the work of startups and that having the right policy environment can deliver on some of the promises made by the Digital Single Market strategy.

Allied for Startups believes that good things happen when entrepreneurs speak to policy makers. "Even though policy makers often had the best intentions to foster innovation and startups, most of the DSM aimed at the big guys. We hope that a regular exchange will improve lives for entrepreneurs in Europe and future policy projects." Lenard Koschwitz, Director for European Affairs.

"Having an Intergroup on Startups and Scaleups in the next mandate would give policymakers and entrepreneurs a permanent platform to exchange ideas and perspectives" Koschwitz added.

Europe♥Startups further offers a platform to aspiring MEPs to meet and work with startup communities in their own constituencies, allowing them to discover the way startups drive innovation and growth in Europe. The campaign has already won support from key MEPs, including Eva Maydell, Emma McClarkin, and Antanas Guoga.

"Policymakers constantly consider what the digital economy could look like tomorrow. That's why I, as a politician with an entrepreneurial background, strongly believe that an institutionalized format which includes startups in a dialogue is a great opportunity to discuss digital issues going forward as well as to educate other MEPs about the challenges and most importantly advantages of digital economy," MEP Antanas Guoga said.

"Today's launch is the kick-off and together with our network, we want to reach all #EU2019 candidates who have an interest and an open ear for startups," Koschwitz said.

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Allied for Startups is a worldwide network of over 40 advocacy 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.