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Europe's startup ecosystem joins forces: Allied for Startups and the European Startup Network merge into Startups for Europe

One organisation. One voice. Built by founders, for the Europe they're building.

Brussels, 1 October 2026. Allied for Startups and the European Startup Network today announced their merger, launching Startups for Europe: a single organisation representing the startup ecosystem across the continent.

The mission is bold and simple: make Europe the best place in the world to start, scale and compete.

Europe doesn't lack talent or ideas. It has a design flaw.

Every year, Europe waits while its best companies leave for markets where it is easier to scale up, where capital moves faster, and where risk-taking pays off. That isn't destiny. It's a set of rules, and rules can be rewritten.

Startups and scaleups are more than small or innovative companies. They are Europe's next industrial champions and the engine of its transformation. Startups for Europe exists to make sure they have a seat at the table where Europe's future is decided.

"Europe's future economy is already being built, by its founders, its engineers and its technology teams. By joining forces, we turn the experience of thousands of founders into real political weight. Europe has everything it needs to lead. Now it needs to let its builders build."

Simon Schaefer, President of Startups for Europe

Three priorities, one ambition

Startups for Europe brings founders, investors, industry, academia and policymakers together around three priorities:

- One Europe to Start, Scale and Compete. A true single market for startups, not 27 different rulebooks.
- Capital that Backs Ambition. Deep, European capital that funds companies from first cheque to global leader.

Build the Technologies of the Future. Frontier technologies that are researched, built and owned in Europe.

“Europe’s startups don’t just need more representation. They need alignment, direction and political muscle. Policy shouldn’t catch up with startups after the fact. It should be designed with them from day one.”

Serena Borbotti-Frison, CEO of Startups for Europe

From Brussels to every ecosystem

Startups for Europe combines policy advocacy, coalition-building, research, campaigns and direct engagement with startup communities in every corner of Europe. Its first battlegrounds include EU Inc., the European Innovation Act, the Savings and Investments Union, and AI and digital regulation.

The organisation unites Allied for Startups, the international network for startup policy, with the European Startup Network, which has connected and represented startup associations and ecosystems across Europe.

Today (1st of October 2026) is only the beginning. Startups for Europe will unveil its manifesto and its full founding coalition of associations, founders and backers at its Community Launch in November.

“Our message to Europe is simple: build with those who build. Make Europe ready for startups, and startups will build Europe’s future.”

Simon Schaefer, President of Startups for Europe

ABOUT STARTUPS FOR EUROPE

Startups for Europe is the voice of Europe’s startups and scaleups. Its vision is a united Europe that competes and prospers through innovation. Its mission is to build a technological future made in Europe, for Europe’s people, by aligning founders, investors, industry, academia and policymakers to make Europe the best place in the world to build and scale.

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