

SME2B Business Forum Europe 2025:

Net Zero in 2050... and how to get there *in a competitive and successful way for SME and Mid-Caps*

Innovation, Training for Entrepreneurs and Carbon markets

3 September 2025

h. 14:00-18:00



Place: ACE Events, Av. de Auderghem 22 - Brussels

In the first 6 months of 2025 the European Commission has started to propose some valuable measures to **reduce bureaucratic burden** in CSRD, CSDDD and CBAM, it has (finally) designed a **Competitiveness Compass** and put on the table a **Clean Industrial Deal**, as well as a **New Single Market Strategy**, and last but not least, it also defined a new **Small Mid-Caps Category** for companies up to 750 employees. Of course, much more should be done to make Europe's Industry more competitive, but we are moving in the right direction: the one formulated already in June 2023 by our members with European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME's **Manifesto of the European Real Economy for a Realistic Industry Policy**.

Now, the central topic of common efforts comes back to the political stage, i.e. the **European Climate Goal of becoming 100% climate neutral in 2050**. This is also the commitment of all members of European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME, despite some strong criticism against the *method* the European Union has deployed until today to get there. Which again finds expression in the recently published proposal to fix the **Climate Target 2040 to minus 90% of net CO2 emissions**. Some of our leaders consider this unrealistic, with the risk of additional disproportionate costs and burden that we were hoping to reduce, exactly in order to enable our SME and Mid-Caps to achieve the 2050 goal.

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1



We invite you to discuss this aspect with us, also in the light of our ERASMUS+ project **Net0Manager**, that we contributed to implement, as well as about our ideas for an SME-friendly Innovation Policy and our proposals for an SME Carbon Market for the green transition in Africa and in Europe.

Wednesday, 3 Sept. 2025

h 13:30 Registration of participants, welcome coffee

h 14:00 Opening Addresses / Keynotes

Intro & Welcoming: Mr. Christoph Ahlhaus, President European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME and Executive Chairman of Der Mittelstand.BVMW e.V. (D)

Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. h.c. Franz Josef Radermacher, Chairman of the Board Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing (FAW/n), Member Club of Rome: **"Overcoming "Climate nation-alism" - unrealistic policies and realistic opportunities for the EU towards net zero in 2050"**

Mr. Luca de Carli, Deputy Director Strategy, Analysis & Planning, Head of Unit Strategic Coordination, Legal & Institutional, DG Climate Action, European Commission

Mr. Mahlon Walo, CEO of Afrinet Carbon, Chairman of Carbon Markets Association of Kenya CAMAK

h 15:15 Innovation of SME and Mid-Caps to become Net Zero: Are the EU's Innovation & Technological Development Policies fit for purpose?

Moderator: Mr. **Stefan Moritz**, Secretary General European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME

Mr. Borys Budka, Chairman of ITRE Committee, MEP (PO/EPP, PL)

Mr. Michiel Scheffer, President of the Board of the European Innovation Council EIC, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Mr. Jorge Portugal, Co-President of European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME, Executive Director of COTEC Portugal – Association for Innovation (P)

h 16:15 Coffee Break

h 16:30 Net0Manager – Best Practices and Training for future Net Zero SME

h 16:30 Presentation of the Net0Manager project, its findings and tools

Ms. Kylene De Angelis, CEO Training2000, Net0Manager Senior Project Manager

h 16:50 Best practices & real-world solutions

3 Best practices from companies going for and contributing to Net Zero in 2050

h 17:30 An "EU-African SME Carbon Reduction, Removal and Compensation Alliance (EASME-CERRCA)" for Net Zero in 2050 in both continents

Mr. Kebour Ghenna Desta, Executive Director, Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry PACCI

- Signature of the **EASME-CERRCA MoU** between EE CEA-PME, PACCI and Afrinet Carbon -

h 17:50 Closing Remarks

Mr. Stephan Blahut, Treasurer of European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME, Secretary General of the Austrian Business Association ÖGV

h 18:00 End of the SME2B Business Forum Europe 2025

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h 19:00 – h 23:00 SME Summer Party 2025 at Le Bouche à Oreille, Rue Félix Hap 11, BXL

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3