

European Clusters Alliance meets with MEPs to discuss potential of clusters for European policies

Brussels, 6 March 2020. How do clusters contribute to the implementation of European policies? This Wednesday, Antonio Novo, newly elected president of the European Clusters Alliance, met with Members of the European Parliament to discuss this very question. In collaboration with Isabel García, vice-president of the Committee on Budgetary Control, and with support from Eva Revilla, member of the Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), the European Clusters Alliance organised a working meeting with 12 MEPs to talk about how clusters can be involved to put European strategies on digital transformation and the Green Deal into action. Due to the current limited access of Parliament premises, Antonio Novo participated via conference call.

To illustrate the work of clusters, Mr. Novo presented various examples of successful Spanish projects that are financed through European programmes like HORIZON 2020 or COSME. As Antonio Novo explained, clusters help the European Union invest directly in SMEs. Not only do SMEs receive funding, they also collaborate with other members of their respective clusters to share resources, knowledge and support. "Clusters are key players in the European market when it comes to innovation and finding solutions to the challenges at hand", Mr. Novo pointed out. "And not only for the Green Deal, but also in the areas of transportation, employment, social and circular economy." His presentation was met with positive feedback.

To strengthen the bonds between clusters and to diffuse and manage funding, 13 national cluster associations that represent more than 740 clusters in Europe founded the European Clusters Alliance in 2019. It is a bottom-up initiative that aims to give Europe's clusters a common voice. The current members of the European Clusters Alliance come from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. The European Clusters Alliance will be open to interested associations to participate and to share its vision.

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