



2024 EU Elections Startup Manifesto





Startups and scale-ups must be a focal point of the 2024 EU Elections.

Startups can be at the forefront of economic recovery, job creation, and a more sustainable future. What follows here is a standard with which startup communities and leaders will evaluate the success of any candidate, party, or group seeking a leading role in a democratic Europe in 2024. While these policy prescriptions are a baseline of the needs of the growing entrepreneurial communities of Europe, support for these entrepreneurs and job creators must be aligned with an acknowledgment of the need for further investment in diversity, equity and inclusion as the best path towards Europe's continued growth and economic success.

In the upcoming election season, one must remember **that if startups aren't invited to the policy table, they might just find themselves on the menu.** Therefore, let's make sure our entrepreneurial spirit stays at the forefront, so we all get to savor the flavors of progress and innovation!

We call on **EU political leaders** to:

1 Assign a Commissioner for **Digital Entrepreneurship**

This Commissioner should be responsible for digital policy, and be the central point of contact for all startup-related policies and programs.

2 Set up an EU-wide **startup visa**

Startups need simple procedures to employ the best available talent, and Europe needs to become more attractive for founders and skilled workers. An EU-wide startup visa would transform a burdensome and lengthy process into a fast and painless one.

3 Ensure a **fair and open internet for all**

Net neutrality is the cornerstone of an open and fair digital economy. It ensures that all internet traffic is treated equally.

4 Advocate for Europe leading a **globally interconnected economy**

Startups are global from day one, and know they must operate in a global economy.

5 Invest in **Digital skills**

Invest in programs to ensure European workers have the skills they need to compete in the global economy, and entrepreneurs have access to the talent they need to hire.

6 Introduce a **startup and scale-up test for all EU legislation**

Ensure startup impact is taken into account by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board when it assesses new EU legislation, including nominating a startup assessor and providing them with necessary analytical tools.

7 Build an **EU company status**

This will allow startups to scale their products and services once, rather than 27 times, under a single set of rules.

8 Strengthen the **Digital Single Market**

Breaking down barriers in trade within the internal market and ensuring no new barriers are implemented.

9 Support and encourage **startup research and investment**

Identifying and disseminating best-in-class, pan-European investment instruments.

10 Commit to **fighting disinformation**

Leverage only factual sources and help identify champions in the private sector who will work to lessen the impact of disinformation and misinformation online.



Our expectations **across EU Institutions:**

European Parliament

- ➔ To create an Intergroup for startups and scale-ups.
- ➔ To dedicate a team in EPRS to creating a knowledge stream on startup perspectives across all relevant policies.
- ➔ To task a specific committee with coordinating work on startups.



European Commission

- ➔ To nominate a counterpart official or team in DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW), in DG Economic and Financial Affairs (ECFIN), and in Joint Research Center (JRC).
- ➔ To make sure that “startups and SMEs” figure in the long title of the next Commission DG and Commissioner.
- ➔ Have the Commissioner nominate a startup representative in their cabinet.



Council of the EU

- ➔ To mainstream startup perspectives into relevant Council deliberations.



About *Allied For Startups*

Allied for Startups is a **worldwide network of advocacy organisations in 5 continents, 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 the digital economy at large. Our mission is to ensure that the voices of startups are heard in government.



Connect with us!



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