Startup Europe initiative partners with EBAN

to Build a European Nation of Investors

Brussels, February 22 2018

EBAN, the pan-European representative of the early-stage investor community, and Startup Europe, the initiative of the European Commission designed to connect startups, investors, accelerators, entrepreneurs, corporate networks, universities and the media; announce today, at the European Parliament, their cooperation for the EurInvest Nation of Investors Roadshow.

Both Startup Europe and EBAN are devoted to supporting the growth and integration of early stage private investor communities, the main suppliers of finance to Europe's most promising and innovative companies. They both also share the goals inspiring and democratising investment by European's citizens into innovative companies across Europe, focusing on and encouraging start-ups to “Scale-Up” and promoting corporations engagement with the entire innovation, entrepreneurial and investment community.

In an effort to build a more unified early stage investor ecosystem that can better work with entrepreneurs in Europe, the two organizations will be joining forces to implement the EurInvest Roadshow program. In particular, Startup Europe's events taking place in 2018 and 2019 will become part of the EBAN EurInvest Roadshow.

The announcement of this partnership was made by Startup Europe’s Head of Startups and Scaleups, Isidro Laso Ballesteros, together with EBAN President Candace Johnson, during The EBAN "EurInvest - Nation of Investors" Road Show event hosted by EBAN at the European Parliament under the patronage of MEP and former Vice President of the EU Commission Viviane Reding.

The partnership which in the past has already included participation by each of the parties in their joint activities and events, be it the SEP Corporate Stars Awards, 1:1 meetings between investors, corporations, and scale-ups, will include EBAN participating at all SEP Scale UP Summits by providing super angels across Europe to participate, judge and make investments and by providing a deal-flow stemming from the EBAN Scale-Up of the Month initiative.

On the other hand, Start-Up Europe will be included in all of the EBAN Flagship events including their Annual Congress taking place 25-27 June in Sofia Bulgaria during the EU
Presidency and the Winter Summit in Luxembourg 22 - 23 October but also in all of the EurInvest Nation of Investors Road Show events that EBAN and its 242 members are organising in each European Country throughout the entire year of 2018 leading up to EBAN's 20th Anniversary in 2019.

The EurInvest Nation of Investors Roadshow has two goals. The first is to create a "Nation of Investors" from the private sector who will work with the public sector to accompany promising European start-ups to scale-ups to become global success stories with their human and financial capital in the important growth sectors of science, technology, sustainable energy, and social entrepreneurship. This "Nation of Investors" private sector will include business angels, crowd-funders, venture capitalists, corporations, stock exchanges, banks, insurers and pension funds.

The second goal of is to inspire private sector investors to invest in entrepreneurs who are targeting the European "Single Market" and the world and not just their national markets.

In comment to the partnership, **Candace Johnson, President of EBAN stated:** "We are very pleased about partnering with Startup Europe as working together with their community of corporates, innovators, entrepreneurs and support organizations is a major point of our strategy to building a European nation of investors. Startup Europe is by far the best platform to bring startups and private market players together in support of entrepreneurship."

**Startup Europe Head of Startup and Scaleups, Isidro Laso Ballesteros commented:** "We are extremely honoured to partner once again with EBAN. The EurInvest Nation of Investors Roadshow will offer us an excellent overview on today's European investment landscape. Our main goal is to build a Startup Continent and this can only be achieved by democratizing access to entrepreneurship, offering any individual the chance to build a company from an idea. We will continue building bridges between the most active organisations that support European startups to start and scale up."

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**EBAN**

EBAN, the European Trade Association for Business Angels, Seed Fund and Other Early Stage Market Players is the pan-European representative for the early stage investor community, gathering over 230 member organisations in more than 68 countries today. Established in 1999 by a group of pioneer angel networks in Europe with the collaboration of the European Commission and EURADA, EBAN represents a sector estimated to invest 7.5 billion euros a years and playing a vital role in Europe’s future, notably in the funding of SMEs. EBAN fuels Europe’s growth through the creation of wealth and jobs.

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**Startup Europe**

Startup Europe ramps up the connected Digital Single Market through a set of EU initiatives that multiply jobs, growth and investment. The initiative is designed to connect startups, investors, accelerators, entrepreneurs, corporate networks, universities and the media through an array of networks. Furthermore, it intends to connect local startup ecosystems around Europe and enhance their capacity to invest in other international markets.

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