



PROGRAMME

27 November 2025 – Brussels

08h30 Reception and Welcome Coffee

09h00 **Opening Remarks**

Arthur Jordão, Executive Director, ESNA

09h05 **Keynote Speech**

Merete Clausen, Deputy Chief Executive of European Investment Fund (EIF)

09h20 **Fireside Chat: The Future of European Competitiveness - Competing with Giants in a Shifting Power Landscape**

Oliver Coste, Author of "Europe, Tech and War" | Moderator: Éanna Kelly, Editor at Sifted

09h45 **Panel 1: The EU Startup and Scale-up Strategy - Realities and Reflections Six Months In**

André Sapir, Senior Fellow, Bruegel; Advisory Board Member, ESNA
Ana Barjasic, Board Member, EIC; Advisory Board Member, ESNA
Andras Inotai, Head of Taskforce on Startups and Scaleups, DG RTD, European Commission
Paulo Andrez, Advisory Board Member, ESNA
Moderator: Carolina Rossi, Head of Network & Strategic Initiatives, ESNA

10h20 **Panel 2: Regulation, Rewritten - How the 28th Regime is Paving the Way for Startups**

Juan Alonso-Villalobos, Investor and Founder, Wolver Ventures
Dan Dionisie, Head of Unit, DG JUST, European Commission
Eglė Markevičiūtė, Former Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, Government of Lithuania; Advisory Board Member, ESNA
Fabian Bohnenberger, Associate Director for Single Market & Digital Competitiveness, DIGITALEUROPE
Moderator: Paulo Dentinho, RTP Correspondent in Brussels

10h55 Coffee Break

11h25 **Panel 3: Fueling Europe's Startups - Unlocking Capital through Smarter Policy**

Reginald Vossen, President, Business Angels Europe
Markus Schulte, Board Member, EIB and EIF
Marie Ekeland, Founding Partner & CEO, 2050
Moderator: Carolina Rossi, Head of Network & Strategic Initiatives, ESNA

12h00 **Panel 4: Designing Policy Frameworks through Data-Driven Benchmarking**

Robert Praas, Data Scientist for AI Policy, CEPS
Carlos Herranz Perdiguero, Coordinator of the Digital Entrepreneurship Area, Secretary of State for Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence of Spain
Michaela Saisana, Head of the Competence Centre on Composite Indicators, JRC
Alberto Castronovo, Head of the Internationalisation Unit, Cabinet of the Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy
Moderator: Carlos Seguí, Head of insights and Analytics, ESNA

12h35 **Closing Remarks**

12h40 Networking Lunch