

The EU from the inside. What Next Gens need to know.

Between the 4th and 5th of March 2024, EFB held its second Next Gens event in Brussels.

The objective of the event was to present how the EU institutions work and what EFB does to the next generations of Europe's family business entrepreneurs. Critically, the event gave us a chance to explore what opportunities and challenges the Next Gens see ahead.

The event began with a networking lunch before we made our way to the **European Parliament for a meeting with MEP Angelika Niebler**. Here the participants had the opportunity to engage directly with the MEP inside the European Parliament and to discuss the important issues they see in Europe. Mr Jesús Casado, EFB's Secretary General introduced MEP Niebler and mentioned that the report on family businesses by the European Parliament was in 2015, almost ten years ago and highlighted that it would be timely to have an updated report on family businesses which MEP Niebler took note of.

During the meeting, **MEP Niebler gave a state of play of the work that the European Parliament has done over the last five years** and how they worked through each crisis that occurred. In view of the next European elections, which are fast approaching, MEP Niebler gave an overview of what the European Parliament needs to focus on for the next mandate such as: making internal procedures more efficient, strengthening the EU's resilience, focusing on competitiveness and on opening markets around the world via more trade agreements as well as focusing on security and migration. The MEP also mentioned the need for more women in family businesses. **We thank MEP Niebler and her team for their availability and organisation of this meeting which was a unique opportunity for the Next Gens.**

Later during the day, the participants headed over to the House of European History where they had an interactive self-guided tour. This museum tour was then followed by a walking tour through different historical parts of the European quarter all the way to Brussels' historic old town Grand-Place. Day one ended with a dinner in the centre of the city.

Day two began with an introduction on *What is EFB's mission*, by Mr Casado, Secretary General of EFB. This was followed by a presentation on *How the EU institutions work* and how EFB interacts with them by Mr Darius Movaghar, Sr Policy Advisor at EFB, and Ms Joana Peixinho, Jr Policy Advisor at EFB.

Mr André Meyer, from DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission gave a speech on the Tour d'Horizon of Europe's SME policy. Here he spoke of different policies such as the Late Payment Regulation, small mid-caps, and the SME relief package as it pertains to the transfer of business issue. Ms Ana Maria Bonduelle, Leader of the Observatory at For Talents gave a presentation assessing different elements of succession and the transfer of business process.

Mr Jean-Nicolas D'Hondt, CEO and Board member at Pollet gave an insight into his *Family Business Story* and how the transfer of business happened within his family company. The last presentation of the event was a *Digital Sector Study Case: Policy Making, Regulation and Financing of a European Policy*, by Mr Fabio Nasarre, Senior Legal Expert at DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission. The participants had the opportunity to ask questions throughout each presentation and speech and engage interactively with all of the speakers.

We would like to thank our sponsor For Talents and all of the participants for attending and participating in the event. Thank you to all the speakers for sharing their knowledge and taking the time to participate in the event.

We hope you had a great experience and we hope to see you at the next EFB event.



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