

The EU from the Inside: Navigating Strasbourg

Our third next generation event took place in Strasbourg from the 6th to the 7th of May.

EFB and a small group of next-generation participants from nine EU countries got together for a two-day event. This year was the first time we held the event in Strasbourg. Our event began with a networking lunch, where the participants had the opportunity to meet one another and share their perspectives on family business topics.

Later that day, we entered the European Parliament for a meeting with our sponsor MEP Pierfrancesco Maran of the S&D group, who spoke of the importance of having an economy that works for people to ensure that those who want to stay in the regions they were born in can access employment. This meeting enabled participants from across sectors, generations and countries to ask questions on the topics that impact their family businesses: such as the definitions of mid-caps, the importance of reducing administrative burden in a way that is felt by companies during the day to day running of their businesses, the shortage of skilled workers, the uncertainties resulting from the fragmentation of the Single Market and more. EFB's Secretary General, Mr Jesús Casado, gave MEP Maran the 10 Suggestions to Support Business Transfers in the EU that EFB and six other business associations developed on the matter. We thank MEP Maran and his team for their time and meeting with our Next Gens. We also thank Ms Giovanna Spadoni for connecting us with MEP Maran.

This year, since we held the event during a plenary week, we watched part of a live plenary session at the Parliament's Hemicycle, allowing participants to see a debate in action. Day one ended with a fun sightseeing tour and a networking dinner.

Day two, we held several panels at the Sofitel Strasbourg Grand Île hotel, on what EFB does, how the European institutions work, how EU policies can help companies, a lecture by Professor Fabian Bernhard, of EDHEC Business School on the weight of legacy and how emotions impact the steps taken by the company. The last discussion was held by Ms Laura Burgun, Export Director at Pierre Lannier (3rd Gen), and Dr Julia Eberhardt, Managing Director and Co-Owner of Leeb (4th Gen), shared how their families' companies had been transferred to them and offered ideas and solutions for those undergoing the business succession process. We thank all the participants and speakers for their attendance and hope to see them at future events.