

s1ngle market entrepreneurs

A LISBON COUNCIL INITIATIVE

NEWSLETTER

| Volume 1 | N° 1 | January-June 2012 |

It's a timely decision to found the Single Market Entrepreneurs Centre in the year in which the single market celebrates its 20th anniversary. It highlights the important role that entrepreneurs and innovators play in creating a more dynamic Europe.



Malcolm Harbour | Member of the European Parliament, chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and member of the MEPs for SMEs advisory body of the SME Centre

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SINGLE MARKET ENTREPRENEURS CENTRE LAUNCHES

Founded in January 2012 by the Lisbon Council, a leading Brussels-based think tank, in collaboration with Google, the Internet services company, the **Single Market Entrepreneurs Centre** is an innovative centre of excellence dedicated to enhancing the visibility, recognising the importance and

underlining the transformational nature of entrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized enterprises. A high-level, policy-driven community of entrepreneurs, innovative businesses, policymakers and thought leaders, the SME Centre provides a one-of-a-kind, inclusive platform for constructive

and solution-oriented dialogue on issues pertaining to entrepreneurs and SMEs around the key themes of technology, digital skills, the single market and access to financing. The SME Centre is housed in and operated by the Lisbon Council. Visit <http://singlemarketentrepreneurs.eu> for more.

MEET THE SME CENTRE COMMUNITY

The Single Market Entrepreneurs Centre involves distinguished thought leaders, European policymakers and experienced practitioners in an effort to empower SMEs and inform policy developments. It brings together three groups of leaders who have

a proven track record of supporting entrepreneurship and innovation: **MEPs for SMEs**, an informal body of supportive members of the European Parliament; a **High-Level Advisory Council** which consists of representatives of leading EU business

associations; and an **Expert Circle** of prominent thought leaders and respected public servants who lend their expertise to the SME Centre. For a full list of SME Centre thought leaders visit the [SME Centre web pages](http://www.lisboncouncil.net) at <http://www.lisboncouncil.net>.



Alexander Alvaro
| Vice-President,
European Parliament



Judith Merkies
| Member, European
Parliament;
Rapporteur,
Innovation Union



Xavier Damman
| Chief technology
officer, Storify.com



Daria Tataj
| Member of the
executive governing
board, European
Institute of Innovation
and Technology



Martin Schuurmans
| Senior adviser,
innovation and
entrepreneurship,
the Lisbon Council



Christian Bason
| Director, Mindlab,
Denmark

Making the Digital Agenda part and parcel of the EU's Annual Growth Survey would help highlight its growth potential to policymakers who are desperately trying to kick-start their economies and job engines.

Ann Mettler | Executive director, the Lisbon Council

MALCOLM HARBOUR, MEP, KEYNOTES SME CENTRE WORKING GROUP

An eclectic and dedicated group of leading EU business association representatives, who serve on the **SME Centre Advisory Council**, gathered for an interactive and solution-oriented debate on how the single market benefits entrepreneurs and empowers SMEs across Europe – and in turn creates more growth, jobs and prosperity for all Europeans. Malcolm Harbour, member of the European Parliament, chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and a member of the **MEPs for SMEs** advisory body, keynoted the summit. View [Prezi introducing the SME Centre](#) and photos from the event on the [SME Centre photostream](#).



Ben Butters
| Director,
Eurochambres



Patrick Gibbels
| Representative,
European Small
Business Alliance
(ESBA)



Luc Hendrickx
| Director, European
Association of Craft,
Small- and Medium-
Sized Enterprises
(UEAPME)



Angela Steen
| Senior policy
analyst, Google

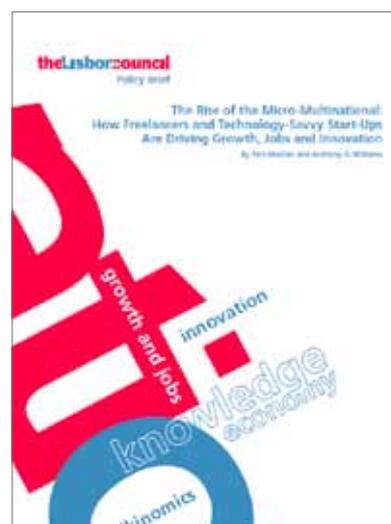


Ann Mettler | Executive director, the Lisbon Council

THE RISE OF THE MICRO-MULTINATIONAL

In a ground-breaking policy brief, Ann Mettler, executive director of the Lisbon Council, and Anthony D. Williams, senior fellow for innovation at the Lisbon Council, explain how technology has enabled young companies, technology-savvy entrepreneurs and freelancers to compete on a global scale, and discuss the implications of this development for competitiveness, value creation and traditional models of employment.

Download [The Rise of the Micro-Multinational: How Freelancers and Technology-Savvy Start-Ups are Driving Growth, Jobs and Innovation](#) at <http://www.lisboncouncil.net>. Watch [Interview with Ann Mettler and Anthony D. Williams](#) at <http://www.youtube.com/thelisoncouncil>.



The number of businesses connected to the Internet on average across the OECD countries is 94,2%. Now we need to focus on how firms are using the Internet.

Taylor Reynolds | Senior economist, information economy, directorate for science, technology and industry, OECD speaking at the SME Centre High-Level Roundtable on SMEs and Technology

EUROPE'S SMES WIRED FOR GROWTH AND INNOVATION

In a companion volume to **The Rise of the Micro-Multinational**, Ann Mettler, executive director, and Anthony D. Williams, senior fellow for innovation, explain the potential of the Internet – and greater adoption of information and communications technology by SMEs – to dramatically improve productivity, raise much-needed growth

and create 21st century jobs. The policy brief sets out a “to-do” list for policymakers to unleash the potential of the single market for SMEs and the economy at large. Download [Wired for Growth and Innovation: How Digital Technologies are Reshaping Small- and Medium-Sized Businesses and Empowering Entrepreneurs](#).



SMES AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: KICK-STARTING GROWTH, JOBS AND PRODUCTIVITY

The SME Centre convened the first **High-Level Roundtable on Growth and Innovation** under the timely theme: *How Digital Technologies are Reshaping Traditional Business Models and Empowering Entrepreneurs*. Anthony D. Williams, senior fellow for innovation at the Lisbon Council, presented his latest policy brief – co-authored with Ann Mettler, executive director of the Lisbon Council – entitled **Wired for Growth and Innovation: How Digital Technologies are Reshaping Small- and Medium-Sized Businesses and Empowering Entrepreneurs**. Fotis Antonopoulos, founder of [OliveShop.com](#) in Greece; Bart Becks, co-

founder and CEO of [SonicAngel](#), a Belgian crowd funding start-up; Julien Blanchez, [Getting Business Online Campaign](#) lead at Google; Joanna Drake, director for SMEs and entrepreneurship at the [European Commission's enterprise and industry directorate-general](#); Peter Leyenaar, management team member at the enterprise and innovation directorate of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation; and Taylor Reynolds, senior economist for information economy in the directorate for science, technology and industry at the [OECD](#) followed with timely interventions. View photos from the event on the [SME Centre photostream](#).



Joanna Drake
| Director, DG Enterprise, European Commission



Anthony D. Williams
| Senior fellow, the Lisbon Council



Julien Blanchez
| Manager, Google



Taylor Reynolds
| Senior economist, OECD

SPOTLIGHT ON SINGLE MARKET ENTREPRENEURS

Bart Becks is a European pioneer in crowd funding for startups, particularly in creative industries. He is co-founder and CEO of [SonicAngel](#), [FilmAngel](#), [TV](#) and [angel.me](#) and a member of the SME Centre **Expert Circle**. Download [Bart Beck's presentation](#) from the **High-Level Roundtable on SMEs and Technology**.



Bart Becks
| Co-founder and CEO, SonicAngel



Fotis Antonopoulos
| Founder, OliveShop.com

Fotis Antonopoulos is a Greek e-commerce entrepreneur. He founded and runs [OliveShop.com](#). Read [a fascinating article about Mr Antonopoulos' enterprise from The New York Times](#).

Crowd funding is a way to democratise the business angel concept to everyone. Today, everyone can be an angel, an investor.

Bart Becks | Co-founder and CEO, SonicAngel

NEWS AND OUTREACH

Principals from the SME Centre kept up a very busy round of conference appearances. Ann Mettler, executive director of the Lisbon Council, keynoted a working lunch at the SME Union in the European Parliament; a Danish Presidency conference on the digital single market; and a European People's Party working group on

economic and social policy. She also contributed an energising [blog post to the World Economic Forum](#) social media channel on unleashing Europe's digital revolution to kick-start growth. In addition, Ms. Mettler contributed with Sylwia Stępień, senior project manager and lead of the SME Centre, an [op-ed on why European SMEs need the digital](#)

[single market](#). Ms. Stępień joined a panel discussion on *Micro-Business: Your Favourite Employer*, hosted by the European Small Business Alliance (ESBA). Paul Hofheinz, president of the Lisbon Council, spoke at the European Internet Foundation roundtable on the digital agenda: growth and innovation.

FORTHCOMING

HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON ECONOMICS OF THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Drawing on the latest OECD analysis on the growth potential of the Internet economy, the SME Centre will convene a **High-Level Roundtable on the Economics of the Digital Revolution**. Taylor Reynolds, senior economist, information economy at the OECD, will present new data detailing the importance of the Internet as a driver of economic growth in major advanced economies. The discussion will focus, *inter alia*, on how Europe can mainstream the Digital Agenda to pay tribute to its economic importance in the 21st century.



SMES IN THE INTERNAL MARKET: A GROWTH AGENDA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The SME Centre will launch **SMES in the Internal Market: A Growth Agenda for the 21st Century**, a major new publication. The collection of hard-hitting essays – contributions from the SME Centre's **High-Level Expert Circle** – will be officially launched at **The 2012 Single Market Entrepreneurs Summit**. It will come in the midst of a vibrant debate on kick-starting growth in Europe – and will animate and inform a broader, more solution-oriented debate on how to leverage the single market to foster entrepreneurship, create jobs and raise productivity.

THE 2012 SINGLE MARKET ENTREPRENEURS SUMMIT

Michel Barnier, European commissioner for internal market and services, will deliver **The 2012 Ludwig Erhard Lecture at The 2012 Single Market Entrepreneurs Summit**. Other distinguished speakers include Paul Rübig, member, European Parliament; Alex Farcet, co-founder and managing director, Startupbootcamp; Richard Pelly, chief executive, European Investment Fund; and Karen Wilson, structural policy division, science and technology directorate, OECD, and the Kauffman Foundation.



single market entrepreneurs

<http://www.singlemarketentrepreneurs.eu>

The Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal asbl

IPC-Residence Palace
155 rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels, Belgium

T. +32 (0)2 647 9575 | F. +32 (0)2 640 9828
twitter @smecentre
info@singlemarketentrepreneurs.eu

theLisborcouncil
think tank for the 21st century