



## GreenEcoNet Annual Conference

### “Growing a sustainable EU economy through SMEs: Boosting jobs, growth and entrepreneurship”

Brussels, 27 May 2015

Venue: CEPS, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels

Job creation and economic growth are two of the top priorities of the European Commission under President Juncker. Against this background, the Commission in November 2014 announced an Investment Plan aimed at unlocking public and private investments on the path to economic recovery. SMEs - as the backbone of the EU economy - will not only be a major target of the Investment Plan but will also require improvements in the regulatory environment. The second GreenEcoNet Annual Conference will discuss the impact of SMEs to growing a sustainable EU economy and will address issues such as the contribution of SMEs to developing green jobs as well as the growth and job opportunities arising from using resources more efficiently. The discussion will start with a presentation of the GreenEcoNet platform for SMEs, demonstrating its contribution to a sustainable EU economy. The event will feature a panel composed of experts from policy, research and business.

GreenEcoNet is a project financed by the European Commission, which brings businesses and academia together on an EU-wide platform to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the transition to a green economy. This platform allows SMEs in Europe to connect to each other and to share their experiences, innovations and best practices. It thus aims to assist SMEs in optimally reaping the business opportunities of a green economy.



## AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

- 10:00 - 10:30 Arrival & registration of participants
- 10:30 - 10:35 Welcome by **Vasileios Rizos**, Researcher, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
- 10:35 - 10:50 **Kurt Vandenberghe**, Director, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- 10:50 - 11:05 Achievements so far and priorities for the third year of the GreenEcoNet project by **Corrado Topi**, Senior Research Fellow, University of York - SEI
- 11:05 - 11:20 Q & A

### 11:20 - 13:00 Growing a sustainable EU economy through SMEs: Boosting jobs and entrepreneurship

- What do SMEs need to create more jobs?
- How can research and innovation boost growth and green jobs for SMEs in Europe?
- How can SMEs contribute to a sustainable EU economy?
- What kind of impacts do green business models and practices (e.g. more efficient use of resources) have on growth and job creation in SMEs in Europe?

- 11:20 - 11:25 Introduction by the chair **Corrado Topi**, Senior Research Fellow, University of York - SEI
- 11:25 - 11:35 **Patrice Liauzu**, Senior Adviser, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- 11:35 - 11:45 **Peter Czaga**, Policy Officer, DG Environment, European Commission
- 11:45 - 11:55 **Franz Brudl**, Advisor, Austrian Economic Chambers
- 11:55 - 12:05 **Daniel Coulon**, Managing Director, Techniwood International
- 12:05 - 12:55 Discussion
- 12:55 - 13:00 Concluding remarks by the chair

### 13:00 - 14:00 Networking lunch

*This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration under Grant Agreement No 603939*

<sup>1</sup> As of 19 May 2015

