European Economic and Social Committee

BEPA Batteries European Partnership Association

Keeping Europe on the global battery map

The case for innovation - Partnership event EESC (CCMI) and BEPA

Monday 30 November 2026, 9:30-14:00

EESC, Jacques Delors building (JDE), Rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels.

Room: JDE 63 on the 6th floor

TIME	*AGENDA*
9:30 – 10:00	***Registration and Networking Coffee***
10:00 – 10:10	***Welcome by CCMI leadership of EESC*** ***Alain Coheur,*** *President, CCMI, EESC*
10:10 – 10:20	***Keynote – Setting the scene*** ***Petya Barzilska,*** *Head of Policy and Research at the European Initiative for Energy Security (EIES)*
10:20 – 10:30	***BLOCK 1 – What is the state of play of the battery value chain in Europe (versus Asia)? Where are we on EU industrial capacities and what are our technological capabilities?*** ***Sam Adham****, Head of Battery Materials at CRU Group*
10:30 – 10:45	***BLOCK 2 – What is the role of innovation in battery technology, with a focus on next-generation batteries such as sodium-ion and solid-state batteries?*** ***Bernard Sahut,*** *Head of Partnerships and Public Funding at SAFT* ***Sebastian Schebesta,*** *Senior Manager Prototyping & Technology Lithium/Sodium at VARTA AG*
10:45 – 11:20	***Panel Debate 1 and Q&A – Where does Europe stand?*** ***Moderator: Hervé Jeannin,*** *CCMI Delegate, EESC* • ***Sam Adham****, Head of Battery Materials at CRU Group* • ***Bernard Sahut,*** *Head of Partnerships and Public Funding at SAFT* • ***Sebastian Schebesta,*** *Senior Manager Prototyping & Technology Lithium/Sodium at VARTA AG* • ***Dave Brassington,*** *Chair of Chemistry for Batteries Europe, representing CEFIC* • ***Milo McBride,*** *Fellow in the Sustainability, Climate, and Geopolitics Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*
11:20 – 11:50	**Coffee Break**

11:50 – 12:05	***BLOCK 3 – What is the role of public support at European, national and regional levels in building a strong battery innovation powerhouse in Europe?*** ***Beatrice Coda,*** *Head of Unit Clean Energy Transitions at EU Commission's DG RTD* ***David Pomonti,*** *Head of Eco-Technologies Domain at BPI France, co-chair of the Batteries WG under the EU's SET (Strategic Energy Technology) plan*
12:05 – 12:15	***BLOCK 4 – What is the way forward in FP10 and the ECF? The case for a renewed, dedicated Battery Partnership in FP10*** ***Fabrice Stassin,*** *Secretary General at BEPA*
12:15 – 12:50	***Panel Debate 2 and Q&A – Who funds Europe's battery future?*** ***Moderator: Katja Fröhlich****, Head of Competence Unit, Battery Technologies at Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)* • ***David Pomonti,*** *Head of Eco-Technologies Domain at BPI France, co-chair of the Batteries WG under the EU's SET (Strategic Energy Technology) plan* • ***Fabrice Stassin,*** *Secretary General at BEPA* • ***Ildikó Krén,*** *Strategic Organiser in charge of the batteries file at industriAll European trade union* • ***Mustafa Amhaouch,*** *Managing Director at Battery Competence Cluster NL* • ***Ilka von Dalwigk****, Director General at RECHARGE*
12:50 – 13:00	***Closing words by CCMI leadership of EESC*** ***Paul Rübig,*** *CCMI, EESC*
13:00 – 14:00	**Networking Lunch**

About the EESC and the CCMI

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is the EU's consultative body representing organised civil society. Its members – drawn from employers' organisations, trade unions and other civil society organisations – give independent advice to the EU institutions on EU policies and legislation. Its Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI), which originates from the European Coal and Steel Community, is the oldest EU body devoted exclusively to analysing and anticipating the future of industry. It brings together EESC members and external delegates from sectoral and civil society organisations.

About BEPA

BEPA is the voice of European research and innovation across the battery value chain. We set the technological priorities, advocate for funding and financing policies, and foster collaboration, with the goal to accelerate research and innovation and its industrialisation for a competitive Europe.