

EU energy chief consults InnoEnergy's ecosystem to accelerate clean energy investment

Paris, France – 5 October 2017

[InnoEnergy](#), Europe's sustainable energy innovation engine supported by the [EIT](#), welcomed Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President (VP) of the European Commission (EC) and in charge of the Energy Union, to Paris last night. The company hosted a roundtable on investments in energy innovation at bpifrance, the French public investment bank.

Šefčovič is visiting France as part of his 2017 [Energy Union Tour](#) to see and support successful projects in the country. The guest list included four of its start-up: [DC Brain](#), an AI solution dedicated to grid managers; [Glowee](#), a biological source of light using marine micro-organisms; [gulplug](#), an innovative magnetic plug that connects devices to the internet, and [Sylfen](#), energy storage solutions for building and eco-districts. InnoEnergy activities in French sustainable energy innovation and education have been valued at €300 million since 2011.

The VP met with Richard Biagioni, CEO of InnoEnergy France at the event. Other attendees included members of innovation ecosystems, start-ups, investors, industry, research centres and education. Over dinner they took part in a roundtable on the innovation in energy investment landscape. Participants discussed the barriers to investment and potential routes to overcoming them. They concluded that developing human capital, through education and life-long training, is part of the solution.

Šefčovič said: "Without innovation, we won't reach a carbon-free economy. Financing and support from both the population and the decision makers will put Europe on the Paris agreement path. That's why InnoEnergy's action has to be amplified, as its genuine proximity with its ecosystem is the solution for a more ambitious and more efficient energy industry in the EU".

Biagioni added: "We were thrilled to welcome Vice President Šefčovič to meet our partners. France is a hive of innovative activities and it was an absolute pleasure to introduce the VP to our French partners."

The roundtable marked the VP's fourth visit to InnoEnergy this year, following previous visits in Poland and Portugal as part of the Energy Union Tour, as well as Slovakia.

InnoEnergy and VP Šefčovič will cross paths again at InnoEnergy's annual event [The Business Booster \(TBB\)](#), where the Commissioner is scheduled to give a highly-anticipated keynote address. The event

will welcome more than 160 start-ups, along with investors and large energy industry players to the RAI in Amsterdam, The Netherlands from 25 – 26 October 2017 to create the future of sustainable energy today. Registrations are still open for the event, and [you can sign up here](#).

In addition to members of the European Commission and representatives of InnoEnergy, the companies that took part to the event were: [Aster Capital](#), [bpifrance](#), [CEA](#), [Cleantech Business Angels](#), [DC Brain](#), [Demeter-Emertec](#), [Ecole polytechnique](#), [EDF](#), [European Climate Foundation](#), [Glowee](#), [gulplug](#), [HEC Paris](#), [Ministry of higher education, research and innovation](#), [Schneider Electric](#), [SupernoInvest](#), [Sylfen](#), [Wiseed](#).

About InnoEnergy

InnoEnergy is the innovation engine for sustainable energy across Europe supported by the EIT.

We support and invest in innovation at every stage of the journey – from classroom to end-customer. With our network of partners we build connections across Europe, bringing together inventors and industry, graduates and employers, researchers and entrepreneurs, businesses and markets.

We work in three essential areas of the innovation mix:

- Education to help create an informed and ambitious workforce that understands the demands of sustainability and the needs of industry.
- Innovation Projects to bring together ideas, inventors and industry to create commercially attractive technologies that deliver real results to customers.
- Business Creation Services to support entrepreneurs and start-ups who are expanding Europe's energy ecosystem with their innovative offerings.

Bringing these disciplines together maximises the impact of each, accelerates the development of market-ready solutions, and creates a fertile environment in which we can sell the innovative results of our work.

InnoEnergy was established in 2010 and is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).