

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002162/26
to the Commission
Carla Tavares (S&D)
(27 May 2026)**

Subject: Possible overlap of initiatives in EU startup policy and the role of the Europe Startup Nations Alliance (ESNA)

The mandate of the Europe Startup Nations Alliance (ESNA) was granted by a political declaration signed by 26 EU Member States and by Iceland and Ukraine. It was set up to monitor and help implement startup-friendly policies in Europe and encourage aligned national entrepreneurship ecosystems.

In July 2024, the European Commission launched a call for tenders worth half a million euros to develop a pilot platform with goals that appear to significantly overlap with those pursued by ESNA.

1. Given that ESNA has a mandate to develop a platform with similar goals, what consideration was given to ESNA in the Commission's decision-making process? How will the Commission ensure that the new platform and ESNA — which is entirely funded by EU money — will complement each other to prevent duplication of efforts and make the most efficient use of public resources?
2. How does the Commission intend to align its initiatives with the political declaration signed by 26 Member States along with Iceland and Ukraine conferring on ESNA the responsibility of monitoring implementation of start-up friendly policies?
3. How does the Commission make the most of the tools that ESNA has developed, including its data platform, to support evidence-based policy-making rather than duplicating existing efforts?

Submitted: 27.5.2026

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2026)**

The Commission understands that the question refers to the European Startup and Scaleup Scoreboard ⁽¹⁾. The EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy ⁽²⁾ announced that the Commission will set up such a Scoreboard to measure, based on a set of indicators, the performance of the European and national startup and scaleup ecosystems.

Commission services worked closely with Europe Startup Nations Alliance (ESNA) in the preparation of the Scoreboard, which is complementary to but different from the data platform developed by ESNA.

While some indicators of the Scoreboard are based on ESNA data, the Scoreboard is primarily an annual report providing a detailed comparative analysis of startup and scaleup ecosystems in the EU based on 36 indicators grouped across six dimensions, supported by an online visualisation tool with interactive features.

The Scoreboard is also a benchmarking tool, as its scores are indexed to the EU average performance and enable to group countries in four performance groups.

The Commission welcomes the work of ESNA supporting the monitoring of implementation of start-up friendly policies. This is complementary to the work of the Commission under the European Semester ⁽³⁾, the EU's annual cycle for coordinating economic, fiscal, and social policies, with the Commission providing analysis, guidance, and country-specific recommendations to Member States. The ESNA's Startup Nations Standards represents a valuable source of analysis that can be used in the context of the European Semester.

The Commission will continue to use a set of relevant tools and data sources to support evidenced-based policy-making supporting startups and scaleups, taking into account the availability, quality and geographic coverage of data.

⁽¹⁾ European startup and scaleup scoreboard | Research and Innovation https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/statistics/performance-indicators/european-startup-scaleup-scoreboard/#?compare_year=2024.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0270>.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/economy-and-euro/european-semester/european-semester-framework_en.