

8 February 2022

Joint declaration for a pan European Scale-Up Initiative

To keep up with the global technological race, the European Union must strengthen its ecosystem of start-ups, which play a crucial role in the digital and sustainable transformation of our economies. While the financing of the European start-up ecosystem still lags behind the US and Asia, the issue is even more acute where scale-ups are concerned. This situation is slowing the growth of our start-ups and tech ecosystem across the continent.

This initiative aims to enlarge access to funding for scale-ups by unlocking capital resources for funds based in Europe. More European funds specialising in late-stage rounds are needed to facilitate the raising of over €100 million tickets by investee companies on the private markets.

Against that background, we will support the fulfilment of the strategic need to develop a European funding ecosystem that fosters the growth phase of innovative technology companies.

We intend to push forward a pan-European Scale-up Initiative in order to develop pan European funds in the late-stage segment. Our long term objective is to have a €10-billion public-private initiative enabling the creation of 10 to 20 pan European funds.

The key element of this Scale-Up Initiative will be a fund of funds managed and administered under a mandate by the European Investment Fund part of the EIB group (called the European Tech Champions Initiative, "ETCI").

Through the ETCI, we intend to invest in a multi-investor fund of funds managed and advised by the European Investment Fund, which itself commits to invest in late-stage/growth and cross-over private equity and venture capital funds managed by asset management companies headquartered and regulated in the European Union, and investing mainly in European technology companies.

In addition, national promotional banks and Institutions will have the possibility to co-invest in the funds targeted by the aforementioned ETCI.

Governance, complete financial commitments, technical mandates and operational details shall be determined by 30 September 2022 after peer and technical workshops.

We intend to put the ETCI into force by the end of 2022. In line with its pan-European role, ETCI will remain open for any other volunteer EU Member State and the European Commission on the same conditions.

We are proud today to make a significant step towards a more vibrant European ecosystem for start-ups and tech companies and we are deeply convinced that the initiative will be a significant step forward for the economic and technological future of Europe.

[Country], duly represented by