DRAFT agenda

Empowering competitiveness

Investing in Skills Ecosystems and Strategic Partnerships for Prosperity

DATE: 26 November 2025

Location: NH Collection Piazza Carlina, piazza Carlo Emanuele II, 15 Torino

Working Language: English

**26 November**

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| **Time** | **Sessions** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | **Welcome Coffee & Registration** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening Session**Welcome Remarks:* Pilvi Torsti, Director, European Training Foundation (ETF)
* Stefano Lo Russo, Mayor, City of Turin
* Mario Nava, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission (DG EMPL)
 |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | **Skills for competitiveness: An ecosystem approach**Setting the scene: the case of Vocational Excellence Panel 1: *How an ecosystem approach can accelerate skills development, foster innovation, and ensure inclusive, sustainable economic growth*.Speakers:* Representative of the Ministry Moldova (tbc)
* Christos A. Ioannou, SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises
* Representative of Asian Development Bank (ADB) (tbc)
* Alessandro Mele, Cometa
* Representative of ETUC (tbc)

Closing: Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) (tbc) |
| 11:00 – 11:20  | **Coffee Break** |
| 11:20 – 12:20 | **Company-based competitiveness and innovation in the context of skills shortages**Setting the scene: The journey of Skilling-up in priority sectors (ETF)Panel 2: *Shaping Innovation and Competitiveness through Smart Specialisation Policy* Speakers:* Minister Albania (tbc)
* Minister Egypt (tbc)
* Ivana Janković Mijanović, DG Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation Montenegro
* Tanja Kotevska, Owner/Executive Manager, Greenagro
* Biljiana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay, Associate Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Closing: European Commission Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) (tbc) and Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA) (tbc) |
| 12.20 – 12-30 | **Concluding Remarks: Pilvi Torsti, Director, ETF** |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | **ETF-EIB Official Launch of Gender and Social Inclusion Facility Agreement**Speech:* Mathieu Bousquet, Director, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
* Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, European Commission (tbc)

Followed by comments: * Lionel Rapaille, Director, Directorate Enlargement and Neighbourhood, European Investment Bank Global (EIB Global)
* Pilvi Torsti, Director, ETF

*Official Signature*:ETF and the European Investment Bank formalize the Gender and Social Inclusion Facility Agreement |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | *Networking Lunch* |