

Nicosia, 14 December 2016

European SME Week 2016: “Green Economy”

The European Commission will mark European SME Week 2016 with a “Green Economy” event on Thursday, 15 December at Merit Hotel in Nicosia from 14:30 to 17:30. The event, organised by the EU Infopoint in partnership with the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, will include expert speakers from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative, Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, Capacity Building Project for Water, Waste Water and Solid Waste Sector, and Technical Assistance to the Private Sector Project. Energy efficiency projects implemented by EU grantees will also be presented at the event.

The European Union aims to ensure coherence between industrial, environmental, climate and energy policy to create an optimal business environment for sustainable growth, job creation and innovation. To support this, the Commission has established an ambitious agenda to transform the EU economy into a circular economy, where the value of products and materials is maintained for as long as possible, bringing major economic benefits.

Under the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community many local business have benefitted from the Private Sector Development Programme which supports Turkish Cypriot entrepreneurs in improving their competitiveness through modernising their products and services, with particular emphasis on the preservation of natural resources and the creation of jobs. The programme offers technical assistance and financial support to Turkish Cypriot limited companies and sole proprietorships. Since 2009 more than 300 local companies have utilised the services of EU experts and over a hundred have received financial support in the form of co-shared grants for a total of **€20 million (Euros)**.

The European Union is helping citizens and governments to green their economies, through better management of resources, economic instruments that are good for the environment, support for innovation, better policies for water and waste, and efforts to boost sustainable consumption and production.

Background:

The European SME Week is a pan-European campaign that aims to promote entrepreneurship in Europe. It helps existing entrepreneurs find information on available support and tries to encourage more people to set up their own businesses. Coordinated by the European Commission, this campaign consists of events throughout the whole year.

Interested individuals can get more information on these events on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](https://www.facebook.com/abbilgi) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: info@abbilgi.eu, 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Sokak, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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The EU Infopoint is funded by the European Union.

