

AECM ANNUAL EVENT 2026

Lisbon, Portugal | 21 – 23 May 2026

“Access to Finance: Investment Needs in a Global Context”

THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026

Venue: Pátio da Galé, Praça do Comércio

Internal statutory meetings of AECM	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:30	Board of Directors Meeting (EN, FR) – members and deputies of the Board of Directors only
10:30 – 10:45	Networking Break
10:45 – 12:30	Ordinary General Assembly Meeting (EN, FR) – AECM full and associated members only

<p>Public conference</p> <p>“Access to Finance: Investment needs in a Global Context” – 1st day</p> <p>(EN, FR) – no fee charged</p>	
12:30 – 14:00	Networking Lunch / in parallel registration
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Welcome & Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guy Selbherr, President of AECM • Gonçalo Regalado, CEO and Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Banco Português de Fomento (BPF), Portugal • NN (high-level speaker from Portugal) (tbd)
14:30 – 15:00	<p>Keynote: Driving prosperity via innovation and competitiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milena Angelova, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and SME Envoy of Bulgaria • Gijs Schilthuis, Director Sustainability, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (GD AGRI), European Commission (tbc) • NN, Korea Credit Guarantee Fund (KODIT), Korea (confirmed - tbd)
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Panel: Why are guarantees an effective instrument for innovation financing?</p> <p>Moderator: Kurt Leutgeb, Head of Guarantees, Equity, Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH (aws), Austria</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NN, Garantiqa, Hungary (tbd) • NN, Banco Português de Fomento (BPF), Portugal (tbd) • Estera Tajnikar, Deputy Director, Product Development and EU Programmes Department, SID - Slovenska izvozna in razvojna banka, Slovenia
16:00 - 16:15	Networking Break
16:15 - 16:45	<p>Keynote: EU Budget that protects, competes, and delivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siegfried Mureşan, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) (tbc) • NN, member from Portuguese Ministry (tbd) • Davide Galli, President, SMEunited
16:45 - 17:45	<p>Panel: EU Financial Instruments</p> <p>Moderator: Shane McCullough, Head of Products, Strategy and Marketing, Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI), Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Bomhoff, Head of Unit, State aid: case support and policy, Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP), European Commission (tbc) • Jonathan Denness, Head of Unit, Financial Instruments and International Financial Institutions Relations, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), European Commission (tbc)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aliénor Margerit, Head of Unit, Access to Finance, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission
17:45 – 18:00	<p>Keynote: The importance and added-value of counter-guarantees – an international comparison of Asia, Europe, and other regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dong-Hun Lee, Head of Department International Cooperation, Research, Risk Management, Training, Korea Federation of Credit Guarantee Foundations (KOREG)
19:30	<p>Transfer to Gala Dinner</p> <p>Shuttle Service from Venue/Hotel</p>
20:00	<p>Gala Dinner</p> <p>Venue: Estufa Fria, Parque Eduardo VII, Lisbon</p>
xxx	<p>Transfer from Dinner to Hotel</p> <p>Shuttle Service</p>

FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2026

Venue: Pátio da Galé, Praça do Comércio

Public conference “Access to Finance: Investment needs in a Global Context” – 2nd day (EN, FR) – seminar fee charged	
09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome & Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guy Selbherr, President of AECM• Gonçalo Regalado, CEO and Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Banco Português de Fomento (BPF), Portugal
10:15 – 11:00	Keynote: The Role of National Promotional Institutions in Growth and Stability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nikola Steinbock, Chairwoman of the Management Board, Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank / Development Agency for Agribusiness, Germany• Marta Postuła, First Vice President of the Management Board, Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), Poland
11:00 – 11:45	Setting the scene: Keynote speeches on topics of subsequent breakout sessions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • João Negrão, Executive Director, The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) • Nathalie Berger, Director, Competitiveness Coordination, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission • Piotr Stolowski, Director, Head of Guarantees, Securitisation, and Inclusive Finance, European Investment Fund (EIF) • Lucia Cusmano, Head SME and Entrepreneurship Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD (tbc)
<p>11:45 - 12:00</p>	<p>Networking Break</p>
<p>12:00 - 13:00</p>	<p>Parallel Breakout Sessions</p> <p>Breakout Session 1: IPR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giovanni Zizzerini, Secretary General, The International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (INSME) (tbc) • Kiril Velitchkov, Advisor to the Intellectual Property Task Force, Director for European Projects and Financial Instruments, UBB and UBB Interlease, and Director of the Master in “IP and Tech Transfer” at FEBA, Sofia University • Marie-Carmen Bindels, Innovation and Support Advisor & IP Helpdesk EEN, Wallonie Entrepreneurs, Belgium <p>Breakout Session 2: ESG, sustainability</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagla Bahr, Managing Director, Credit Guarantee Company, Egypt and Chairwoman of the Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network (EMGN) (tbc) • Gerhard Huemer, Director Economic and Fiscal Policy, SMEunited • NN, Hellenic Development Bank, Greece (tbd) <p>Breakout Session 3: Internationalisation of SMEs: Export credit guarantees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NN, Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR), Croatia (tbd) • NN, ALTUM, Latvia (tbd) • NN, Finnvera, Finland (tbd)
13:00 - 14:30	Group Photo & Networking Lunch
14:30 - 15:00	<p>Keynote: How individual ex-post guarantee studies (methodologies, results) of the EIF relate to the ex-ante impact assessment of the EIF</p> <p>Helmut Kraemer-Eis, Chief Economist and Head of Impact Assessment, European Investment Fund (EIF)</p>
15:00 - 16:00	<p>Panel: The additionality and the impact of guarantees</p> <p>Moderator: Luke Aylward, Director Strategy & Product Development Banking business, British Business Bank (BBB), UK and Chairman of the AECM working group statistics and impact</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horacio Molina Sánchez, Loyola University Andalusia, Spain (tbc) • NN, The Kosovo Credit Guarantee Fund (KCGF), Kosovo (tbd) • NN, Korea Technology Finance Corporation (KOTEC), Korea (tbd)
16:00 - 16:30	<p>Keynote: The situation of SMEs in relation to external financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiroyasu Kaburaki, Japan Finance Corporation (JFC), Japan • NN, Latin-America (tbd)
16:30 - 16:40	<p>Presentation of and invite to the annual event of AECM in 2027 as well as a farewell ceremony</p>
16:40 - 17:00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guy Selbherr, President of AECM • Tomáš Nidetzký (NRB, Czechia), Vice-President of AECM • Juuso Heinilä (Finnvera, Finland), Vice-President of AECM • Giorgio Venceslai (ISMEA, Italy), Vice-President of AECM • Zenón Vázquez Irizar (CESGAR, Spain), Vice-President of AECM