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WORKING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Research
Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Internal Market)
Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry)

Subject: Presentation by the European Commission, DG RESEARCH : Alignment of two upcoming strategies: Single Market Strategy and Start-Up and Scale-Up Strategy (agenda item 2.)
Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) meeting on 10 April 2025

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EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy



*Acting Head of Taskforce on Startups and Scaleups
DG Research and Innovation*

10/04/2025

Overview

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1. Towards the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy
2. Preliminary results of the consultation
3. Potential building blocks
4. Synergies with other initiatives

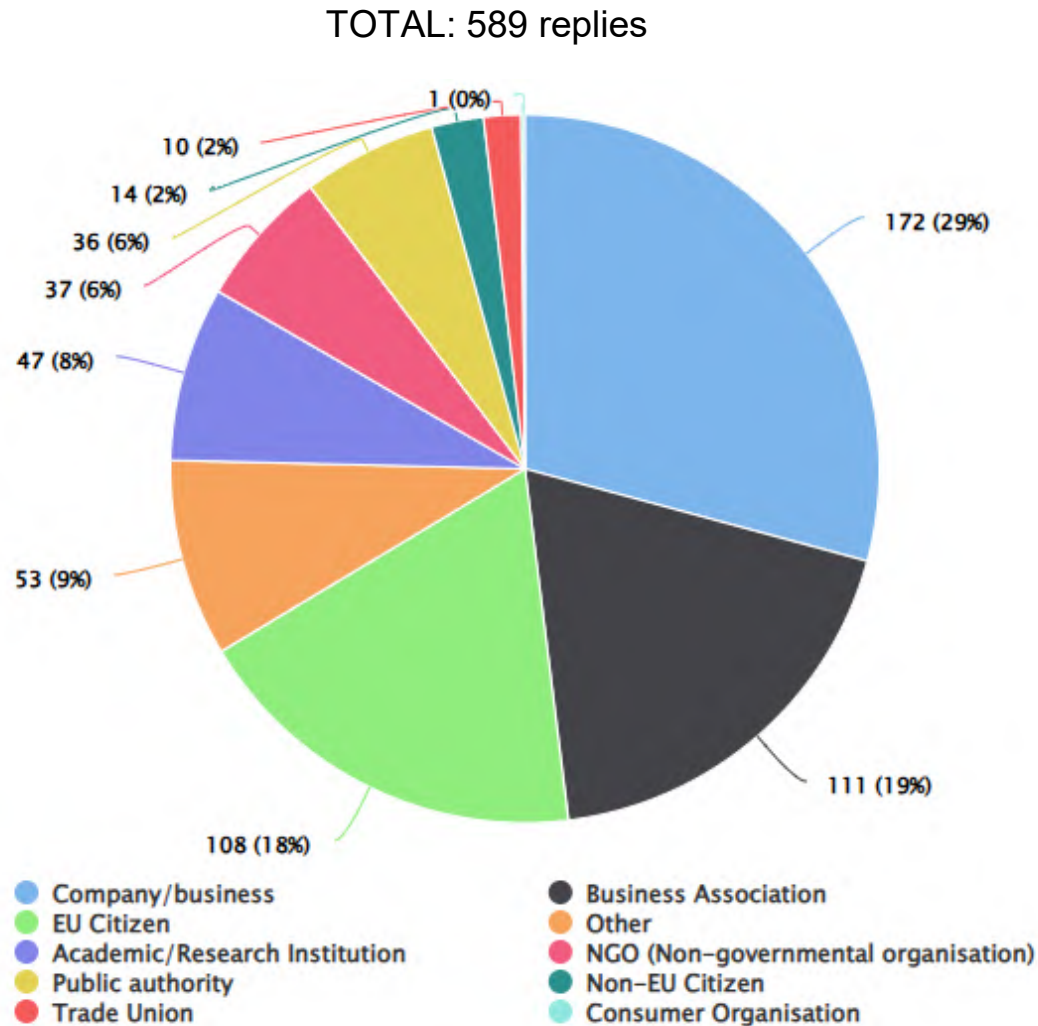


1. Towards the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy

- The Commission is planning to put forward the Strategy at the end of May 2025.
- Commissioner Zaharieva has chaired the first meeting of the European Startup and Scaleup Forum on 17 February. A second meeting takes place on 25 April.
- The Working Party on Research discussed the Strategy on 13 February and the informal Competitiveness Council on 11 March.
- A startup policy Hackathon took place on 28 March.
- The Commission ran a call for evidence for a month, until 17 March which gathered almost 600 contributions from 36 countries



2. Preliminary results of the consultation



- Difficulty in obtaining financing at different stages of the growth of startups.
- Fragmented tax regimes, varying labour laws, and inconsistent certification procedures.
- Classification of startups under State aid and SME definitions.
- Difficulty of participating in public procurement processes.
- Talent shortages, particularly in the ICT sector.
- Difficulties in accessing research and technology infrastructures.
- Absence of a platform to mutualize public and private services.



3. Potential building blocks of the Strategy

- The Strategy may potentially be structured on actions for:
 - Starting up in the EU
 - Scaling up in the EU and beyond
 - Maturing, exiting and starting again
- + section dedicated to measuring progress for reaching the Strategy's aims



4. Synergies with other initiatives

- Union of skills (adopted on 5 March 2025)
- Savings and Investments Union (adopted on 19 March 2025)
- Single Market Strategy (expected in May 2025)
- European Innovation Act (expected in Q1 2026)
- 28th regime (expected in Q1 2026)
- Revision of the public procurement directives (expected in Q4 2026)



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Thank you!

