

# THE EBSA: REPRESENTING THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AT EU LEVEL

## What is the EBSA?

*The European Business Services Alliance (EBSA) brings together European associations within the business services sector. EBSA's vision is to **foster the internal market for business services in the EU** and gain recognition for the important role business services play in the European economy. The EBSA believes that together we are better equipped to achieve these goals. The visibility and recognition of the business services industry at European level is **stronger when we stand united.***

## Who forms the EBSA?

**Members:** Architect's Council of Europe (ACE), Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS), European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA), European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry (EFCI), European Forum of Independent Professionals (EFIP), European Textile Services Association (ETSA), European Federation of Management Consultancies Associations (FEACO), FoodServiceEurope, World Employment Confederation-Europe (WEC-Europe)

**Chair:** Michael Freytag (WEC-Europe)

**Vice-Chair:** Isabel Yglesias (EFCI)

**EBSA's Secretariat** ensures the functioning of the Alliance.

## Why join the EBSA?

Collectively we have a **stronger voice** towards policymakers, **better access** and **more influence**. By joining the alliance, you will:

- become part of a **knowledge sharing community** of engaged associations **sharing their expertise, leveraging their networks**

**and supporting each other** to be on top of all political developments.

- have **access to the Secretariat**, coordinating common policy, advocacy and outreach activities and to **EBSA's meetings** focused on current affairs relevant to business services.
- have the ability to influence and provide input on **EU Ecolabels** and **services standards** through the **EU Ecolabelling Board** and **CEN's Strategic Advisory Group on Services** of which the EBSA is a proud member.

## What has the EBSA achieved?

The European Business Services Alliance was created in 2015. Since then, it has grown to become a recognised voice for business services in the EU and a vibrant network, holding meetings four times a year and ad hoc meetings when necessary.

The EBSA has developed common positions and conducted advocacy in the following areas:

- The internal market for services
- Public procurement
- Service standards
- Service statistics
- Public bodies as competitors

The EBSA has been able to convey the specific needs of business services also through the organisation of **meetings and events**. The Alliance met with its relevant interlocutors in the European Commission (from policy officer to cabinet level), with rapporteurs and other influential MEPs as well as with CEN or Eurostat.

Among the many events organised (including in the European Parliament):

- In 2019, the EBSA presented a **Manifesto** on its priorities for the new EU legislative cycle in a launch event with a high-level speaker from the European Commission.



- In 2020, EBSA's Online Seminar "**Public Procurement in the EU: the road forward**" provided for an in-depth analysis of the 2014 Public Procurement Package implementation and gathered success stories in the procurement of business services from different sectors. Participants to the online seminar said: "The EBSA is helping the services sector to reach its goal of a robust and effective procurement architecture in Europe".



In the context of the **Covid-19 pandemic** the EBSA has been very active in supporting the business services industry. Among others, EBSA issued several **joint statements** conveying its members' need for targeted economic support ([4 May 2020](#)), addressing bad contracting practices on the rise and encouraging quality-based procurement ([13 May 2020](#)) as well as calling for further recognition and support to business services in their essential role for Europe's recovery ([14 July 2020](#)).

The EBSA has been able to **raise the profile of business services** overall and give its members

a platform to convey their individual priorities to the relevant decisionmakers. The EBSA members highly appreciate the good cooperation and the openness to discussions and look forward to strong cooperation in the future.

### What do our members say?

Cristina Freitas da Costa, Deputy Secretary General at FoodServiceEurope: "The EBSA provides a **great platform** to put forward **joint views** and messages of the business services sectors and to **discuss these with EU policymakers and stakeholders**."

Alexander Frank, Head of EU Affairs at CoESS: "The EBSA provides us with a wider **policy outlook** and a great forum for the **exchange of ideas and best practices** with other like-minded associations. It is **key to promote the business services sector** and it definitely impacts its members' activities in a positive way".

### How to join the EBSA?

The EBSA is open to membership from European organisations representing the business services sector. Membership applications are examined and decided upon by EBSA's Board. EBSA's membership is subject to an annual fee which is adapted to the needs of the organisation on a periodical basis.

If you are interested in knowing more about how to become a member of the EBSA, its benefits and engagement, please send an e-mail to **secretariat@servicealliance**.

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 @EBSAeu

