




Smart, specialised and impactful

How the University of Vaasa advances Europe's energy transition, economic growth, resilience and technology sovereignty

Opening of the University of Vaasa European office in Brussels

 Tuesday 21 April 2026, 16:45–19:00 followed by reception

 University Foundation, Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels



University of Vaasa
VAASAN YLIOPISTO

Programme

16:45 **Welcome messages and introduction to the University of Vaasa EU strategy**

- ▶ **Minna Martikainen**, Rector, University of Vaasa
- ▶ **Tomas Häyry**, Mayor, City of Vaasa

Moderator: Philippe Vanrie, Head of the Brussels Liaison Office

17:00 **Energy transition, resilience and digitalisation**

- ▶ **Adel El Gammal**, Secretary General, EERA (European Energy Research Alliance)
- ▶ **Mika Kalliomaa**, Finnish Military Representative to the EU and NATO
- ▶ **Damien Lecarpentier**, Director International Collaborations & Partnerships, CSC-IT Center for Science
- ▶ **Anders Öster**, General Manager, Research Coordination and Funding, Wärtsilä

Moderator: Mika Grundström, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Vaasa

17:30 **Perspectives from the EU institutions**

- ▶ **Markku Markkula**, Vice-President, Committee of Regions
- ▶ **Ann-Sofie Rönnlund**, Member of Cabinet of Startups, Research and Innovation Commissioner Zaharieva
- ▶ **Béatrice Coda**, Head of Unit, Clean Energy Transition, DG RTD, European Commission
- ▶ **Hugues Parmentier**, Head of Unit, Strategy, Interinstitutional Relations & Security, DG DEFIS, European Commission

Moderator: Adam Smale, Dean, School of Management, University of Vaasa

18:15 **European networks and collaboration**

- ▶ **Muriel Attane**, Secretary General, EARTO (European Association of RTOs)
- ▶ **Gregg Jones**, Chair of UniLiON (University Liaison Offices Network) and Head of Coventry University Brussels (UK)
- ▶ **Massimo Busuoli**, Head of Brussels Office of NTNU (Norwegian National Technical University) and of EOREA Alliance
- ▶ **Marc Labie**, First Vice-Rector of University of Mons (BE), and Founder of EUNICE University Alliance
- ▶ **Emilia Perna**, Director of the Western Finland EU Office (WFEO)

Moderated by Martin Meyer, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, University of Vaasa

18:45 **Conclusions**

- ▶ **Minna Martikainen**, Rector, University of Vaasa
 - ▶ **Lauri Hirvonen**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to the EU
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19:00 **Cocktail reception**