

– PRESS RELEASE –

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European Commission rewards Europe's champions in eco-innovation

Seven companies from six different countries have been announced as winners of the 2018-2019 **European Business Awards for the Environment**, the scheme that rewards those businesses that are making the most outstanding contribution to sustainable development through eco-innovation.

The winning companies and their respective categories are:

-  **A&B Laboratorios de Biotecnología S.A.U.** (Spain) – Management Award (Micro and Small Entities)
-  **Arçelik A.Ş.** (Turkey) – Management Award (Medium and Large Entities)
-  **ecop Technologies GmbH** (Austria) – Business Process Award
-  **Efficient Energy GmbH** (Germany) – Product & Services Award
-  **EOSTA B.V.** (The Netherlands) – Developing Country Cooperation Award
-  **Jean Bouteille** (France) – Management Award (Micro and Small Entities)
-  **SUEZ SPAIN** (Spain) – Business & Biodiversity Award

While presenting the awards, **Gilles Gantelet**, Director at the European Commission's DG Environment, said: *"The EU is at the crossroads of its transformation towards a more sustainable economy, and businesses are vital to drive this change forward. All the finalists of this year's awards have taken major steps to bring us closer to a pollution-free, low-carbon and circular economy, and we are here to celebrate their achievements. These enterprises prove that eco-innovation isn't just about protecting our planet – it's also an excellent business decision, playing a key role in European competitiveness."*

The winners were announced during the European Business Awards for the Environment **Ceremony** that took place on 14 November in Vienna (Austria) as part of the **"Growth in Transition" conference**, in the presence of **Jürgen Schneider**, Director General, Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism.

The winners were recognised in six different areas: Micro and Small Companies Management; Medium and Large Companies Management; Product and Services; Business Process; Developing Country Cooperation and Business and Biodiversity. The jury exceptionally decided to award two winning companies in the Micro and Small Companies Management category.



Background

The European Business Awards for the Environment, an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment, recognise businesses that successfully combine innovation, competitiveness and outstanding environmental performance.

The awards are held every two years and are underpinned by a series of national environmental award schemes: only winners, runners-up and companies specially commended in national competitions are eligible to apply for the European award.

The 2018-2019 competition, the tenth edition of the Awards, received 161 applications from 19 European countries.

More information on the winners, the selection procedure and past EBAE competitions can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/awards/index.html>.

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2018-2019 EBAE Winners, Runners-up and Rising Stars (Rising Stars are companies whose applications have made a particular impression on the jurors but were not shortlisted for an award)



PRODUCT & SERVICES AWARD

This award recognises the successful placing on the market of a new product or service that makes an outstanding contribution to sustainable development.

Winner:

- **Efficient Energy GmbH** (Small company, Germany) – The company was awarded for its "eChiller" product that is a highly energy-efficient cooler with minimal global warming impact.

Runners-up:

- **AFULudine** (Micro company, France)
- **Plastic Repair System 2011 S.L.** (Micro company, Spain)
- **Water&Soil** (Micro company, Hungary)

Rising Star:

- **EC-OG** (Small company, United Kingdom)

MANAGEMENT AWARD

This award recognises a successful organisation (or group of organisations) with the strategic vision and management scheme that enable it to continuously improve its environmental performances.



Micro and Small Businesses

Joint Winners:

- **A&B Laboratorios de Biotecnología S.A.U.** (Small company, Spain) – This biotechnology company was awarded for the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals in their strategy for a sustainable and competitive growth.
- **Jean Bouteille** (Small company, France) – A zero-waste system that combines reusable and returnable bottles with the bulk system.

Runners-up:

- **KLIMIS (VAS. & EK. KOTTARIDI GP)** (Micro company, Greece)
- **Glenuig Inn** (Micro company, United Kingdom)



Medium and Large Businesses

Winner:

- **Arçelik A.Ş.** (Large company, Turkey) – The company that develops and produces durable consumer goods was commended for its effective and comprehensive sustainability approach to reduce environmental impacts for the whole lifecycle of products.

Runners-up:

- **Bonduelle Group** (Large company, France)
- **Paterson Arran** (Medium company, United Kingdom)
- **PepsiCo Turkey** (Large company, Turkey)
- **Zotter Schokoladen Manufaktur GmbH** (Medium company, Austria)

Rising Star:

- **BIOFILTER Co.** (Medium company, Hungary)



BUSINESS PROCESS AWARD

This award recognises the successful application of an innovative solution in the area of process and production methods.

Winner:

- **ecop Technologies GmbH** (Small company, Austria) – The company performs the R&D and manufacturing of an innovative rotation heat pump that particularly fits well for large-scale industrial use.

Runners-up:

- **DSM-Niaga** (Small company, The Netherlands)
- **Vestel Elektronik Sanayi ve Ticaret a.ş.** (Large company, Turkey)
- **WAGA-ENERGY SA** (Small company, France)

Rising Stars:

- **EKONEK Innovación en Valorización de Subproductos S.L.** (Micro company, Spain)
- **Viessmann Refrigeration Solutions GmbH** (Large company, Germany)



DEVELOPING COUNTRY COOPERATION AWARD

This award recognises an international business cooperation involving at least one private entity from the European Union, and another from the private, public, non-governmental or academic sector in an emerging or developing country.

Winner:

- **EOSTA B.V.** (Medium company, The Netherlands) – The company was commended for its “True Cost of Food” campaign which calculates and communicates the hidden costs of the food system.



BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY AWARD

This award recognises a successful business model, management scheme, product and service or developing country cooperation, which makes a significant contribution to halting biodiversity loss and supporting natural ecosystems.

Winner:

- **SUEZ SPAIN** (Large company, Spain) – This global company active in the water and waste sectors was awarded for its progressive policy on biodiversity implemented at water treatment plants, nature reserves, etc.

Runners-up:

- **GTOI (Grands Travaux de l'Océan Indien)** (Large company, France)
- **SKAI Media Group** (Large company, Greece)
- **Red Eléctrica de España, S.A.U.** (Large company, Spain)

Rising Stars:

- **Baumann Hydrotec GmbH & Co. KG** (Small company, Germany)
- **EnTrade** (Small company, United Kingdom)