



Press release

Hervé Floch, Managing Director of the ALPHA - Route des Lasers & Hyperfréquences in New-Aquitaine has been appointed as the new Chairman of the “Europe” Commission of the French Association of Competitiveness Clusters (AFPC)

Created on 16 December 2013, the AFPC, of which 57 out of the 67 competitiveness clusters are members, has renewed the chair of its “Europe” Commission. Among its priority projects are preparing the implementation of the European component of Phase 4 of the Competitiveness Clusters.

On 6 September 2017 in Palaiseau, the AFPC (French Association of Competitiveness Clusters) elected a new chairman of its Europe Commission. **Hervé Floch (Managing Director of ALPHA-Route des Lasers & des Hyperfréquences Competitiveness Cluster in New-Aquitaine)** will be taking over from Laurent Boust whose term as Chairman of the Secure Communication Solutions Competitiveness Cluster in PACA ended in June. **Fabienne Daveran** (European Project Manager for the Aerospace Valley Competitiveness Cluster and SME National Contact Point for the H2020 programme) remains the Deputy Chairwoman.

The purpose of the “Europe” Commission is to bring the voices of the clusters and their members to the attention of national and European public authorities and European bodies to work towards better integrating French clusters and their members into European programmes.

The new Chairman will implement actions to boost the participation of clusters and their members in European calls for projects and to encourage the emergence of both collaborative innovation projects and European partnerships.

"This will help make the AFPC a key stakeholder in dialogue and negotiations between multi-sectoral manufacturers, regions, the French government, and the European Commission", said Hervé Floch.

Thanks to its actions, the Commission is now recognised in Brussels as a key stakeholder in discussions on innovative clusters that the European Commission considers as key actors.

"In the four years of its existence, the AFPC has been able to bring together competitiveness clusters and work in cooperation with the French government and regions to strengthen the role of clusters in the innovation landscape. In just ten years, clusters have been able to create successful ecosystems and today the major transformations that will shape the twenty-first century are being developed within these innovation ecosystems. The clusters have nearly ten thousand industrial members throughout the country. This is an exceptional strength capable of meeting the greatest competitiveness challenges at European level", said **Jean-Luc Beylat, Chairman of the French Association of Competitiveness Clusters** and the Systematic Paris-Region cluster.

"We are pleased with the appointment of Hervé Floch as Chairman of the AFPC's “Europe” Commission. Hervé has been active in the AFPC since its inception and has already demonstrated competence and involvement. The challenges of coordinating innovation policies between regions, the French government, and Europe are at the heart of AFPC's strategy and, at a time when Europe is mapping European clusters, this strategy makes sense."

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About the AFPC

The AFPC (French Association of Competitiveness Clusters) was created on 16 December 2013 with the support of the **Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations** (CDC) and the **DGE** (Directorate General for Enterprise of the French Ministry of Economy). The AFPC managed 57 Competitiveness Clusters in 2017.

The AFPC has three missions that are monitored and managed by three dedicated committees: **develop the role of clusters in the French innovation dynamic with the French government and regions, bring the voices of the clusters and their members to the attention of national and European public authorities, and accompany the search for financing for SMEs and manage the EIP¹ Label.**

Jean-Luc Beylat (Chairman of the Systematic Paris-Region Cluster) was elected Chairman of the AFPC, Vincent Marcatté (Chairman of the Images & Networks Cluster) is Deputy Chairman, Agnès Paillard (Chairwoman of the Aerospace Valley Cluster) is the Treasurer, Philippe Magarshack (Chairman of the Minalogic cluster) is the Secretary, and Karine Jacq is the General Delegate.

Commission France	Commission Europe	Commission PME Finance
		
<p>Marc Charlet (Pôle Mov'eo) Président</p>	<p>Hervé FLOCH (Pôle Alpha-RLH) Président</p>	<p>Thierry Jean (Pôle Materialia) Président</p>
		
<p>Catherine Candela (Pôle Tenerrdis) Vice-Présidente</p>	<p>Fabienne Daveran (Pôle Aerospace Valley) Vice-Présidente</p>	<p>Joëlle Durieux (Pôle Finance Innovation) Vice-Présidente</p>

*France Commission – Marc Charlet (Mov'eo Cluster) Chairman
Catherine Candela (Tenerrdis Cluster) Deputy Chairwoman*

*Europe Commission
Hervé Floch (Alpha-RLH Cluster) Chairman
Fabienne Daveran (Aerospace Valley Cluster) Deputy Chairwoman*

*SME Finance Commission
Thierry Jean (Materialia Cluster) Chairman
Joëlle Durieux (Finance & Innovation Cluster) Deputy Chairwoman*

¹ Innovative Cluster Enterprises