The regional Growth Caravan Tour discusses what has already been done and what more could be done to boost growth and jobs, promote investments, and increase competitiveness in the chosen regions. The intention is also to showcase real added value of EU funding in the creation of growth and jobs. The tour involves the European Commission, the European Parliament, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Europe Information Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Finnish Parliament, regional/local authorities, regional/local partners such as the Europe Direct Information Centres, the Enterprise Europe Network, Chambers of Commerce, universities, schools and businesses as well as local media partners.

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission, has launched an Energy Union Tour to engage in an intensive dialogue with governments, national parliaments and the European Parliament, as well as relevant stakeholders, including social partners, representatives of the business community, NGOs and citizens. He visits Member States to present the opportunities that the Energy Union will bring to European citizens and businesses. Now the Tour is stopping at Vaasa. The Energy Union Tour will be a good occasion to discuss the challenges that have to be addressed to implement the Energy Union Strategy, to get more information about the specific situation of each Member State and to give visibility to existing good practices all around Europe.

### GROWING COMPETENCE

**Citizens’ Dialogue: Energy Union**

**VENUE:** University of Vaasa, Levón

**9.45**  
Open event for the public and university students at the University of Vaasa  
Coffee served

**10.15**  
Welcome and opening words:  
Tomas Häyry, Mayor, City of Vaasa

**10.20-11.00**  
Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission: This is how EU makes sure that energy issues bring us growth  
Comments from the Members of the European Parliament Miapetra Kumpula-Natri and Petri Sarvamaa and Director-General Riku Huttunen, Ministry of Employment and the Economy

Q&A with the audience

Follow and debate on Twitter #EUdialogues

**11.00-11.45**  
**Panel discussion: Energy and innovations**  
Introduction: Tekes – the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation, Executive Director Teija Lahti-Nuuttila  
Panelists:  
- MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri  
- MEP Petri Sarvamaa  
- ET- Finnish Energy Industry, Chairman of Board Antti Vilkuna

Q&A with the audience

**13.00**  
Opening speech  
Tomas Häyry, Mayor, City of Vaasa

Key note speech  
Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission

**Pitching**  
5 most promising energy growth companies pitch their business idea to the Commissioner and the audience.

Moderator: Technology Center Merinova, Marketing Director Robert Olander

Pitches:  
- LumiTar, Sales Director Ismo Aukee  
- WE Tech, CEO Märten Storbacka  
- Arcteq, CEO Juha Arvola  
- Uwira, CEO Samuli Kuusisto  
- There Corporation, Head of Sales and Marketing Ilkka Palola

Comment by Member of the European Parliament Miapetra Kumpula-Natri

Comment speech, Executive Director Teija Lahti-Nuuttila  
Tekes: Innovations as a path to growth

**14.30**  
Coffee break and mini-exhibition

**15.00**  
Panel discussion: How do the current EU and Finnish energy policies support growth?  
Moderator: Vaasa University of Applied Sciences, President Tauno Kekäle  
Participants: Vice-President of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič, MEP Petri Sarvamaa, Wärtsilä Finland, CEO Stefan Damlin, ABB, CTO Heikki Uusitalo, Danfoss Drives, Senior Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Service Heikki Hiltunen, Åbo Akademi, Professor Margareta Wihersaari

**16.15**  
Closing remarks

Follow and debate on Twitter #kasvunkaravaani

More information and registration: www.energyvaasa.fi

### GROWING BUSINESS

**Business seminar: “Global growth from the leading energy cluster in the Nordic countries”**

**VENUE:** Academill, Akademi hall

The Vaasa region is the home for the leading energy cluster in the Nordic Countries with more than 140 companies creating high-class technology for producing sustainable energy and for energy-efficient consuming. The large companies in the cluster show the way with market leading technology and new innovative solutions while the smaller companies spice up the whole with new fresh ideas and great potential for rapid growth. The business seminar gives five growth companies the opportunity to pitch their number one idea for the international market. In the panel discussion that follows, the EU Vice-President will discuss with the leading cluster companies how the EU and Finnish energy policies support growth, now and in the future.

**13.00**  
**Opening speech**  
Tomas Häyry, Mayor, City of Vaasa

**Key note speech**  
Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission

**Pitching**  
5 most promising energy growth companies pitch their business idea to the Commissioner and the audience.

Moderator: Technology Center Merinova, Marketing Director Robert Olander

Pitches:  
- LumiTar, Sales Director Ismo Aukee  
- WE Tech, CEO Märten Storbacka  
- Arcteq, CEO Juha Arvola  
- Uwira, CEO Samuli Kuusisto  
- There Corporation, Head of Sales and Marketing Ilkka Palola

Comment by Member of the European Parliament Miapetra Kumpula-Natri

Comment speech, Executive Director Teija Lahti-Nuuttila  
Tekes: Innovations as a path to growth

**14.30**  
Coffee break and mini-exhibition

**15.00**  
Panel discussion: How do the current EU and Finnish energy policies support growth?  
Moderator: Vaasa University of Applied Sciences, President Tauno Kekäle  
Participants: Vice-President of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič, MEP Petri Sarvamaa, Wärtsilä Finland, CEO Stefan Damlin, ABB, CTO Heikki Uusitalo, Danfoss Drives, Senior Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Service Heikki Hiltunen, Åbo Akademi, Professor Margareta Wihersaari

**16.15**  
Closing remarks

Follow and debate on Twitter #kasvunkaravaani

More information and registration: www.energyvaasa.fi