



Interview



The Campaign Team
from COFACE

Campaign for 2014 to be the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life

The European Year 2014 Alliance is an open, informal co-operation of interested stakeholders that work in the realm of reconciliation issues and committed to work as well as advocate together for 2014 to be the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life. The members of the Alliance plan to define clear conditions of future co-operations between the partners of the platform concerning preparation, lobby, implementation and evaluation activities of the EY2014. The main objectives of the Alliance are to build consensus and identify priority issues, possible outcomes of the European Year; coordinate and manage joint projects and share and disseminate information.

EUROPE III: The EU2014 Alliance and supportive MEPs initiated a Written Declaration in the European Parliament for 2014 to be the 'European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life'. The campaign to collect at least 378 signatures started in October, 2012. Where are you now, how many MEPs signed the Declaration?

We have informed and mobilised all the MEPs and we got the support for our initiative from a lot of them! We succeeded in collecting 388 (more than half of the European Parliament supports us!) signatures in the end. We are particularly grateful to the four MEPs who have co-signed the Written Declaration, Marian Harkin, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Roberta Angelilli and Jutta Steinruck. Without their engagement and without the support of our Member Organisations, and partners in the 2014 Alliance, it would not have been possible to obtain this fantastic result.

EUROPE III: A couple of years ago your first initiative talked about making 2014 the European Year for the Well-being of Families celebrating the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. For what reasons did you tailor the topic?

To promote the well being of families is still our general objective. The recent Quality of life survey from Eurofound found that the quality of life is greatly influenced by work-life balance.

Labour market policies and the issue of work-life balance is also a topic that features heavily in the EU2020 strategy, and as we want to work closely with the European Commission, European Institutions, and the European Parliament we feel that this issue is of mutual interest and competence. In fact it features regularly in EU policy documents, as in the latest European Commission Recommendation on Child poverty as well, in addition to being very important to the families themselves.

EUROPE III: Why do you think it is important to have a European Year that is dealing with family and work related issues in 2014?

The European Years are a fantastic opportunity to profile a topic that is of every day concern to the citizens, the women,

men and children in Europe. They also play special role in advocating and especially communicating about the work of the European Institutions towards EU citizens, create possibility for joint European and national level discourse, cooperation or mobilisation of different subjects. We have been very actively involved in previous European Years since 2007, we can see the value of giving a platform for a transversal topic that merits to be explored in more detail, seek solutions, share best practices, and especially involve the different stakeholders, who otherwise don't necessarily talk. And a European Year is a great opportunity and vehicle for this.

EUROPE III: The operational programme of the present Presidency Trio states that "designating 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life would help improving the social situation of families by triggering a reflection on the necessary responses to the far-reaching societal challenges in this context". How is the Alliance reacting/reflecting on this statement?

This is what we would like to do during the year, namely to manage a multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder dialogue with active involvement from whole of the society; the employers, the policy and decision makers and families about how to make the balance of work and family life a win/win situation and how to serve the best interest of children, but at the same time enabling parents and carers to be active on the labour market. The ageing population with a steady decline in the overall population numbers will take us to an unprecedented new situation in Europe. But even if you think of all the unemployed young people in Spain, Greece, they cannot afford a place to live, founding a family is probably the last thing on their minds. We need the social dialogue about work/family life to find pragmatic, sustainable solutions that will work for everybody. The issue of gender equality is another transversal topic that would be high on the agenda of the year, as more than 90% of carers are women.

EUROPE III: Why did you choose „penguins“ as a symbol for your campaign?

The initial idea came from the Polish Presidency that organised a conference on reconciliation in 2011, and used the Penguin as the symbol. The main reason COFACE liked it was because penguins, in particular the males and females of the Emperor Penguin do share the job of hatching the egg and taking care of the little ones, the film The March of the Penguins shows this very well. In addition as we are a family organisation representing all families, we are always trying to find an illustration or picture that can express this. Using the Penguins partly solves this discussion.

EUROPE III: If you succeed, what outcomes are you hoping for as a result of the European Year at an EU level and/or at member states' level in the interest of families?

There are no one size fits all solutions. What experience shows, is creating the conditions for a good work-life balance is a choice of individuals. These are the CEOs, Directors, Majors, employers in general and policy as well as decision makers. Already little changes in the work-culture can have a positive impact on the lives of family members and carers. We need a social dialogue on the work/life balance from a life-course perspective. We would like to achieve a common understanding and appreciation for the need for good reconciliation measures, which contribute to a more loyal, more productive workforce, more quality family time, and better mental health, to name a few beneficial effects. Policy makers must further invest in available, affordable and quality care for children, those family members living with a disability and the ill and elderly. We also would like to open a debate and challenge the existing stereotypes and mentality about the participation of men in these tasks. Re-opening the discussion on Leave schemes would hopefully create the possibility for concrete actions and political commitments for European and national level policy makers, and we would like to deliver the European Reconciliation Package, a political document prepared by the European Year 2014 Alliance, which will include European level minimum standards on reconciliation measures, recommendations and proposals to all involved stakeholders in work-life balance practices and policies.

EUROPE III: What level of co-operation do you envisage and expect from the EESC in supporting and promoting your campaign?

The three groups of the EESC are a great opportunity for us to bring together the employers, the workers and the various interests group for a social/civil dialogue. The EESC has always been an important partner for COFACE, we are grateful for the continued support. Similar to previous years, we would like to propose to the EESC to facilitate a consultation or hearing among its members and additional stakeholders to discuss reconciliation and the related policy issues. This would provide us with great insight into the expectations of others towards the year.



To find out a lot more about the campaign and the EU 2014 Alliance, please visit:

http://eyf2014.wordpress.com/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=8b04458207-COFACE_s_2012_Annual_Report2_19_2013&utm_medium=email

<http://eyf2014.wordpress.com/partners/>



Food waste is the subject of an own-initiative opinion that is being submitted to the March plenary session, and the topic has been the focus of a number of recent initiatives. At EU level, the European Parliament adopted a resolution in January 2012 on the strategy for a more efficient food chain, which called on the Commission to take practical steps to reduce food waste by 50% by 2025. For its part, the Commission is currently drafting a Communication on sustainable food, which is due to be published at the end of this year. In Belgium, the city of Brussels has adopted a "sustainable canteens" scheme, which the EESC and the CoR have been involved in since 2011.

The scale and causes of food waste:

Over the coming years, food production will have to rise steeply if it is to meet the needs of an ever growing population. With a view to using the available resources more sparingly, we will also have to tackle the problem of food waste. According to the FAO, the average consumer in Europe and North America wastes between 95 and 115 kg of food per year. This huge problem affects various parts of the food chain and is seen worldwide. However, the situation in the developing countries is rather different from that in the industrialised world. In the former, food losses tend to occur at the beginning of the chain and are caused by pests, adverse climate events or inadequate infrastructure, while nearer to home it is more of a behavioural problem, occurring at the end of the food chain.

Food waste has an environmental, economic and social impact. Its environmental impact increases the degradable part of waste and encourages wastage of the resources needed to produce the products being discarded. In economic terms, waste entails financial losses at various stages in the chain, and increases the cost of waste management. And in social terms, it creates a real ethical problem at a time when EU statistics point to an upsurge in poverty.

Preventing and limiting food losses and food waste:

Overall, however, there is an increasing awareness of the problem, both on the part of politicians and civil society. Consideration of the matter suggests a number of possible avenues for minimising food waste. For instance, we need:

- to devise a definition and common EU methodology for quantifying food losses and food waste, in order to ensure that policies are consistent;
- to use existing platforms for exchanging experience on the subject, in order to promote the initiatives which prove most effective;
- to encourage retailers and caterers to donate surplus products that are still fit for consumption to food banks, and promote successful schemes already found in the Member States;
- to consider training as part of the solution, by including the fight against food waste in course plans for future food professionals;
- to communicate with consumers, by means of general awareness raising and more practical schemes;
- to step up research at all stages of the chain (production techniques, packaging, etc.);
- at the primary production stage, to make inter-sectoral tools more effective and promote low food-mile systems.

Clearly, the fight against food losses and food waste is a highly topical issue, and the Committee's opinion is perfectly timed, in view of the various initiatives underway.



SOME ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND COMMENT:



Maureen O'NEILL (UK)
Vice-President of Group III
President-elect of the SOC Section

In 2010 the Commission published the EU 2020 Strategy. One of the flagship initiatives was the Platform against Poverty with the aim of reducing poverty in the Member States by 20 million by 2020. Since then financial crisis has hit all Member States and austerity measures have been introduced. We are far from reducing poverty at the rate envisaged but rather see even more people becoming impoverished as jobs are lost, social protection is reduced and services under increasing strain.

At the same time we are involved in wasting food just as the call on food banks is increasing in countries where we had thought that this was a thing of the past. We waste food because the rules on health and safety sometimes get in the way of re-distribution and we have become accustomed to having plenty of food, so perhaps we have become careless with this valuable resource.

There is a fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived and the EESC voted on this proposal at its Plenary in February (SOC/473EESC Opinion 2450/2012 - Rapporteur Mr Balon GR III). It is of course an indictment of our situation that there is increasing need on food banks and distribution programmes but essential in the current circumstances. We have to be serious in upholding the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights which enshrines the right to '...food, clothing, housing and medical care...' and equally reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union. This is a glaring example of how society is becoming polarised – too much for some and far too little for others.

To read the EESC Opinion SOC/473, please click here: http://eescopinions.eesc.europa.eu/EESCOpinionDocument.aspx?identifier=ces\soc\soc473\ces2450-2012_00_00_tra_ac.doc&language=EN

The UN Declaration on Human Rights can be consulted here: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union are available via this link: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/default_en.htm

Group III Members in the Spotlight playing a key role



Pavel TRANTINA (CZ)
Vice-President of the Various Interests Group

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR VOLUNTEERING ESTABLISHED

At a meeting, held in Brussels on 8 February 2013, representatives of 6 European networks and organisations active in the area of Volunteering formally established the European Alliance for Volunteering. The EAV also elected a President, Pavel TRANTINA (CZ), who was nominated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. In his acceptance speech, Pavel said: "In two years' time, I see the EAV as a well-established, fully functional platform with a membership reaching 20-30 pan-European networks dealing with volunteering. And as a reliable partner of the EU institutions, pushing forward P.A.V.E. (the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe) it will make visible the work of its member organisations and, being considered as the main resource of expertise in the field, be able to recommend specialists from its member organisations."

To find out more information on EAV and read their aims and objectives, please check-out their FB page here: <https://www.facebook.com/volunteeringalliance>

OTHER NEWS THAT MATTERS



We welcome our new stagiaire to the Group Secretariat. She is Marija PUSELJA, from Croatia, who has a background in journalism and photography and is an IT and communications specialist. We look forward to working with her closely on a number of projects and events over the coming months.

News from Group III

President Barroso urges mobilisation of 'pro-Europeans'



At its plenary session in Brussels on Wednesday 13 February 2013, the EESC held an extensive and passionate debate with the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso on the outcome of the recent European Council and in particular, the MMF agreement on the financing of the EU from 2014-2020. The entire session, of 1 hour and 20 minutes long, has been published on the BBC website and can be viewed here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/europe-21457622>

To listen to the interventions of the President of the Various Interests Group, Luca JAHIER (IT) scroll on to 36 minutes and 25 seconds and to hear that of Group III member and Vice-President-elect of the EESC in charge of Communication, Jane MORRICE (UK), scroll to 48 minutes and 43 seconds.

Girl-power!



President Luca JAHIER (IT) shares a congratulatory drink with (from the left) current Vice-President of the Various Interests Group, Maureen O' NEILL (UK), who has been elected as the next President of the SOC Section, Group III member, Dilyana SLAVOVA (BG), who has been elected as the next President of the NAT Section and Group III member, Jane MORRICE (UK) who is the Vice-President elect of the EESC, future President of the Communication Group.



In addition, Group III member, Carlos TRIAS PINTO (ES), (photo on the right) has been nominated as the next President of the CCMI.

Croatia calling...



President Luca JAHIER (IT) (centre) addresses a gathering of civil society representatives during a consultation meeting in Zagreb on Wednesday 20 February 2013. Also in attendance were the three nominees to become members of the Various Interests Group, when Croatia joins the EU in July 2013. The presentations were followed by a lively Q & A session and an exchange of views with the audience, which number about 55 persons.

Please see article in the EC publication, page 5 second item: http://delhrv.ec.europa.eu/files/file/bilteni/EUbulletin_no56.pdf

OUR GROUP'S STRENGTH



The "Social Economy Category" met on 22 February 2013. The first item on the order of business was the election of the spokesperson to lead the Category throughout the second half-mandate from 2013-2015. Having presented his candidature and outlined his future vision for the development of the Category, Miguel Ángel Cabra De Luna (ES) was re-elected, unopposed, by a large majority vote. This was then followed by a brainstorming session on the Category's Work Programme for 2013-2014. During the rest of the morning, members listened to presentations and had exchanges of views on: "Social Impact Measurement" with Ulrich Grabenwarter, Head of Strategic Development, European Investment Fund, Jose Luis Monzon, President, CIRIEC Spain, University of Valencia and Carmen Marcuello, CIRIEC Spain, University of Zaragoza and, finally, Ancuta Vamesu of the Institute on Social Economy outlined the situation concerning the "Atlas of Social Economy" in Romania.

To consult the full agenda and read the presentations, please visit our website: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.social-economy-category-documents.26045>

The "Consumers and Environment Category" held their first meeting of this year on 28 February 2013. The first item on the agenda was the election of the spokesperson to lead the category in the second half-mandate 2013-2015 and following a vote, Reine Claude Mader (FR), was re-elected.

When the meeting proper got underway, three Group III members made presentations on a series of important issues which are of concern to the category. Firstly, Richard Adams (UK), Rapporteur for the ongoing opinion TEN/503 "Exploring the needs and methods of public involvement and engagement in the energy policy field", briefed the members on the progress of his opinion and proposal to explore the creation of a civil society dialogue on energy issues. Then he reported back on his participation in the Forum of the Citizens' Energy. Next, Mrs Mader spoke about the importance of co-ordinating and achieving a balanced representation of the members of the category in different bodies of the EESC, after the midterm renewal in April 2013. This was followed by a presentation by, Evangelia Kekeleki (EL) on: "The impact of the crisis: poverty and consumption". Finally, the members were informed on events planned during the year.

To consult the full agenda for this category meeting and read the presentations, please visit our website at: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.consumers-and-environment-category-documents.26046>

The "SMEs, Crafts and Professions Category" held a full agenda all-day meeting on 5 March 2013. Following some words of introduction from the Spokespersons, the members conducted an exchange of views on the prospects of the Category for the period 2013-2015. This was followed by presentations of the "Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan" by Luc Hendrickx,

UEAPME, Director Competitiveness of Enterprises, External Relations, Legal Affairs and Ben Butters, EUROCHAMBRES, Director EU Affairs. To round off the morning, Peter Wagg, European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry D.2, Head of Unit, Business co-operation and business support, gave an overview of the "Enterprise Europe Network"

The afternoon session began with the participation of Othmar Karas, Vice-president of the European Parliament and President of the SME Intergroup, welcomed by Arno Metzler (DE), Vice-president of Group III and member of the Category, and Thomas Palmgren (FI), spokesperson for the Category, which lead into a debate on: "The SME dialogue and SME Intergroup's focus in 2013". Mr Karas welcomed the current cooperation with the Category and traced new paths for its continuation in the future. He highlighted the importance for MEPs and members of the EESC to make sure that member States take the necessary measures to implement European guidelines concerning SMEs and Liberal Professions, according to their national sphere of competence. Then Christos Kyriatzis, European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry A.2, Deputy Head of the Unit International affairs and Missions for Growth addressed the topic of "Small Business Big World". Next came a presentation by Sylvia Gotzen, Secretary General of FIGIEFA (Fédération Internationale des Grossistes Importateurs et Exportateurs en Fournitures Automobiles), on "SMEs: Right to Repair Campaign (R2RC) and compliance with competition principles".

To conclude the day, Thomas Palmgren opened a debate on the possible input and contribution of the category to the Extraordinary meeting of Group III being held on 6 June 2013 on: "Fair access to credit and to saving plans".

To consult the full agenda for this category meeting, please visit our website at: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.smes-professions-and-crafts-category-documents.26047>

As previously announced, the "Farmers' Category" will hold a meeting on 26 March 2013. The first item on the agenda will be the election of the spokesperson to lead the category in the second half-mandate 2013-2015. Then, the members will exchange ideas on establishing their work programme for 2013, followed by presentations by category members on the state of agriculture in their country.

The draft agenda for this category meeting can be read shortly here: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.farmers-category-documents.26048>

More information on the work of the categories can be found on our website, by contacting the spokespersons of the categories, or the Secretariat of Group III at: gr3@eesc.europa.eu.

Overview of our Members' Work in the EESC

At its plenary session on 13-14 February 2013 the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the following opinions for which Group III members were Rapporteurs or Co-Rapporteurs.



Bernardo HERNÁNDEZ BATALLER (ES) – INT/670 “Harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment” (EESC opinion 164/2013)

In this opinion, the EESC states that the Commission and the Member States must ensure that products entering the EU market from non-EU countries meet the directive's requirements and calls for further details regarding the nature of penalties, the definition of offences, and the minimum threshold for the penalties at the supranational level, even if these are ensured by the Member States' legislation. A new marking system that establishes the origin of products and ensures their traceability to improve consumer information should be created. The current marking system does not ensure that products have undergone a quality and safety assurance process. There is a need to develop a proactive industrial policy that better reflects the balance between the capacities of producers, a technical and regulatory framework for intellectual property rights and, above all, the types of products that can meet common standards, rules and harmonised procedures. Technical and regulatory standards should be adopted in line with the principles of New Approach Standardisation. The EESC advocates the same level of competence for notified bodies, more stringent selection criteria, and harmonised conformity assessment procedures and has highlighted its concerns about the “delegated acts” set out in the proposal.

Bernardo HERNÁNDEZ BATALLER (ES) – TEN/497 “Harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment” (EESC opinion 2302/2012)

The Committee supports the Commission's approach to promoting the shared use of radio spectrum resources in the internal market. The EESC hopes that the use of allocated spectrum will be maximised, with personal data being fully secured and private, so that European consumers will be reaping the full advantages of this entire strategy. To this purpose, any legislation adopted must guarantee a high level of protection for consumers, as well as economic, social and territorial cohesion, in order to prevent the digital divide growing wider, towards a two-speed information society. Job creation must

also be an objective when introducing the shared use of spectrum, in order to increase the level of employment and enhance the competitiveness of the European economy, without distorting free competition. This is also an opportunity to press ahead for more R&D and innovative technologies in this area. The Committee therefore calls on the Commission, rather than simply promoting spectrum liberalisation, to ensure that greater competition among spectrum operators leads to net job creation. Moreover, in line with the EU 2020 Strategy, special attention should be paid to the situation in Member States that are affected by the economic and fiscal crisis. Finally the EESC hopes that the Commission will adopt a recommendation on a common format for shared spectrum access rights and a common terminology for documenting sharing conditions and sharing rules.



Krzysztof BALON (PL) – SOC/473 “Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived” (EESC opinion 2450/2012)

The EESC endorses the underlying principles of the draft regulation. At the same time, the Committee notes that the financial resources are not sufficient to achieve the Fund's aims. The budget of this new fund should be commensurate with the objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy to reduce the number of people living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion. The level of the budget should not differ from the amount of resources allocated to the existing material assistance programmes. The Committee favours fully financing the new fund from the EU budget (without co-financing), as was the case for material assistance programmes in previous years and supports the simplified procedures and reduction in the administrative burden and it cautions against the possible use by the Member States of the complex procedures of the European Social Fund. Moreover, it welcomes the provisions providing partner organisations with a sufficient level of liquidity and the fact that the fund will also cover administrative, transport and storage costs and finance the capacity building of partner organisations. The EESC calls for the inclusion of civil society organisations in the process of monitoring and assessing the operational programmes of the new fund at Member State level. In conclusions, the Committee calls on the national governments to define, in cooperation with civil society organisations, the position and role of the new fund so that it effectively complements other action taken under national strategies and plans to combat poverty and social exclusion, including action supported by the European Social Fund.



Luca JAHIER (IT) – SC/036 “The statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations” (EESC opinion 920/2013)

In this opinion, for which President Jahier was a Co-Rapporteur, the EESC supports both the creation of a single European statute for European political parties and foundations and the review of how their operation is monitored, with a view to improving their effectiveness, visibility, transparency, accountability and internal party democracy. As such, the EESC particularly stresses the need for parties and foundations covered by this statute to subscribe to the objectives of the European project and to the fundamental values underlying it, as laid down in the European treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. With regard to the criteria for eligibility for funding, the EESC feels that the criterion of having one elected member of the European Parliament is not appropriate, particularly given that voting procedures – and thus the conditions for success – vary widely between Member States.

The Committee, therefore, suggests that representativeness should be referred to in a way that is less likely to create arbitrary discrimination. It suggests taking inspiration from the criteria established for European Citizens' Initiatives (ECIs) in this connection, and setting the requirement of having obtained at least one million votes across at least seven countries at the last European elections. The EESC also takes issue with the inequality of treatment between European political parties and foundations, on the one hand, and European-level associations and foundations with more general objectives, on the other (e.g. economic, trade-union, social, humanitarian, cultural, environmental or sporting associations, etc.). The EESC therefore once again laments the Commission's decision, several years ago, to withdraw the draft statute for a European association. In conclusion, the Committee also reiterates its concerns regarding the barriers to the registration of companies with European statutes, whether they come down to the unattractiveness of the existing statute, which it sees as a real fiasco, or to persistent delays and obstacles in developing a simplified statute that is available to a significant number of businesses of all sizes. It also reiterates its support for the draft statute for a European foundation currently being examined by the European Parliament and Council.

NOTE: The complete texts of all EESC opinions are available in various language versions on the Committee's website: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.opinions-search>

Highlights of the February 2013 EESC Plenary Session

Group III members co-ordinating the work on new opinions

Mr Luca JAHIER (IT) is the Rapporteur for the opinion on: “The social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union” – SC/038.

Mr Jorge PEGADO LIZ (PT) is the President of the study group for the opinion on: “Insolvency proceedings” – INT/680.

Mr Antonio LONGO (IT) is the President of the study groups for the opinions on: “Setting up a European retail action plan” – INT/682 and also on: “Unfair trading practices in the business to business food and non-food supply chain in Europe” – INT/683

Mr Bernardo HERNÁNDEZ BATALLER (ES) is the Rapporteur for the opinion on: “General product safety” – INT/684 and also the own-initiative on: “Collaborative consumption: a sustainable model for the 21st century” – INT/686.

Mr Arno METZLER (DE) is the Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “The role and future of the professions in European civil society 2020” – INT/687.

Mrs Benedicte FEDERSPIEL (DK) is the Rapporteur for the additional opinion on: “The Single Market Act - identifying missing measures” – INT/688.

Mr Etele BARÁTH (HU) is the President of the study group for the own-initiative opinion on: “The development of a Macro-Regional Strategy for the development of the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the Mediterranean Basin” – ECO/342.

Mr Krzysztof PATER (PL) is the Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “The use of statistical tools for measuring volunteering and other activities of the benefit to society” – ECO/343.

Mr Carlos TRIÁS PINTO (ES) is the President of the study group for the opinion on: “Information accompanying transfers of funds: prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing” – ECO/344.

Mr Tomáš DOMONKOS (SK) is the President of the study group for the opinion on: “Implementing the enhanced cooperation in the area of financial transaction tax” – ECO/345.

Mrs Ariane RODERT (SE) is the President of the study group for the opinion on: “Social Investment Package” – SOC/481.

Mr Séamus BOLAND (IE) is the Co-Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “European Minimum Income and poverty indicators” – SOC/482.

Mr Pedro NARRO (ES) is the Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “Integrated production in Europe” – NAT/596.

Mr Gabriel SARRÓ IPARRAGUIRRE (ES) is the sole Rapporteur for the opinion on: “Ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy/Community control system” – NAT/597.

Prof. Gerd WOLF (DE) is the President of the study group for the opinion on: “The European GNSS Agency” – TEN/514.

Mr Ioannis VARDAKASTANIS (EL) is the Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “Accessibility as a human right for persons with disabilities and for persons with reduced mobility” – TEN/515.

Mr Bernardo HERNÁNDEZ BATALLER (ES) is the Co-Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “For coordinated European measures to prevent and combat energy poverty” – TEN/516.

Mr Arno METZLER (DE) is the President of the study group for the own-initiative opinion on: “The challenges of the European engineering industry (mechanical, electrical, electronic and metalworking) in a changing global economy” – CCM/110.

Mr Thierry LIBAERT (FR) is the Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “Reducing built-in obsolescence: Towards a framework on lifetimes for industrial products” – CCM/112.

Mr Viliam PÁLENÍK (SK) is the Rapporteur for the information report on: “The impact of demographic change on industry and the role of regional, national and European industrial policy in tackling imbalanced age pyramids” – CCM/113.

Mr Ludvík JÍROVEC (CZ) is the Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “Incentivising the growth potential of the European beer industry” – CCM/114.



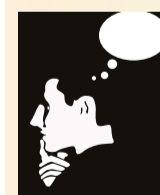
Mr Pedro NARRO (ES) is the Rapporteur for the own-initiative opinion on: “EU-Morocco Trade Relations” – REX/378.

Mr Richard BALFE (UK) is the President of the study group for the information report on: “Managing water-related challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region” – REX/379.

Mrs Evelyne PICHENOT (FR) is the President of the study group for the own-initiative opinion on: “Securing essential imports for the EU – through current EU trade and related policies” – REX/383.

The full listing of membership of the study groups for the new work may be consulted here: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.group-3-new-study-groups>

Quote of the month...



“If you wish to understand what Revolution is, call it Progress; and if you wish to understand what Progress is, call it... Tomorrow.”

Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

French poet, novelist, dramatists, political refugee, self-proclaimed “free-thinker”, ardent campaigner for the abolition of capital punishment (the death penalty), a strong vocal critic of social injustice and a champion of human rights

Above quote from “Les Misérables” - Completed and published in Brussels in 1862
http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE_en/minisite_miserables150/victor-hugo-and-brussels.do
http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE_en/minisite_miserables150/victor-hugo-walk.do
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_hugo