



European Economic and Social Committee

**LIAISON GROUP
WITH EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS**

MANDATE OF THE LIAISON GROUP

1. *Exchange of information and views on the respective work programmes and important events;*
2. *Identifying themes on which cooperation would be appropriate and possible;*
3. *Examining the feasibility of and practical arrangements for an increased involvement the networks in the EESC's consultative work;*
4. *Consultation or cooperation on preparations for certain hearings, seminars, conferences, etc.;*
5. *Studying any other matters of common interest, e.g. in the context of dialogue with the EU institutions, such as:*
 - *the role of organised civil society in the democratic life of the Union;*
 - *interpretation and implementation of Article I-47 of the draft constitutional treaty on the principle of participatory democracy: how to put participatory democracy into practice and how to organise civil dialogue;*
 - *the representativeness of civil society organisations other than the social partners;*
 - *funding of NGOs.*

Extract of Bloch-Lainé's report

"The proposed title for this contact group is the "***Liaison group with European organisations and networks***".

The contact group's remit would be to ensure that the EESC has a coordinated approach vis-à-vis European civil society organisations and networks and the follow-up of joint initiatives. It should also reinforce the visibility of the EESC's work as regards these organisations and networks.

.../...

Tasks of the contact group

More specifically, the contact group's remit would be to exchange views and information on:

- the respective priorities and work programmes, in particular with regard to the implementation of the EESC's semi-annual work programme¹ and the respective work programmes of European civil society organisations and networks represented within the contact group;
- any other important topic of mutual concern.

It could also be instrumental in joint or cooperative initiatives or events on horizontal topics."

¹

On the basis of the semi-annual document concerning the principal activities of the Committee in the context of the successive presidencies of the Council of the European Union.