



European Economic
and Social Committee

NEWSLETTER

European ESC



CESlink : Online Cooperation between
Economic and Social Councils

Presentation

Dear Sir, Madam,

*It is my pleasure to send you the **71th edition of the Newsletter** on the work of the European Economic and Social Committee and the key issues from the European institutions. This newsletter is created with the aim to inform you on the main activities of the EESC and the most relevant events in the EU context.*

*As you know, one of the main issues on which the EU institutions and the EESC are focusing at present is the **EU 2020 Strategy**. In this context, the EU 2020 Steering Committee, chaired by our EESC member, Mr. Van Iersel (NL) and created to strengthen the cooperation between the EESC and the national ESCs, met on 25 November and discussed key issues, i.e. the 7 flagship initiatives and the National Reform Programmes (NRP) targets. The Commission attended the meeting and it was stressed the central role of the Member States for a good outcome of the process. I look forward to an effective contribution from all the organised civil society in the process of identifying and promoting initiatives and best practices in the ongoing reform process in the Member States. I also point out the importance of an active participation of the national ESCs at the next Steering Committee meeting in early 2011.*

In the next year I will pursue my visits at your premises, in order to discuss common strategies.

I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Staffan NILSSON,
President

☞ **Main opinions adopted at the Plenary Session of 19, 20 and 21 October 2010**

☞ You will find the information concerning the opinions on : <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.opinions-search>

→ **Summary of opinions**

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|---|------------------------------|
| → Renewal of the Community Method | Mr MALOSSE (GR I – FR) |
| → The implications of the sovereign debt crisis for EU governance | Mr SMYTH (GR III – UK) |
| → Combating trafficking in human beings | Mr IONU (GR III – RO) |
| → European Year for Active Ageing | Ms HEINISCH (GR III - DE) |
| → Clean and energy efficient vehicles | Mr MORGAN (GR I – UK) |
| → International Climate Policy post Copenhagen | Mr BUFFETAUT (GR I – FR) |
| → Private and public investment | Mr HUVELIN (GR I – FR) |
| → VAT/ Minimum standard rate | Mr IOZIA (GR II – IT) |
| → Financial participation in Europe | Mr VON SCHWERIN (GR II – DE) |
| → Transatlantic relations and the international promotion of the European social model | Ms BATUT (GR II – FR) |

☞ **Main debates and opinions at the agenda of the Plenary Session of 8 and 9 December 2010**

- This session will see the participation of Ms Joëlle Milquet, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment and Equal Opportunities, in charge of migration and asylum policy.
- Furthermore, a statement will be made by Mr Dacian Ciolos, EU Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Finally, the session will see the presence of His Excellency, Mr Vladimir Chizhov, Ambassador, Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the EU.

→ A Digital Agenda for Europe	Mr McDONOUGH (GR I – IE)
→ Relations EU-Russia	Mr VOLES (GR I – CZ)
→ State Aid: closure of coal mines	Mr PEZZINI (GR I – IT)
→ Credit rating agencies	Mr CEDRONE (GR II – IT)
→ OTC derivatives: central counterparties	Mr IOZIA (GR II – IT)
→ Right to information in criminal proceedings	Mr PEZZINI (GR I – IT)
→ Security of supply in agriculture and in the food sector in the EU	Mr KRAUZE (GR III – LV)
→ GMO: restrictions of cultivation in Member States	Mr GRUBER (GR III – AT)
→ Approval of agricultural and forestry vehicles	Mr JIROVEC (GR III – CZ)
→ Energy Strategy for 2011-2020	Mr HERNANDEZ BATALLER (GR III – ES)

To consult the draft agenda of the plenary session and related documents, click on next link : [Agenda of the plenary session](#)

News from the European institutions

[Europe2020 Steering Committee Meeting](#) (25.11.2010 - EESC)



Mr J. VAN IERSEL, Chair of the Europe2020 Steering Committee

Contact <mailto:andrea.salviati@eesc.europa.eu>

We welcome all your comments. Just e-mail us using this link: [suggestions](#).

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"Interinstitutional relations, relations with national ESCs"