



European Economic and Social Committee

EESC info

European Economic and Social Committee

A bridge between Europe and organised civil Society

May 2018 | EN

EESC INFO - SPECIAL ISSUE: NEW EESC LEADERSHIP

Available Languages:

bg cs da de el en es et fi fr hr hu it lt lv mt nl pl pt ro sk sl sv

Editorial



Dear readers,

It is a pleasure for me, as the new EESC vice-president for Communication, to open this special issue of our newsletter dedicated to the mid-term renewal of the EESC's most senior positions.

At its April plenary session, the EESC elected a new leadership to steer its work over the next two and a half years, with Luca Jahier as its president. In this supplement, we present to you the names and faces that will represent European civil society at the highest level and express your views, deliver your expertise and voice your concerns in Brussels in the thirty months to come.

This will be no easy task as daunting challenges loom ahead: the 2019 European elections will be a major test of strength and the EU will need all the energies and synergies it can muster to win out over the Eurosceptic forces that have been gathering momentum since the crisis. At the same time, the divorce bill with the UK needs to be negotiated and a new Multiannual Financial Framework drawn up for this new scenario. We will indeed have a lot on our plate.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, there are many other women besides myself in the new leadership. Hopefully, we will bring fresh perspectives, new strengths and novel solutions to help face Europe's many challenges, keeping an eye on social cohesion, which is at the heart of the EESC's concerns.

Communication will be an essential part of Europe's toolkit. Developing a counter-narrative of Europe's true achievements and strengths and deploying it patiently and systematically to beat the Eurosceptics' blame game will be our task as communicators in this challenging context.

We will do our utmost to rise to the task, and I wish all my fellow members a fruitful two and a half years serving European civil society.

Isabel Caño Aguilar

EESC Vice-President for Communication

In short

New face of the EESC Bureau

As of April 18, the EESC has a renewed Bureau in addition to a new president and vice-presidents.

The 39-member strong body comprises the following members:

Employers' Group

Workers' Group

Diversity Europe Group

[Christa SCHWENG](#)

[Ferre WYCKMANS](#)

[Ronny LANNOO](#)



[Milena ANGELOVA](#)

[Andreas PAVLIKKAS](#)

[Dilyana SLAVOVA](#)

[Bernd DITTMANN](#)

[Lucie STUDNIČNÁ](#)

[Arno METZLER](#)

[Irina Ivant PAV](#)

[Gabriele BISCHOFF](#)

[Benedicte FEDERSPIEL](#)

[Stéphane BUFFETAUT](#)

[Berni FALLENKAMP](#)

[Meelis JOOST](#)

[Mauro RAALE](#)

[Isabel CAÑO AGUILAR](#)

[Lidija PAVIĆ-ROGOŠIĆ](#)

[Gintaris MORKIS](#)

[Markus PENTTINEN](#)

[John BRYAN](#)

[Vītālijs GAVRILOVS](#)

[Pierre Jean COULON](#)

[Luca JAHIER](#)

[Stefano MALLIA](#)

[Erika KOLLER](#)

[Josiane WILLEMS](#)

[Jacek KRAWCZYK](#)

[Stefano PALMIERI](#)

[Jan DIRX](#)

[Aurel Laurențiu PLOSCEANU](#)

[João DIAS DA SILVA](#)

[Karolina DRESZER-SMALEC](#)

[Karin EKENGER](#)

[Andrej ZORKO](#)

[Ariane RODERT](#)

[Jože SMOLE](#)

[Agnes TOLMIE](#)

[Rudolf KROPIL](#)

The Bureau is the body that makes political decisions at the EESC. Its main task is to organise and coordinate the work of the EESC's bodies and to lay down policy guidelines for this work.

It is made up of the president, the two vice-presidents, the three group presidents and the section presidents, and must include at least one - and a maximum of three - representatives from each Member State.

EESC News

[**rEUnaissance: The new president of the EESC vows to revive civic engagement for a sustainable Europe**](#)



Italy's **Luca Jahier** has been elected as the 32nd president of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which he will head for the next two and a half years, together with his two new vice-presidents, **Milena Angelova** (Bulgaria) for budget and **Isabel Caño Aguilar** (Spain) for communication.

In an inspiring speech, delivered on 18 April at the EESC plenary, which marked the end of the presidency of **Georges Dassis**, the new president set out the four priorities of his programme: **sustainable development, promotion of peace, strengthening the role of culture** and **giving a voice to Europe's young people**.

"I invite all of you to join me in a strong civic engagement for our sustainable European future. I invite you to dream with me of a re-energised Europe and to work together for a

shining example of gender equality, with many senior positions filled by women.

Europe - still plagued by high levels of poverty and the unresolved migration crisis, as well as by the low levels of trust in democratic institutions - would benefit from a powerful humanistic revolution and a transformation similar to that of the Renaissance, **Mr Jahier** added, hoping that his four priorities "for a unifying agenda for the future" could give this "**rEUnaissance**" a real chance.

Commending the work of his predecessor, **Mr Dassis**, on important issues such as migration, the social pillar and the future of Europe, **Mr Jahier** said he would continue on this path and would strive to further improve the EESC's role in fighting against nationalistic and populist trends as well as addressing the shrinking civic space.

"For the Europe of tomorrow, we must have the courage; we must dare to *imagine* a new world. There is no time to waste, as so many defeats in history can be summarised in two words: too late," **Mr Jahier** concluded.

In their inaugural speeches, the two vice-presidents talked about the importance of the EESC's work.

"The EESC has a unique and key role to play here, being in a position to present the balanced view of the social partners and organised civil society on how to work together more effectively to achieve a more united and more federal Europe," said **Ms Angelova**.

Ms Caño Aguilar, said: "The Committee is the real point of dialogue, the bridge between the European institutions and the machinery that keeps everything moving. And in this role, we must listen and speak out."

Watch Luca Jahier's inaugural speech following his election as the new president of the EESC. (II)

[Spanish member Isabel Caño Aguilar elected as EESC vice-president for communication](#)



Isabel Caño Aguilar from Spain, member of the Workers' Group, will be one of the two vice-presidents of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for a two-and-a-half year term from 2018 to 2020. She will be responsible for communication matters. She will fill one of the senior positions in the EESC along with **the newly elected president Luca Jahier from Italy**, former president of the Various Interests' Group, and vice-president **Milena Angelova from Bulgaria**, member of the Employers' Group, who will be the vice-president for budgetary matters.

After her election, the vice-president in charge of communication, **Isabel Caño Aguilar**, said: "The EESC is a real point of dialogue, the bridge between the European institutions and Europe's citizens. And in this role, we must listen and speak out. Under my specific communication responsibilities, we will reinforce the communication on what Europe is about and where the Committee's responsibility lies in constructing Europe. I believe we must make our points of view better heard and use local initiatives to report on the real situation on the ground. Only in this way will we be able to contribute to improving living and working conditions on our continent."

Click [here](#) for Ms Isabel Caño Aguilar's profile (jk)

[Bulgarian member Milena Angelova is new EESC vice-president for budget](#)



Milena Angelova from Bulgaria, member of the Employers' Group, will be one of the two vice-presidents of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for a two-and-a-half year term from 2018 to 2020. She will be responsible for budget matters.

After her election, the vice-president in charge of budget, **Milena Angelova**, said: "The European Economic and Social Committee has a unique and key role to play being in a position to present the balanced view of the social partners and organised civil society on how to work together more effectively in order to achieve a more united and more federal Europe, which is able to make the best use of the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, artificial intelligence and digitalisation, and to cope with the challenges of growing fear, xenophobia and migration. We should aim for a more focused and more effective Europe, and to 'doing less more efficiently'. In this regard, I believe the

motto of the current Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union - United we stand strong - is directly relevant and should be fully endorsed."

Click [here](#) for Ms Milena Angelova's profile (sg)

[More women in EESC leadership roles](#)



From the two vice-presidents to the new heads of the social affairs and consumer affairs sections to the President's team, the EESC's new leadership features many women.

In addition to having two female vice-presidents at the same time for the first time in its history, the EESC now has several women in other key positions. Among them:

- Austrian member **Christa Schweng** from the Employers' Group heads the section covering social affairs (SOC), one of the Committee's main policy areas.
- Swedish member **Ariane Rodert** from the Diversity Europe Group is at the helm of the section dealing with internal market and consumer issues (INT).

They join Bulgarian member **Dilyana Slavova** (Diversity Europe Group) and Czech member **Lucie Studničná** (Workers' Group), who have been leading the External Relations (REX) section and the Consultative Commission for Industrial Change (CCMI) respectively since the beginning of the current term of office (2015-2020), while Germany's **Gabriele Bischoff** stays on as president of the Workers' Group.

The [President's team](#) is made up mostly of women, including head of cabinet **Alicja Magdalena Herbowska**, spokesperson **Daniela Vincenti**, international relations adviser **Daniela Rondinelli** and culture and youth expert **Katherine Heid**, together with several

other supporting staff.

"A year before the European elections, we need to listen to the people of our continent. Half of them think there should be more women in political decision-making positions, with seven out of ten in favour of legal measures to ensure parity between men and women in politics. It is time to break the glass ceiling. Many talk about it - I have decided to do it. We must practise what we preach," says President **Luca Jahier** in his blog.

To learn more, visit the [President's blog](#). (dm)

EESC presidency and group and section presidents 2018-2020

President



Luca JAHIER

Vice-presidents



Isabel CAÑO AGUILAR

EESC Vice-president/President of the Communication Group



Milena ANGELOVA

EESC Vice-president/President of the Budget Group

Group presidents



Jacek KRAWCZYK

President of the Employers' Group



Gabriele BISCHOFF

President of the Workers' Group



Arno METZLER

President of the Diversity Europe Group

Section presidents



Stefano PALMIERI

President of the Section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion (ECO)



Ariane RODERT

President of the Section for the Single Market, Production and Consumption (INT)



Dilyana SLAVOVA

President of the Section for External Relations (REX)



Maurizio REALE

President of the Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (NAT)



Christa SCHWENG

President of the Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship (SOC)



Pierre Jean COULON

President of the Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (TEN)



Lucie STUDNIČNÁ

President of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI)

Editors:

Ewa Haczyk-Plumley (editor-in-chief)
Daniela Marangoni (dm)

Coordination:

Agata Berdys (ab)
Katerina Serifi (ks)

Contributors to Address: this issue:

Daniela De Luca (ddl)
Daniela Marangoni (dm)
Indre Anskaityte (ia)
Jasmin Kloetzing (jk)
Laura Lui (ll)
Siana Glouharova (sg)

European Economic and Social
Committee
Jacques Delors Building,
99 Rue Belliard,
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. (+32 2) 546.94.76
Email: eescinfo@eesc.europa.eu

EESC info is published nine times a year during EESC plenary sessions. EESC info is available in 23 languages. EESC info is not an official record of the EESC's proceedings; for this, please refer to the Official Journal of the European Union or to the Committee's other publications. Reproduction permitted if EESC info is mentioned as the source and a link is sent to the editor.

May 2018/5

08-2018