



Our Presidency – stepping stones in engaging people for a sustainable Europe

Editorial



Staffan NILSSON (SE)

Outgoing President of the EESC - Member of Group III

The two-and-a-half year presidency term has been a time of team work with all members, the two vice-presidents, section and group presidents, and with the support and cooperation of the EESC staff. I would like to thank once more the Group III members entrusting me the Committee's leadership wheel for two and a half years. I hope this time reflected the breadth and diversity of our group, the glue of the EESC that binds together our interests. Achievements during my mandate are achievements of the Committee built on the members' activities and collective action.

I prefer to speak about the steps taken during my mandate as stepping stones towards fulfilling the Committee's goals. I would mention just a few. We are now contributing to the monitoring of economic and social reforms at national level with the help of our network of Economic and Social Councils. This is the result of a lot of advocacy work of the Committee's presidency

with EU leaders, backed up by the engagement of our members. I could also mention our relentless advocacy work for the partnership principle in the cohesion policy package and for a European Code of Conduct on partnership; our work on global food security and our input to G20 on these issues which was unprecedented in the Committee's history; also our input into the UN Rio+20 summit which positioned us on the international scene as a European focal point for expertise and as stakeholders' meeting point for sustainable development issues.

During my presidency, the Committee needed to stay "on guard" to advise on policies for anti-crisis/recovery measures. Following a major conference on Europe 2020 strategy, the Committee came up with the 30 proposals for stepping up for a stronger Europe, proposals from civil society with concrete proposals for Europe's recovery and citizens' well-being.

We have opened up the EESC to civil society at large, for instance through the Liaison Group with European civil society networks and organisations and through massive stakeholders' consultations on several important topics. With each Civil Society Day and Civil Society Prize we aimed at reaching out to local organisations and networks which lack the insider's knowledge of Brussels affairs and have now found the interface they needed –the EESC. Remaining open to the outside civil society, reaching out to civil society activists in all corners of Europe, enabling civil society organisations inside and outside Brussels to meet and exchange views among themselves and with us – this is what makes us an enabler of participatory governance for the EU. We must remain open and focused. We as EESC members need to be experts, communicators, spokespersons, advocates,

leaders of our organisations, opinion leaders in our community at home – all at the same time, in an ever-changing environment, in a Euro-sceptical Europe. I hope we will continue to act as such with confidence and boldness.

Editor's comment:

We wholeheartedly welcome Staffan back into the Group III fold and congratulate him on his diligence, commitment, energy and enthusiasm and laud all that he has undertaken and proudly achieved during his tenure as President of the EESC, not least of all, his incredible tolerance to jetlag!

Interview



BRUNO KAUFMANN

President of the Board Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe

The European Citizens' Initiative: an assessment one year on

IRI Europe is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit making organization with headquarters in Marburg/Germany and representation offices in Brussels/Belgium and Büllach/Switzerland. Since the early days of this millennium IRI has assisted and advised the European Union constitution drafters in seizing the opportunity of developing democratic tools which are both issue-based and pan-European. With the implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative, IRI has become a key adviser and monitor of the first transnational DD-instrument! IRI Europe's motto is: 'Modern Direct Democracy - The Win-Win Challenge' and its mission is to promote representative democracy by strengthening modern direct democracy. By fine-tuning the power-sharing between the governors and the governed through the establishment and development of well-designed initiative and referendum procedures and practices, modern democracies become more responsive and truly representative - offering a win-win situation for most societies across Europe and the globe.

EUROPE III: What is your view on the extent to which citizens across Europe are aware of the Citizens Initiative and their general understanding of what it could achieve?

Very little so and it is no surprise - for different reasons. This is the very first tool of policy-making which combines direct,

transnational and digital democracy; not only in Europe, but globally. Many EU citizens today do not even have the right of citizens' initiative at their local, regional or national levels, so the ECI is really something new. But there is also a strong ambivalence within established institutions and organisations towards the ECI. Many are, to say the least, a little bit afraid of stronger and more direct democratic impacts by the citizens. This has resulted in unwillingness to pool resources into the dissemination of information and the support of the ECI. This is highly unfortunate and regrettable.

EUROPE III: From your experience, what kind of barriers have the potential promoters of an ECI encountered?

The barriers are threefold. Fundamentally, ECI organisers are using a tool, which is unknown to more than 90% of the EU citizens, so they have to explain the actual process over and over again. Procedure-wise, the EU's typical variety and complexity of regulations make it difficult for organisers to gather signatures, as every Member State imposes different requirements for validating the statements of support. And thirdly, in practice, the first ECIs are also ground-breaking pioneers, when it comes to a world-novel form of e-collection, which is linked to a whole separate set of rules, for e.g. data protection or liabilities. As a consequence,

the gathering of signatures for the first ECIs did not start before the end of 2012.

EUROPE III: To what extent do you think European and national institutions consider the ECI to be complementary to their perception of democratic processes?

This is a question about political culture. Many people still believe that representative democracy is something which is limited to indirect democracy within nation-states. All other forms are seen as threats. However, as agreed in the Lisbon Treaty, a modern representative democracy is equally based on indirect and direct democracy within a multi-level polity. More and more, institutions across Europe are implementing this state-of-the-art understanding, but this takes time and the ECI will certainly contribute to making representative democracy more representative.

EUROPE III: Knowing the fact, that there are a lot of criticism on obstacles connected to the ECI, which would you consider as the most important to be solved in the near future to secure a proper functioning of this agenda-setting tool (e.g. possibility to interact between the Citizens Committee and the people signing in case if the signatories allow that their contacts are used e.g. for follow up information)?

Interview of the month continued..

There are many big and small fixes available, which in the end will contribute to making sure that the ECI becomes a more user-friendly and democracy-developing tool. However, at this very moment of the starting phase, **I would really like to see EU-wide institutions like the EESC or the Commission wholehearted welcoming the new process** and redirecting a very small but critical part of their resources to inform, educate and support the ECI and all those thousands and millions of EU citizens, who do want to contribute their time and resources and are willing to take responsibility for the future of Europe. **It is time to act!**

EUROPE III: Your institute is active in participatory democracy issues beyond the ECI. Could you mention some concrete results/goals for a European Year of Citizens 2013, which aims to narrow the gap between decision makers and its citizens?

The European Year of the Citizens is firstly a timely opportunity to review the first 20 years of existence of European Union Citizenship, which was introduced by the Maastricht Treaty. The concept is nothing less than a promise about establishing forms of “active citizenship” at the transnational level beyond pure consumer free-movement rights. Today, there is a whole toolkit of such active citizenship rights available. However, they are - as in the case of the ECI - not yet well-known, well-designed nor as well-used as they should be. **It is not enough to talk to, or with, the people: it is essential that “we the people” can make our voices heard!**

To find out a lot more about IRI Europe, please visit: <http://www.iri-europe.org/http://www.iri-europe.org>



On 9 April 2013 the EESC organised a joint conference entitled: **European Citizens' Initiative Day 2013: Sign up to it!**

A report of this event will appear in our next edition in May. To consult the programme and read other background documentation about this event, please go to:

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-eci-day-2013>

Group III Members in the Spotlight playing a key role



(From the right) Group III Member, Siobhán Egan (IE), Nessa Childers MEP and Ariel Brunner, Head of EU Policy at BirdLife Europe

NATURE IS AT THE HEART OF OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY – PHOTO EXHIBITION AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Recognising the important links between nature and a healthy economy and society was the key message of the photographic exhibition on display opened on 19 March 2013 at the European Parliament in Brussels. Ireland, a nation rich in natural heritage, is basing its economic recovery on sectors that depend on nature - agriculture, energy and tourism. Launched by Irish MEP, Nessa Childers, of the S&D Group, the photographic exhibition showcases Ireland's spectacular birdlife and highlights the crucial role that political decisions made during the Irish EU Presidency will play in our future prosperity. Changes in bird populations signal changes in the environment we all live in. They can indicate whether our use of natural resources on land, or at sea, is sustainable. During the Irish EU Presidency, Ireland will play a key role in seeking agreement among EU governments on the future of crucial policies, such as the EU Budget, Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy. Ireland must ensure the sustainability of the European project itself, and even more importantly, the long term sustainability of all our societies. Nature provides a basis for our well-being and for long-term jobs, as such we should expect a higher level of ambition from political leaders for protecting this vital capital for current and future generations. It is a significant challenge for the Irish Presidency to improve the current level of ambition.

For more information on the exhibition and to read quotes from the opening speeches, please go to:

http://www.birdlife.org/community/2013/03/birdwatch-ireland-exhibition-in-european-parliament-nature-creates-prosperity/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=birdwatch-ireland-exhibition-in-european-parliament-nature-creates-prosperity

This exhibition was supported by BirdWatch Ireland: <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/dotnetnuke/AboutUs/tabid/72/Default.aspx>

To read the report entitled 'Investing in the future: more jobs out of a greener EU budget' please follow this link: <http://www.eeb.org/EEB/?LinkServID=41FFA309-5056-B741-DBFD725B2A886A5F>



Group III member Renate HEINISCH (DE) and Andreas Kirner, BMFSFJ (Germany)

51ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FROM 6-15 FEBRUARY 2013, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK: "PROMOTING EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE IN ACHIEVING POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL"

On 5 February 2013, Group III member, Renate Heinisch (BAGSO) joined the NGO Civil Society Forum in New York. Her organisation, BAGSO, has consultative status with the UN. Then, on the second day of the session, she followed the Panel Discussion that considered the “Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing”. A panel of particular interest to her was the voices of older persons who took part in consultations for this report reiterate a need for income security, flexible employment opportunities, access to affordable health care and medicines, age-friendly housing and transportation, and elimination of discrimination, violence and abuse targeted at older people. Again and again, older persons point out that they want to remain active and respected members of society. In her intervention, Renate Heinisch gave an overview of the work done by the EESC coordinating group on “Active and healthy ageing and solidarity of generations”. In her concluding remarks, she said: “Every person, every people, every nation has a part to play in building a peaceful and prosperous global society”.

For more information on this event and to read the conclusions, please go to: <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2013.aspx>

Quote of the month...



“Riches do not exhilarate us so much with their possession... as they torment us with their loss.”

**Epicurus (341 BC – 270 BC)
Ancient Greek Philosopher
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epicurus>**

News from Group III

A dynamic, experienced and talented team to lead....



**Luca JAHIER (IT)
President of the
Various Interests Group**

At this midterm renewal, we look towards the next two-and-a-half years, with still a lot to be done! I am very proud to continue to lead our Group with its newly-elected, and indeed re-elected, team of members who occupy some key

positions within the Committee and I look forward to working closely with them all to build on our past achievements and forge new paths for both the Group and the EESC as a whole, up until the end of this half-mandate in 2015.

Allow me to introduce them to you!



Firstly, there is the Presidency of Group III:



Arno METZLER (DE)
Re-elected Vice-President



Pavel TRANTINA (CZ)
Re-elected Vice-President



Ariane RODERT (SE)
Newly-elected Vice-President

Next, our hard-hitters:



Jane MORRICE (UK)
Vice-President of
the EESC in charge of
Communication

As newly elected Vice President responsible for Communication, I won't pretend my task will be easy. But I am delighted to take it on and excited by the challenge. A former journalist and politician, I have many years experience in communication to help inform my work. But I can't do it alone. Working within the Communication Group, the Presidential team and with you as Members, I intend to build on what has been done before and build up the reputation of the EESC back home in our villages, towns and cities and here in Brussels. This, the European Year of the Citizen and the European Parliament elections next year, will provide the perfect platform for this work. Our Members are the vital link to 'back home'. Initiatives, such as 'Going Local', Members as Ambassadors and Contact Points will be all important. In Brussels, the focus must be on closer cooperation with the European Parliament. Our greatest asset is our combined expertise and experience so we must use our Opinions to greater effect. In communicating Europe we have a common goal – the good of our communities and the good of Europe – knowing that makes our task a lot easier.



Maureen O' NEILL (UK)
President of
the SOC Section

It is a privilege to serve as the SOC President and to follow the effective leadership provided by Mrs Kurki in the previous period. The Section has worked to a clear strategy and work will be undertaken with the new SOC Bureau members to devise and follow through on key priorities. A particular focus will be on the implementation of the EU 2020 strategy and its impact on employment and social affairs which will be reflected in the opinions we undertake. It will be important to see the integration of labour market and migration issues into the overall approach of the Section. The key priorities will continue to be in relation to employment, the social dimension and citizenship. On a practical level I want to ensure that the Section produces high quality opinions and that we find innovative ways to highlight key issues arising from our work and constructive ideas to take us forward. I believe that there will be opportunities to develop cross section collaboration to ensure that we produce coherent and cohesive responses from the EESC. Importantly I want to continue to build relationships with the EU institutions and all civil society organisations to promote our work and to ensure that we undertake our work from the most informed position. I look forward to taking the work of the Section forward and appreciate the support from a strong staff team as well as the commitment, knowledge and expertise amongst the members of the Section.



Dilyana SLAVOVA (BG)
President of
the NAT Section

The overarching theme of my Presidency of the NAT Section will be: A Road Map of Increased Communication towards Achieving Active and Public NAT Policy, the underlying principles of which will be: Partnership and Communication towards a Truly Sustainable Food and Farming Policy. As NAT President, I would like to focus the attention of the section on the social aspects of the deepening financial and economic crisis spreading unemployment and social tension. Agriculture is one of the safety belts to cope with challenges in societies throughout the EU. This increases our responsibility, demands sensitivity and requires action in such important areas like Rural Unemployment, Depopulation of Rural Regions, Less Favoured Areas, Mountain Farming, Imbalances within the Food Chain, Targeted Support for Active Farmers, Promotion of EU Agricultural Products, Food for Most Deprived People, new Environment Action Programme for the EU entitled "Living well, within the limits of our planet". We also need to highlight the best EU Member States Practices in the field of agriculture, food, environment, research, technology and innovation. I would suggest that the views of NAT members should be taken into consideration on a regular basis via questionnaires on actual targeted topics. I would also like to encourage close cooperation with the EESC Vice President on Communication for better reflection and presentation of NAT work in the public. Another area of importance, in my view, is achieving cohesion between different EESC opinions and policies on agriculture, forestry, renewable energy, biodiversity and other environment-related issues. As the NAT's priorities for my term of office will be the key reforms in the EU, I intend to navigate a path to consensus with a set of agreed proposals with the NAT Bureau and its members aimed at addressing Member States' concerns related to these key areas.



Carlos TRIAS PINTO (ES)
President of the CCMI

I anticipate with great enthusiasm taking over the reins at the CCMI. My initial reflections are that the CCMI must consolidate its role as a "Reflection Task Force", anticipating the changes the European industry must make to ensure its competitiveness in an economically efficient and socially useful framework. I would like to see an improved and more precise definition of areas of responsibility between the EESC Sections and the CCMI along with a strengthening of coordination and cooperation with the Sections taking action to communicate all relevant work of the CCMI and jointly organising activities and events. I look forward to working with the incoming Bureau to improve the influence of the CCMI, counting on both Members' and Delegates active participation. I would also like to introduce a more structured and targeted follow up of our opinions and suggest that we look closely at the possibility of organising post opinion events in Brussels and the Member States, using UE representative offices in each country. Another tool that could be useful would be to generate studies, disseminate best practices, launch publications, encourage forums, visit relevant experiences, connect with Think Tanks, etc. My vision for my tenure at the helm is also to strengthen communication strategies, establish closer contact with specialised media and active involvement of members' and delegates' organisations in disseminating CCMI opinions. Finally, I think that is very important to deepen cooperation with pan-European organisations that defend our shared interests. Well that's my wish-list. ...let's discuss and debate and decide together!

And then, not least of all, 9 Group III members who will occupy key posts on various important EESC bodies:



Richard ADAMS (UK)
President of the Permanent Study
Group of the TEN Section on:
"European Energy Community"



Krzysztof BALON (PL)
President of the Permanent Study
Group of the TEN Section on:
"Services of General Interest"



Mali HELLAM (EE)
President of the "EU-Russia"
Contact Group of the REX Section



Bernardo HERNÁNDEZ BATALLER (ES)
Appointed as a member of the
"College of Quaestors"



Seppo KALLIO (FI)
President of the Permanent Study
Group of the NAT Section on:
"Food Security"



Pedro NARRO (ES)
President of the "EUROMED"
Follow-up Committee of the REX
Section



Lutz RIBBE (DE)
President of the "Sustainable
Development Observatory"
of the NAT Section



Ionuț SIBIAN (RO)
President of the "Western
Balkans" Contact Group
of the REX Section



Francisco SILVA (PT)
President of the "EU-BRAZIL"
Follow-up Committee of
the REX Section

Overview of our Members' Work in the EESC

At its plenary session on 20-21 March 2013 the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the following opinions for which Group III members were Rapporteurs or Co-Rapporteurs.



Lutz RIBBE (DE) – NAT/582 "Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation in the union" (EESC opinion 2314/2012)

The EESC welcomes the submission of the proposal for a regulation. The Nagoya Protocol was not concluded, however, purely in order to promote bio-based research and product development but rather to ensure fair sharing of benefits from the utilisation and marketing of genetic resources. In this way the countries (or indigenous peoples) which provide these genetic resources and traditional knowledge of their use may profit from their marketing, and the marketing industry may itself be freed from the accusation of bio-piracy. However, it has identified a number of shortcomings in the draft regulation in relation to this very issue of benefit sharing, for which the Nagoya Protocol was primarily negotiated. These should be eliminated as a matter of urgency and certain areas which are open to interpretation should be clarified. The areas in question are: the rules on benefit sharing; the establishment of an effective system of control, monitoring and sanctions; the date from which the benefit sharing shall apply; the consideration of biotechnology and derivatives, as well as the sharing of the benefits of "traditional knowledge"; the late timing of the reporting of use; the question as to whether privately financed research and the products derived from it are subject to reporting; and the effectiveness of the system of sanctions.

Lutz RIBBE (DE) – NAT/592 "Environment Action Programme to 2020 - Living well, within the limits of our planet" (EESC opinion 296/2013)

The EESC welcomes the draft proposal for a seventh Environment Action Programme (EAP) which it recognises as being in keeping with the view expressed by the Committee on a number of occasions, that Europe's current environmental problems are attributable not to a lack of understanding or of ideas about how to tackle them, but to a lack of political will to follow through. However, this draft seventh EAP is characterised less by clarity and more by a lack of specifics, both in general and on individual points. In the EESC's view, the seventh EAP does not take a clear enough position on the economic and social changes needed to achieve the environment policy goals. The seventh EAP accurately analyses shortcomings in implementing previous EAPs, but it hardly offers any proposals on how these

failures might be mitigated or eliminated altogether. Almost all positive developments in terms of nature and the environment have come at the behest of civil society. In the view of the EESC, civil society organisations are key players in implementing the seventh EAP, and their role should be strengthened and given much more attention in the form of an additional priority objective. The EESC invites the Council and Parliament to set the objective in the seventh EAP of developing a new overarching EU sustainability strategy, as called for by the Council of Environment Ministers in its conclusions on the United Nations Rio+20 sustainable development conference.



Richard ADAMS (UK) – TEN/503 "Exploring the needs and methods of public involvement and engagement in the energy policy field" (EESC opinion 2366/2012)

In this exploratory opinion, requested by the European Commission, the EESC acknowledges that public involvement, understanding and acceptance of the different changes which our energy system will have to go through over the coming decades are absolutely essential. EU policy-making on the energy transition often lacks true ownership by the Member States and does not engage with citizens in terms of explaining trade-offs and preferences. Engaging citizens at the national level and then setting national energy policies within a broader EU perspective is one way of bridging this gap and bringing clarity. Citizens need to be more efficiently involved in the strategic direction of major policy choices – beyond their role as energy consumers – because preparing the energy transition goes beyond the important market issues. Dialogue with civil society is vital, and the EESC is well placed to establish a comprehensive programme embodying participative democracy and practical action. Such a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue could be framed and developed at the interface between European, national and local levels. It should also point to practical steps which can be taken by the citizen, suppliers and the authorities. The EESC will take a lead in establishing a European Energy Dialogue (EED), a coordinated multi-level, action-oriented conversation within and across all Member States. The programme will be ambitious and funded by stakeholders in the energy chain, linking with existing initiatives and gaining recognition as a trustworthy "social brand" responsive to public needs and concerns. The EED will be synonymous with reliable information about energy, and will offer a "negotiation space" where implementation issues can be discussed against a background of societal impact and acceptance, investment and resource strategy and other policy considerations. The main indicator of success of the programme will be a measurable influence on policy-making across all forms of energy and a recognised role in stimulating convergence

at EU level, with strong links to the post-2020 energy and climate action framework. The EESC therefore recommends strong political and administrative backing for the proposed EED with adjustment of the European Commission's internal approach, emphasising dialogue and conversation.

To read the EESC's Press Release on this subject, please go to: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.27419>



Yves SOMVILLE (BE) – NAT/570 "Prevention and reduction of food waste" (EESC opinion 1918/2012)

This own-initiative opinion was the subject of our detailed editorial in our last edition in March (see page II). To read the article, review the specific recommendations, please go to: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/europe-iii---march-2013.pdf>

The EESC's Press Release on this opinion can be consulted here: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.27369>



Pavel TRANTINA (CZ) – SOC/474 "Moving Youth into Employment" (EESC opinion 2419/2012)

The EESC welcomes the Youth Employment Package proposal and recommends that special attention be given to its application at Member State level, by making measures to combat youth unemployment an important part of the National Reform Programmes. The EESC recommends that, whenever possible, the age limit for access to the scheme be increased to 30, to cover young people who leave university later or those who are still in a transition phase from education to employment and are still at risk of losing contact with the labour market. Based on the successful examples from some Member States, the social partners and youth organisations and their representative platforms should be involved in designing, implementing, promoting and monitoring the scheme. Reforms of the EURES services, and, where necessary, of the Public Employment Services in the Member States should also actively support young people and adapt their services and approaches in order to make them more accessible. The conditions for offering traineeships should be improved and their quality must be ensured through specific criteria that should be made mandatory.

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>

OUR GROUP'S STRENGTH



The "Farmers' Category" held its first meeting of this year on 26 March 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 for acclamation, Yves Somville (BE), was re-elected. This was followed by a brainstorming session on the Category's Work Programme for 2013 and on the organisation of the joint meeting with the "Consumers

and Environment" Category. During the rest of the morning, certain members made presentations on agriculture in their various Member State, which was followed by an open discussion. Finally there was an exchange of views on the event "Food for Citizens" which will be jointly organised, simultaneously in Dublin, Ireland and Vilnius, Lithuania by the INT & NAT sections on 21 June 2013.

The agenda for this category meeting can be read 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.

Highlights of the March 2013 EESC Plenary Session

Group III members co-ordinating the work on new opinions

Prof. Gerd WOLF (DE) is the President of the study group for the opinion on: "EU space industrial policy - Releasing the potential for economic growth in the space sector" – INT/689.

Mr Arno METZLER (DE) is the President of the study group for the opinion on: "Smart regulation - Responding to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises" – INT/692.

Mr Edouard DE LAMAZE (FR) is the General-Rapporteur for the opinion on: "Protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting by criminal law" – ECO/346.

Mr Michael SMYTH (UK) is the Rapporteur for the opinion on: "Long-term financing of the economy - the role of the financial services sector" – ECO/347.

Mr Cristian PÎRVULESCU (RO) is the Rapporteur for the opinion on: "Smart border package" – SOC/483.

Mr Mindaugas MACIULEVIČIUS (LT) is the Rapporteur for the opinion on: "Trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products" – NAT/599.

Mr Carlos Alberto PEREIRA MARTINS (PT) is the President of the study group for the opinion on: "Common rules on compensation and assistance to air passengers" – TEN/518.

Prof. Gerd WOLF (DE) is the Rapporteur for the complementary opinion on: "EU space industrial policy - Releasing the potential for economic growth in the space sector" – CCMI/115.

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>

