1 p.m. Lunch

2.30 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. **Session 2**
Towards a European civil dialogue (continuation)

President:
Ms Anne-Marie SIGMUND, President of the EESC Various Interests' Group

Presentation of the debates in the workshops by the rapporteurs

3.15 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. **Session 3**
Participatory democracy: towards a new partnership between all those concerned by European governance

- European civil dialogue and social dialogue: two aspects of participatory democracy?
- What is the respective role of the social partners and of other civil society players in civil dialogue?
- European civil dialogue: new role and responsibilities for the Union's institutions?

**Presidency:**
Mr Giacomo REGALDO, President of the EESC Employers' Group

**Speakers:**
Mr Jens NYMAND CHRISTENSEN, Director in charge of the Relations with Civil Society, Secretariat General, European Commission
Mr Willy BUSCHAK, Acting Director, Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin - Ireland)
MR Wilfried BEIRNAERT, Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee of the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe (UNICE)
Ms Maria Helena ANDRÉ, Deputy Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Mr Giampiero ALHADEFF, Secretary General of SOLIDAR, Chairman of the Civil Society Contact Group

**Debate**

5.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Closing session under the Chairmanship of Mr Roger BRIESCH, President of the European Economic and Social Committee

Synthesis of the debates by Prof. Beate KOHLER-KOCH, Social Science Faculty, University of Mannheim (Germany)

Closing speech by Mr Jacques DELORS, President of the Research and Policy Group Notre Europe

Closing of the conference by M. Roger BRIESCH

6.30 p.m. End of the conference
Monday 8 March 2004

1.30 p.m. Welcome and registration

2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. Opening session
Opening of the conference by Mr Roger BRIE SCH, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
Opening speech by Mr Dick ROCHE T D, Irish Minister of State for European Affairs of the Republic of Ireland, on behalf of the presidency-in-office of the Council of the European Union

3.30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Session 1
The European Constitution, civil dialogue and the democratic life of the Union in the new Europe

- Consultation, participation and civil dialogue: does European civil dialogue already exist? In what shape and with what players?
- Does the European Constitution promote participatory democracy and effective and lasting reform of the processes by which citizens are governed?
- What prospects does the European Constitution open up for civil dialogue? Opportunities provided under Article 46 of the Constitution

President:
Mr Mario SEPI, President of the EESC Employees’ Group

Speakers:
Mr Dermot McCARTHY, Chairman of the Economic and Social Council of Ireland (NESC)
Mr Mario GRECO, Senator, Chairman of the Permanent Committee for European Affairs of the Senate of the Italian Republic
Ms Anne-Sophie PARENT, President of the Platform of European Social NGOs
Mr Arnaldo ABRUZZINI, Secretary General of Eurochambres

Debate
The following persons, in particular, shall speak in the course of the debate, on behalf of the EESC:
Mr Bruno VEVER, member of the Employers’ Group
Mr Olivier DERRUINE, member of the Employees’ Group
Mr Jan OLSSON, member of the Various Interests’ Group and president of the Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship.

6.30 p.m. Reception

Tuesday 9 March 2004

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Session 2
Towards a European civil dialogue

9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. PLENARY MEETING

President:
Ms Anne-Marie SIGMUND, President of the EESC Various Interests’ Group

Speakers:
Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE, Vice-President of the European Convention
Mr Alojz PETERLE, Observer Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs of the Slovenian Parliament, Member of the Presidium of the European Convention (Slovenia)
Prof. Daniela OBRADOVIC, Faculty of Law, Amsterdam University (The Netherlands)
Prof. Bronislaw GEREMEK, College of Europe, Warsaw (Poland)
Mr Dirk JARRÉ, International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)

Debate

10.30 a.m. Coffee break

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1: European civil dialogue: institutionalised lobbying or the key to effective participation of civil society players in the policy-making and decision-making processes of the Union?

Moderator:
Mr José Isaias RODRÍGUEZ GARCÍA-CARO, member of the Employers’ Group

Rapporteur:
Mr Marc PAOLONI, journalist, La Tribune

Debate
The following persons, in particular, shall speak in the course of the debate: Mr Patrick DE BUCQUOIS, Secretary General, CEDAG, Mr Ernst Erik EHNMARK, member of the EESC Employees’ Group, Mr Raymond WEBER, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Luxembourg and President of the International Research Institute for Media, Communication and Culture Development, Mr Tony VENABLES, Director, ECAS, Mr Lutz RIBBE, member of the EESC Various Interests’ Group.

Workshop 2: European civil dialogue and democratic legitimacy: under what terms can civil society organisations claim to represent the general interest and so participate in European civil dialogue?

Moderator:
Mr Jean-Michel BLOCH-LAINÉ, member of the EESC Various Interests’ Group

Rapporteur:
Mr Michel THEYS, Editor-in-Chief, l’Européenne de Bruxelles

Debate
The following persons, in particular, shall speak in the course of the debate: Mr Xavier R. DURIEU, Secretary General, EUROCOMMERCE, Mr Ernst Erik EHNMARK, member of the EESC Employees’ Group, Mr Daniel RETUREAU, member of the EESC Employers’ Group.
Monday 8 March 2004

1.30 p.m. Welcome and registration

2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. Opening session
Opening of the conference by Mr Roger BROESCH, President of the European Economic and Social Committee

Opening speech by Mr Dick ROCHE, Irish Minister of State for European Affairs of the Republic of Ireland, on behalf of the presidency-in-office of the Council of the European Union

3.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Session 1
The European Constitution, civil dialogue and the democratic life of the Union in the new Europe

- Consultation, participation and civil dialogue: does European civil dialogue already exist? In what shape and with what players?
- Does the European Constitution promote participatory democracy and effective and lasting reform of the processes by which citizens are governed?
- What prospects does the European Constitution open up for civil dialogue? Opportunities provided under Article 46 of the Constitution

President: Mr Mario SEPI, President of the EESC Employees’ Group
Speakers:
Mr Dermot McCarthy, Chairman of the Economic and Social Council of Ireland (NESC)
Mr Mario GRECO, Senator, Chairman of the Permanent Committee for European Affairs of the Senate of the Italian Republic
Ms Anne-Sophie PARENT, President of the Platform of European Social NGOs
Mr Arnaldo ABRUZZINI, Secretary General of Eurochambres

Debate
The following persons, in particular, shall speak in the course of the debate, on behalf of the EESC: Mr Bruno VEVER, member of the Employers’ Group, Mr Olivier DERRUINE, member of the Employers’ Group, Mr Jan OLSSON, member of the Various Interests’ Group and president of the Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship.

6.30 p.m. Reception

Tuesday 9 March 2004

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Session 2
Towards a European civil dialogue

9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. Plenary meeting

President: Ms Anne-Marie SIGMUND, President of the EESC Various Interests’ Group
Speakers:
Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE, Vice-President of the European Convention
Mr Alojz PETERLE, Observer Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs of the Slovenian Parliament, Member of the Presidium of the European Convention (Slovenia)
Prof. Daniela OBRADOVIC, Faculty of Law, Amsterdam University (The Netherlands)
Prof. Bronislaw GEREMEK, College of Europe, Warsaw (Poland)
Mr Dirk JARRE, International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)

Debate

10.30 a.m. Coffee break

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Parallel workshops

Workshop 1: European civil dialogue: institutionalised lobbying or the key to effective participation of civil society players in the policy-making and decision-making processes of the Union?

Moderator:
Mr José Isaías RODRÍGUEZ GARCÍA-CARO, member of the Employers’ Group
Rapporteur:
Mr Marc PAOLONI, journalist, La Tribune

Debate
The following persons, in particular, shall speak in the course of the debate: Mr Patrick DE BUCQUOIS, Secretary General, CEDAG, Mr Ernst Erik EHNMARK, member of the EESC Employees’ Group, Mr Raymond WEBER, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Luxembourg and President of the International Research Institute for Media, Communication and Culture Development, Mr Tony VENABLES, Director, ECAS, Mr Lutz RIBBE, member of the EESC Various Interests’ Group.

Workshop 2: European civil dialogue and democratic legitimacy: under what terms can civil society organisations claim to represent the general interest and so participate in European civil dialogue?

Moderator:
Mr Jean-Michel BLOCH-LAINÉ, member of the EESC Various Interests’ Group
Rapporteur:
Mr Michel THEYS, Editor-in-Chief, l’Européenne de Bruxelles

Debate
The following persons, in particular, shall speak in the course of the debate: Mr Xavier R. DURIEU, Secretary General, EUROCOMMERCE, Mr Henrik KRÖNER, Secretary General, International European Movement, Ms Charlotte ROFFIAEN, Director, Active Citizenship Network, Ms Irini PARI, member of the EESC Employers’ Group, Mr Daniel RETUREAU, member of the EESC Employees’ Group.
1 p.m. Lunch

2.30 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. **Session 2**

Towards a European civil dialogue (continuation)

**President:**
Ms Anne-Marie SIGMUND, President of the EESC Various Interests' Group

**Presentation of the debates in the workshops by the rapporteurs**

3.15 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. **Session 3**

Participatory democracy: towards a new partnership between all those concerned by European governance

- European civil dialogue and social dialogue: two aspects of participatory democracy?
- What is the respective role of the social partners and of other civil society players in civil dialogue?
- European civil dialogue: new role and responsibilities for the Union's institutions?

**President:**
Mr Giacomo REGALDO, President of the EESC Employers' Group

**Speakers:**
Mr Jens NYMAND CHRISTENSEN, Director in charge of the Relations with Civil Society, Secretariat General, European Commission
Mr Willy BUSCHAK, Acting Director, Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin - Ireland)
Mr Wilfried BEIRNAERT, Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee of the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe (UNICE)
Ms Maria Helena ANDRÉ, Deputy Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Mr Giampiero ALHADEFF, Secretary General of SOLIDAR, Chairman of the Civil Society Contact Group

**Debate**

5.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Closing session under the Chairmanship of Mr Roger BRIESCH, President of the European Economic and Social Committee

Synthesis of the debates by Prof. Beate KOHLER-KOCH, Social Science Faculty, University of Mannheim (Germany)

Closing speech by Mr Jacques DELORS, President of the Research and Policy Group Notre Europe

Closing of the conference by M. Roger BRIESCH

6.30 p.m. End of the conference