



EESC info

European Economic and Social Committee
a bridge between Europe and organised civil society



EDITORIAL Dear Reader,

2014 promises to be a crucial year for all Europeans.

Crucial because for too long, people have been waiting for the crisis to end and because all they see is one austerity plan after another, at a time of almost zero growth.

Crucial too because the European election campaign is set to rekindle interest in Europe by a public that has had its fill of widespread poverty, factory closures and pernicky regulations. This is the only way to head off the wave of anti-European feeling that we are warned will break on the floor of the next European Parliament.

2014 will also be crucial because all eyes will be on the next Commission, which, in the light of the latest institutional reform, should take on a more political role and at last provide answers to the real issues that people face in their daily lives.

To meet these challenges, which are pivotal for the future of the European Union, the European Economic and Social Committee will work harder than ever to play its role as representative of civil society. With our members and administration, who are all committed to a Europe that is closer to grassroots concerns, we will put forward a genuine European blueprint for society.

Together, we will be able to make something meaningful of the phrase "being European", breathe new life into the European spirit and give fresh meaning to our values.

I wish you a 2014 in which Europe once again rides high.

Henri Malosse
EESC President

wind of change
le moteur citoyen

DIARY DATES

12 February 2014

EESC, Brussels: Hearing on crisis communication with the public in case of nuclear and radiological emergency

26-27 February 2014

EESC, Brussels: EESC plenary session

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Placing an economic value on volunteering

"Volunteering is a win-win for all. It contributes to inclusive growth, boosts social and human capital, fosters intergenerational solidarity and offers substantial economic value", says Krzysztof Pater (Poland, Various Interests Group), who drafted the EESC's recent opinion on measuring volunteering.

"Volunteering remains little recognised and rarely reflected in statistics, despite its benefits and growing importance."

As a volunteer himself involved in many projects, Mr Pater is astonished that volunteering remains little recognised and rarely reflected in statistics, despite its benefits and growing importance. Currently, many Member States either do not aggregate data on volunteering at all, or use a range of definitions and methods, making it all but impossible to evaluate the size and value of the activity across the EU.

To put an end to this patchy measurement, the Committee has proposed a binding EU law that would harmonise measurement of

volunteering across the EU, thus leading to greater official recognition of this activity.

The EESC argues that in drafting the law, the European Commission, which has a near-exclusive right of legislative initiative in the EU, should draw on the International Labour Organisation's Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work, which was developed to assist countries in gathering systematic and comparable data on unpaid work via supplements to labour force surveys.



On the basis of the methodological principles set out in the ILO Manual, the national statistical offices of three EU countries (Poland, Hungary and Italy) have already carried out surveys on the extent and value of volunteer work that show that, in

addition to its social function, volunteering contributes significantly to the economy.

By way of example, the results of the survey in Poland show that volunteer work accounted for 2.8% of GDP and was estimated to be equivalent to 9.6% of people working in the national economy in 2011.

The EESC believes that once volunteering is measured, non-profit organisations should be able to offset the economic value of their volunteer work against public grants via a "co-financing" mechanism. This would go some way to enabling smaller NGOs to participate in calls for tender from which they are often excluded due to their inability to raise the money required to co-finance the grant. (mb)

"The results of the survey in Poland show that volunteer work accounted for 2.8% of GDP and was estimated to be equivalent to 9.6% of people working in the national economy in 2011."

Volunteering: measure it accurately and support it

Interview with Krzysztof Pater, EESC rapporteur for an opinion on measuring volunteering



Krzysztof Pater, EESC member

EESC Info: Why measure volunteering? Does attempting to determine its economic value not contradict the very principle of volunteering?

Krzysztof Pater: In today's world we need to know as much as possible. When it comes to knowledge of how society functions, this is usually not

simply to satisfy our curiosity, but to inform various policies. In the case of volunteering, we do not have any comparable European-level data. We do not know about the scale or the role of formal volunteering through organisations, or informal volunteering carried out directly; we do not know how much time we devote to specific activities, in which areas we volunteer most frequently or which activities we carry out. But this knowledge can give us an insight into the areas in which volunteers take on the functions of the state. This would enable local and national authorities to ask: what would happen if there were no volunteers? Would we be able to carry out the basic functions of the state? Giving a specific economic value to these measurements is simply the

last, small step, though still a very important one.

Can volunteering help Europe to come to grips with the crisis?

In a time of crisis, activities based on social solidarity are intensified. Although I believe this strongly, I think we need proper research to confirm it. Understanding the difference between volunteering in times of crisis and in times of growth could, if my hunch is correct, be the basis for policies that support volunteering, as the benefits for society as a whole would be multiplied many times over.

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Ukrainians should be free to shape the future of their country

Interview with Jacek Krawczyk, President of the EESC Employers Group



Jacek Krawczyk, President of the EESC Employers' Group

EESC Info: You were among those calling most loudly for the EESC to send a delegation to Kiev to support the protesters.

Jacek Krawczyk: I think that the Committee must stand up for the rights of citizens whenever they are violated, especially when this happens through police brutality. I was pleased to see the European Parliament's statement on Ukraine and I would have liked to see a similar resolution adopted by the EESC. These political signals are very important for people protesting in Kiev, enduring the bitter, freezing cold.

What would be your message and recommendation to the

people protesting on the Maidan in Kiev?

First of all I would like to express my strong support for their demands. They are entitled to a say in the future of their country and they have a right to express that through peaceful means. I also strongly condemn the use of force against such demonstrations and remind the Ukrainian government that any authority that decides to use force illegally against its own citizens loses any legitimate right to govern. Hundreds of thousands of protesters cannot be just ignored and their proposals must constructively be taken into account in further political decisions.

In December, the Employers Group published a statement concerning the situation in Ukraine. What was your main message?

We strongly condemned the violence used by the authorities to suppress peaceful demonstrations by people expressing their disagreement with the Ukrainian leadership's decision to turn away from a pro-European path. Members of the Employers Group were also robust in their condemnation of the pressure exerted on Ukraine's leaders not to sign the

association agreement with the EU. As we underlined in the statement, the Employers Group is convinced that the association agreement would open the way for Ukraine to develop its democracy, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights. It would also help to build a strong economy based on a free, transparent and open market with high European standards, which would secure a better life for Ukrainians.



Are you in touch with Ukrainian employers? How do they see the situation unfolding in the medium and long term?

We are working closely with Ukrainian entrepreneurs to get an understanding of their position on current

political developments. Our delegation also took part in the Business Forum, held one day before the EU-Eastern Partnership Summit. On that day, the clear message from several Ukrainian speakers was that this was a delay, not a final decision by Ukraine. As one delegate pointed out, Ukraine could hardly be expected to sign such an agreement at the onset of winter, with the unspoken suggestion that Russia might retaliate by shutting off energy supplies, as happened in 2006 and 2009. It is clear that there are some groups, especially in Eastern Ukraine, who are afraid that the agreement with the EU would be detrimental to trade relations with Russia. There are also business circles in Ukraine that have no interest whatsoever in making its economy more open or transparent.

Zbigniew Brzeziński stated recently in the Financial Times that "the events in Ukraine are historically irreversible and geopolitically transformative. Sooner rather than later, Ukraine will be truly a part of democratic Europe". Would you agree with that?

I really hope he is right. When I look at Ukraine now, I can't help but draw

comparisons with Poland in the 1980s and 1990s. Our example shows clearly how transformation, reform, democracy and a modern economic model can bear fruit. In 1991, when Poland signed the association agreement with the EU, I was secretary of state in the second solidarity government. We all thought that day that Poland would be a member within five to six years at most. It took twice as long, as transformation and preparation for EU membership were much more difficult and challenging than we had realised at the outset. But it was worth the effort.

According to opinion polls, support in Ukraine for European integration exceeds 50%. This enthusiasm among the Ukrainian public is an opportunity not to be wasted by the authorities. The EU doesn't want to force Ukraine into association; this association is not against Russia or any other country. What we really want is freedom of choice for Ukrainians. You cannot ignore such a strong public voice.

When the newsletter went to press, an EESC delegation, headed by President Malosse, was about to leave for Ukraine. An account of the visit will be published in the next issue.

Growth, jobs and social cohesion top the Greek presidency's agenda



On 1 January 2014, Greece will take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU for the fifth time since its accession in 1981. In contrast to the previous presidency (January to June 2003), which formed another milestone in the EU's enlargement process with the accession of 10 new Member States, the forthcoming presidency comes with a challenging agenda. It includes both European Parliament and municipal elections, and negotiations on forming the new college of Commissioners against a backdrop of rising unemployment, a tough austerity programme, a fragile political system and a growing public backlash, mainly brought on by the slashing of social services and other unpopular measures, as well as the terms of debt relief.

This presidency has a tough task ahead of it, having to achieve balance amid emerging signs of growth, a fragile government coalition and an increasingly critical stance towards the EU, not only domestically but also at European level.

Towards a new economic and monetary governance

In the past decade, the EU's procedures, policies and ecosystem have evolved and this is reflected in the pri-

orities that the fifth Greek presidency has set for itself. Not surprisingly, top of the agenda is the triptych of **growth, employment and social cohesion**, which are inextricably linked and also reflect Greece's national needs. Having been at the very centre of the debt crisis affecting the entire European Union, Greece will attempt to tackle the financial and economic crisis in the euro area and **complete the new EMU architecture**, mainly by promoting a banking union.

Due to its geographical location on Europe's frontier, and to increasing instability on the European periphery, Greece has been the main point of entry for illegal migrants to the European Union. The Greek Presidency will consequently focus its efforts on promoting all types of **migration and mobility policy**. At the same time, as a country with a strong maritime tradition, Greece will introduce an overarching theme that will run across all three of the presidency's priorities, an **EU Maritime Policy**, and will be



pushing to redefine and breathe new life into this policy in all its aspects, not solely issues of growth and development (the Limassol Declaration), by capitalising on Europe's greatest asset, the sea, as an inexhaustible source of growth and prosperity for the whole continent.

“This presidency has a tough task ahead of it, having to achieve balance amid emerging signs of growth, a fragile government coalition and an increasingly critical stance towards the EU, not only domestically but also at European level.”

Joining forces with the next presidency

Greece's 2014 EU presidency will be cost-effective, with a limited total budget of EUR 50 million. The Greek presidency will hold 14 informal ministerial meetings in Athens, at the Zappeion Mansion, as well as some 100-120 meetings of various working groups or COREPER. Most of the other meetings, including EU summits, will be held in Brussels. At the same time, it should be noted that close cooperation with the Italian presidency has already been established, with a view to drawing up a joint platform for the presidency of the European Union in 2014 by planning to align the two countries' programmes on illegal immigration, the economy and energy. Evangelos Venizelos, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, has called 2014 “a Mediterranean year” that could promote a different, alternative concept of the future of Europe”, one that would take a more inclusive approach to countries in a weaker position. (ek)

To find out more, go to: <http://www.gr2014.eu/>

IN SHORT

The EESC presents its reflections on environmental priorities to Nicolas Hulot



Nicolas Hulot, Special Envoy for the Protection of the Planet and Henri Malosse, EESC president

On 27 November, Nicolas Hulot, recently appointed Special Envoy for the Protection of the Planet by the President of France, met the EESC president, Henri Malosse, and European civil society representatives at the EESC headquarters in Brussels.

Mr Hulot talked with rapporteurs and the president of the Sustainable Development Observatory about topics of common interest such as the implementation of a European energy dialogue, the promotion of a green economy, and the post-2015 framework for eradicating poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability. He focused on the specific proposals supported by the EESC and the innovative avenues it is exploring, and concluded by stressing the need to ensure that civil

society is involved in the COP 21 climate conference in Paris in 2015.

Mr Hulot and Mr Malosse talked at length about the importance of involving representatives of civil society in order to strengthen democracy in Europe.

With his visit, Nicolas Hulot, a former journalist and head of a leading French environmental NGO, also aimed to draw the attention of the public, national and European players and EESC members to environmental priorities such as preserving biodiversity, protecting the oceans and the fight against trafficking in endangered species. (hb)

Christine Lagarde and EESC Members discuss recovery at the plenary session



Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF

The European Economic and Social Committee invited Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, to attend one of its plenary sessions. At a time of protracted crisis, the EESC discussed concerns about the repercussions of austerity policies and their ability to put European economies back on track.

On behalf of the EESC, the Committee president congratulated Ms Lagarde for publically acknowledging, just a few months previously, the importance of not sacrificing growth to austerity. Civil society feels strongly that other avenues need to be explored.

“Pressing ahead risks calling into question the social pact and endangering democracy. Is now not the time, for example, to restructure certain public or private debts?” asked Committee president Henri Malosse in his opening speech.

The IMF Managing Director agreed that despite relatively encouraging results in recent months, it would be premature to say that the crisis is now over; we

need to do more to climb out of the crisis.

While growth forecasts are up (with an expected 1% growth rate in 2014), she asked whether we can really say that the crisis is behind us when 12% of the active population is unemployed.

In her address, Ms Lagarde identified four priorities for renewed growth and jobs in Europe.

- **Strengthening credit** particularly by achieving a banking union, with a single supervisory mechanism and a single

bank resolution mechanism with a common safety net.

- **Supporting demand** by asking the ECB to keep its principal interest rates low to avoid jeopardising national banks and governments.
- **Reducing debt** so as to free up income and support consumption and investment.
- **Strengthening growth- and job-friendly markets** by targeting reforms in each country so as to improve productivity and flexibility and create new jobs.

The EESC also called for large-scale structural change, particularly by making reindustrialisation a European priority and by finally completing economic union. In order to achieve this, the Committee is preparing an action plan and an agenda for budgetary, social and fiscal convergence in the EU (II). ●

“Is now not the time, for example, to restructure certain public or private debts?”



Hans-Joachim Wilms, EESC vice president, Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF, Henri Malosse, EESC president, Jane Morrice, EESC vice president and Nicolas Alexopoulos, EESC acting secretary general

2013 IEC (Economic Intelligence and Competitiveness) Prize awarded to Thierry Libaert

On 4 December 2013 the French Academy for Economic Intelligence and Competitiveness awarded its annual prize for the best book of the year on economic intelligence.

Thierry Libaert and his colleague Nicolas Moinet from Poitiers University were jointly awarded the prize for the book they had co-authored on “La communication, domaine oublié de l’Intelligence économique” (IE) [“Communication – the forgotten field of economic intelligence”]. In selecting this work, the jury wished to highlight the evolution of economic intelligence and to promote a clearer understanding of the communication aspect, which was vital for its full development. (ab) ●



Thierry Libaert, EESC member

EESC info: You were recently awarded a 2013 IEC prize (for Economic Intelligence and Competitiveness), together with your colleague Nicolas Moinet from the University of Poitiers, for a book entitled “Communication – the forgotten field of Economic Intelligence (EI)” (“La communication, domaine oublié de l’Intelligence économique” (IE)). Could you tell us something more about the subject dealt with in this book and explain to our readers what economic intelligence is?

Thierry Libaert: Economic intelligence is the skill of grasping the finer points of a complex environment and obtaining an overall view of it, and then taking the right decision. In scientific and practical terms, economic intelligence comes under the social sciences and humanities. Although it first appeared outside academic circles, it

was developed at the crossroads of several academic disciplines: management science/information science, communication, and economic, political and legal science, as well as – albeit still at a fledgling stage – social psychology and sociology.

In your book you have tried to place communication, which goes beyond mere information management, at the heart of economic intelligence? Why?

Communication is the poor relation of economic intelligence practices, and communication analysis is notable for its absence in research into the subject. The fundamentals of economic intelligence have not yet been properly ascertained, in particular its operational concepts (a strong link between theory and practice). For this field to reach maturity, “strategic” information must be turned into knowledge, i.e. “knowing in order to take action” must become “knowing as taking action”. This shift, which requires a better understanding and full integration of the communication aspect of economic intelligence, is all too often confined to managing information, classed as strategic or not, or to a limited vision or even a simplification of the item of information concerned. We feel that this issue lies at the heart of economic intelligence, which cannot be reduced to a set of tools or methods, but must also be understood as a public policy, a way of thinking and even a type of culture. ●

PLENARY SESSION IN A NUTSHELL

Stop card-based payment abuse



Vincent Farrugia, EESC member

The EESC wants EU citizens to be able to make basic electronic payments cheaply and easily over the internet, both nationally and across borders. “The argument on how to start dismantling the high cost structure imposed by the card payment services that dominate the plastic money market has been going on for far too long”, says Vincent Farrugia (Employers Group, Malta), rapporteur for the EESC opinion on *Payment services*.

The Committee recommends that caps for both credit and debit payments be lower than those proposed, and that the new payments package be extended to cover mobile/online payment services. Payment costs and delivery problems, as well as legal and security concerns, are holding internet business back. (ail) ●

Inevitable twilight of the European steel industry?

Reliant on sectors such as the automobile and construction sectors, the European steel industry has been hit extremely hard by the economic crisis. Many production facilities have been closed, resulting in the loss of over 60 000 jobs. The



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alongside the long-term Action Plan. “The EESC welcomes the Commission proposal to support demand for EU-produced steel both at home and abroad, and ensure EU steel producers have access to third-country markets through fair trade practices. However, it is not enough. Long-term and general policies must be accompanied by fast-track, concrete actions”, says Claude Rolin (Workers Group, Belgium), rapporteur for the opinion.

The EESC considers that the action plan is rather vague and does not adequately address the cyclical dimension of the crisis. To ensure that the sector maintains its strategic importance to European manufacturing industry and employment and to

European Commission has just launched an Action Plan for the European Steel Industry (APS), but the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) thinks this is not enough.

In its opinion adopted on 11 December, the EESC calls for short-term and more tangible solutions

prevent it from shrinking further, the EESC calls for urgent measures.

The key points of the EESC proposal:

- Undertake a detailed evaluation of existing capacity
- Facilitate the use and transport of scrap and prevent illegal exports
- Ensure that a sufficiently sectoral approach is taken when allocating EU structural funds
- Take temporary public support measures to ensure that workers are retained in the steel industry
- Boost demand in downstream steel sectors
- Provide much more support, including public support, for investment in developing new technologies and processes to trigger further upgrades to installations and plants
- Introduce a sustainable model of steel production
- Focus the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund on anticipating change, for instance by facilitating the introduction of new technologies and helping workers to adjust to new technologies.

“In particular, careful consideration must be given to the special features of the sector. For example, the increases in electricity prices across the EU should be compensated, and climate change targets for the steel industry need to be technically and economically feasible”, adds Zbigniew Kotowski (Various Activities Group, Poland), co-rapporteur. (ail) ●

For more information please consult http://www.eesc.europa.eu/documents/opinions/avis_en.asp?type=en



PEER-TO-PEER INTERVIEW

Eve Päärendson's passion for the land of the rising sun



Eve Päärendson,
EESC member

In a series of interviews, Béatrice Quin, a French member of the EESC's Workers Group and the members' representative on EESC info's editorial board, has been talking to her fellow members to find out what issues they are most interested in. She recently met Eve Päärendson, an Estonian member of the Employers Group and director of International Relations at the Estonian Employers' Confederation.

EESC Info: You joined the EESC in 2004, when Estonia entered the EU. Back then you were very young (you still are): how were you selected to be a Member?

Eve Päärendson: Becoming a member of the EESC was a logical step for me, as I was already a member of

the EESC-Estonia Joint Consultative Committee and was therefore familiar with the EESC. My candidacy was promoted by my own organisation. I am glad to say that many of the other new Member States also appointed younger people back then – and they still do. It brings a much better balance to the work we do.

What do you think your presence in the Committee has brought to your organisation?

The EESC is the only official EU body where business has a voice! It provides me and my organisation with a wider and very useful business network.

Membership of the EESC offers early access to the EU legislative and policy-making process and greater access to key players in Brussels. As we all know, in the field of international relations, trustworthy contacts are invaluable.

In addition, through my participation in various groups involving third countries, my organisation has greatly benefited from being directly involved in shaping EU policy towards these key countries, giving it superb contacts and networking opportunities.

How do you manage to successfully communicate Europe in your country?

One of the hardest tasks is to communicate European issues at a national level. Business people are pragmatic, they always want to understand in concrete terms what the added value of any particular legislation actually is for them.

A certain amount of confrontation between national capitals and Brussels is inevitable, not least because of the media and local politicians who want to claim all the positive news for themselves and blame Brussels for the rest.

EU measures also take time to bear fruit, all of which makes communication even harder for those of us involved at both ends.

I think the EU too easily forgets that for those with no in-depth of knowledge of the EU, it is difficult to understand the EU's decisions. Here I believe that study visits to Brussels can be very useful tools for helping people to understand how the EU institutions work.

You are closely involved in EU-Japan relations: can you tell us why?

Japan is a very important strategic partner for the EU and we share the same fundamental values and principles. We also face several similar challenges, such as a rapidly changing demographic structure, the need for energy security and cyber security and the need to restore real growth.

The ongoing EU-Japan negotiations are crucial for both econ-

omies. A successful trade deal should increase EU exports to Japan by up to 30%, boost Europe's GDP by 0.8%, and create at least 400 000 additional jobs in EU Member States. Japanese GDP is expected to increase by 0.7% and exports to Europe by 24%.

I was already involved with Japan through my professional role, and as such became involved with the EESC's 2006 own-initiative opinion on *EU-Japan Relations: The role of civil society*. This led in turn in 2009 to the establishment of the EESC-Japan Contact Group, and since then the EESC has substantially expanded its contacts with non-state players in Japan.

Japanese culture is unique in many ways – even their concept of civil society is different from ours, which is exactly one of the reasons why dialogue with Japan is so inspiring for me. With Japan there are always exciting opportunities to learn something new. ●

IN SHORT

New psychoactive substances: Assessing risks and minimising harm from "legal highs"



On 27 November, the EESC brought together EU representatives, academics, health experts and stakeholders to discuss new rules designed to identify and withdraw harmful psychoactive substances from the market without jeopardising their legitimate industrial and commercial uses. Their conclusions will inform an EESC opinion on the topic to be voted on at the Committee's plenary session in January.

"The proposal will go some way to restricting supply, but not necessarily in a timely and cost-effective manner; more attention needs to be paid to reducing demand and ensuring that control measures are based on health and social data rather than political expediency" says David Sears, rapporteur of the EESC opinion on *New psychoactive substances*. ●

Did you know that...

- Last year, 2.2 million people purchased psychoactive substances (i.e. mephedrone, methylone and ketamine) worth EUR 0.5 billion.
- In the past three years, shops specialising in new psychoactive substances have opened up in at least 13 Member States, while similar shops online have increased four-fold.
- It is estimated that the damage to public health caused by new psychoactive substances amounts to EUR 211 million, and the cost of related law enforcement to EUR 117-144 million annually.
- The companies that produce these substances are based outside the EU (China and India) and quickly adapt to new restrictions by offering alternative substances. (ail)

Setting sights on the European elections in May 2014

Nearly 200 communications experts from civil society organisations, EU and national public authorities, academia and the media met in Brussels on 25 and 26 November for the 7th annual civil society media seminar organised by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in partnership with the European Parliament (EP).

The clock is ticking

The event took place less than 180 days before the next European elections and there was a palpable sense of urgency in the room about the need to find new ways and strategies to inform people about Europe and reach out to the public.

Jane Morrice, EESC vice-president in charge of communications, set the tone for discussions by stating in her opening speech that "we should do more to stop people from seeing Brussels as faceless, distant and elitist". She suggested a rethink of communications strategies before May 2014 and urged everybody, European, national and regional authorities, as well as influential civil society organisations, to "help us make Europe matter to the folks back home – because it does matter."

Vote to set the direction of Europe

One of the panel discussions focussed on the communication challenges of the 2014 European election campaign. The first phase of the European Parliament's communication campaign kicked off in September. This will be followed by a 'themes' phase, looking at what the EP does, then 'Go to Vote', and finally the outcome, or what happens next.



The message is not "vote because you love the EU", but "vote because you want to set the direction of Europe", speakers agreed.

Many participants were unable to hide their concern at the insufficient cooperation between EU institutions. Europe does "act, react and have an impact", but how can this be demonstrated to the electorate? One of the speakers argued that the EU institutions may themselves con-

tribute to the level of ignorance and confusion by often reacting individually and then failing to coordinate communications initiatives.

Others cautioned against seeing more communication as a "quick fix". "The EU communicates more when it is in trouble" said one, and went on to add that the pro/anti-EU debate is a sign of a healthy democracy.

Closing the seminar, European Parliament Vice-President Othmar Karas said that the success of the communications campaign depended largely on everybody's involvement in getting the message across. The upcoming European elections would be very different as the European public will have much more power to decide what does or does not happen in Europe. He concluded with an appeal to "help us get this message across". (mb) ●



Jane Morrice, EESC vice president and Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman

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EESC info

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