

23
TERM OF
OFFICE

Oliver Röpke
President of the EESC



European Economic
and Social Committee

Stand up for democracy Speak up for Europe

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRESIDENT OLIVER RÖPKE'S PRESIDENCY AFTER 2 YEARS

Oliver Röpke was elected President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on 26 April 2023. At that time, President Röpke presented his political Manifesto for the period 2023-2025, highlighting the key priorities for his presidency. The Manifesto set forth an ambitious agenda of 34 actions for the two and a half year mandate with the main aim of strengthening the EESC and enhancing its unique position as a gateway between citizens, civil society and EU institutions. After one year, the majority of the commitments made by President Röpke were implemented and others are in the process of being realised.

The EESC as a strong voice for organised civil society

During the past 2 years, the EESC has driven substantial changes and reforms. Out of 34 actions outlined in President Röpke's Manifesto, 27 have been accomplished, and 7 are in progress.



The EESC's voice resonated not only within the EU, but also on the international stage at the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations High Level Political Forum and Climate Change Conferences, and, for the first time, at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

The 4 Pillars of President Röpke's Manifesto

1. Stand up for democracy at home

**75%
Delivered**



Actions delivered

- ✓ EESC civil society panels ahead of the European elections
- ✓ Support European Parliament elections
- ✓ Combat disinformation and foreign interference
- ✓ Strengthen Fundamental Rights and the Rule of Law Group also in candidate countries
- ✓ Check the health of civil society in EU and beyond
- ✓ Revitalise the European Citizens Initiative

Actions in progress:

- Civil society panels in the daily work of the EESC
- Back the European Commission in monitoring online platforms

2. Stand up for democracy abroad

**100%
Delivered**



Actions delivered:

- ✓ High-level contacts with candidate countries
- ✓ Open EESC doors for EU candidate countries in advisory work of Committee (Enlargement Candidate Members)
- ✓ Enhance and streamline cooperation with international organisations (ILO, UN etc.)
- ✓ Stronger involvement of civil society organisations in third countries

3. Speak up for Europe: A more representative voice

80%
Delivered



Actions delivered:

- ✓ EESC Youth Group
- ✓ EU Youth Test
- ✓ Reinforce EESC youth activities
- ✓ Strengthen the Equality Group
- ✓ Strategic collaboration with EU institutions on gender equality
- ✓ Boost transparency (Transparency Register, EU Ethics Body)
- ✓ EESC webpage "For more youth engagement"
- ✓ Round tables on gender equality
- ✓ Youth Advisors Council to the President
- ✓ Follow up on the work of the Equality Group's survey

Actions in progress:

- Expand the role of EESC Youth Delegates
- Increase the share of female representation

4. Speak up for Europe: A strong and meaningful voice

70%
Delivered



Actions delivered:

- ✓ Social media presence and a major revamp of the EESC website
- ✓ Implement the new format of opinions
- ✓ Strengthen the EESC's relations with think tanks
- ✓ Call for an EU Blue Deal
- ✓ Open the IT tool NaviGate
- ✓ Revise methodology of opinions
- ✓ Foresight analysis in EESC opinions

Actions in progress:

- Follow up of the EESC recommendations to EU institutions
- Annual EESC Summit of Think Tanks
- Specific recommendations for Treaty amendments (if needed)

A more resilient, inclusive and democratic Europe

Beyond the 34 actions, the EESC continued to advance policies for a more social and competitive Europe, empowering EU citizens for the green and digital transitions, and defending democratic values. In addition to contributing the voice of organised civil society to the reports on the Future of the Single Market, the EESC also contributed to the Commission initiatives on re- and upskilling the EU workforce and to the reflection process on the EU's post-2027 cohesion policy.



**European Economic
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