



END OF MANDATE CEREMONY

Wednesday, 17 September 2025 | EP Hemicycle Brussels (14:30–18:30)

14:30–14:40 | Proud to be EESC: Opening together

- Welcome by the moderators **Shada Islam** and **Katrina Sichel**
- **Introductory video**

14:40–14:55 | A Social Europe for a Competitive and Sustainable Future

- **Introductory video:** **Roxana Mînzatu** (*Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness of the European Commission*), **Li Andersson** (*Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament*) and **Yolanda Díaz** (*Second Deputy Prime Minister of Spain*)
- **Wolfgang Katzian** (*President of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)*)
- **Markus Beyrer** (*Director-General of BusinessEurope*)
- **Mikael Leyi** (*Secretary-General of Solidar*)

14:55–15:10 | Opening Europe's Future: Youth at the Heart of Democracy

- **Rareş Voicu** (*President of the European Youth Forum*)
- **Debate** with EESC Rapporteurs **Gonçalo Lobo Xavier**, **Nicoletta Merlo**, **Elena Calistru**, and youth representatives **Sébastien Pérel** (*European Council of Young Farmers*), **Vassilis Angelopoulos** (*Hellenic National Youth Council*) and **Alexiane Terrochaire-Barbançon** (*representative of the Youth Advisory Council*)

15:10–15:55 | From Kyiv to Tirana: Civil Society Shaping Europe's Future

- **Prime Minister Edi Rama** (*Albania*) **Keynote**
- **Debate** with EESC Rapporteurs **Milena Angelova**, **Maria del Carmen Barrera Chamorro**, **Ionuț Sibian** and EESC Enlargement Candidate Members **Boško Savković** (*Serbia*); **Igor Zubcu** (*Moldova*); **Vasyl Andreyev** (*Ukraine*); **Ayşe Yürekli** (*Türkiye*) and **Pascale Joannin** (*Director-General of the Robert Schuman Foundation*)

15:55–16:05 | Parting Voices, Lasting Legacy

- **Tribute** to EESC Members **Dimitris Dimitriadis** (by *Stefano Palmieri*), **Peter Schmidt** (by *Stoyan Tchoukanov*) and **Pietro De Lotto** (by *Alain Coheur*)

16:05–16:15 | Team EESC – Tribute from the Groups

- **Stefano Mallia** (President of the Employers' Group)
- **Lucie Studničná** (President of the Workers' Group)
- **Séamus Boland** (President of the Civil Society Organisations' Group)

16:15–16:25 | Mandate Milestones: Reflections from the Vice-Presidents

- **Krzysztof Pater** (Vice-President of the EESC for Budget)
- **Laurențiu Plosceanu** (Vice-President of the EESC for Communication)

16:25–16:28 | From Vision to Delivery: The Administration's Contribution

- **Isabelle Le Galo Flores** (Secretary-General of the EESC)

16:28–17:00 | Civil Society at the Heart of Europe's Institutions

- **Video message Roberta Metsola** (President of the European Parliament); **Video message António Costa** (President of the European Council)
- **Debate** with **Tony Murphy** (President of the European Court of Auditors), **MEP Younus Omarjee** (Vice-President of the European Parliament), **Kata Tüttő** (President of the European Committee of the Regions) and **Maroš Šefčovič** (European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency)

17:00–17:20 | Equality & Inclusion

- **Debate** with MEP **Lina Gálvez** (Chair of the European Parliament FEMM Committee), **Sarah E. Hendriks** (Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, remote), **Zornitsa Roussinova** (President of the Economic and Social Council of Bulgaria), **Fariha Khan** (European Youth Representative of the Austrian National Youth Council) and **László Andor** (Secretary-General of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS))

17:20–17:30 | Global Gateway for Civil Society

- **Olavo Noletto** (Executive Secretary of the Brazilian CDESS, remote)
- **Louis Cheick Sissoko** (Presiding Officer of the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council)
- **Luc Triangle** (General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation)

17:30–18:00 | Proud to Be EESC: Thank You, Team EESC!

- **Video compilation** "Thank you, EESC! Proud to be EESC"
 - Final Address by **Oliver Röpke** (President of the EESC)
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