

**Insider briefing**

EESC ADOPTS CONTRIBUTION TO UPCOMING CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACT

**Cillian Lohan**, EESC rapporteur © EU/EESC

Rapporteur Cillian Lohan, representative of the Irish Environmental Pillar in the EESC Civil Society Organisations' Group, presented the EESC exploratory opinion on the 'Circular Economy Act – Circular economy and responsible resource consumption within planetary boundaries' at the June plenary session of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

The EESC prepared this opinion at the request of the European Commission, which is preparing a Circular Economy Act for 2026. This act is expected to accelerate the shift from a linear to a circular economy and strengthen the EU's competitiveness and resilience. The EESC's recommendations will directly feed into this process.

The EESC opinion highlights, amongst others, the urgent need to strengthen European markets for secondary raw materials and to integrate a resource-use perspective into all EU policies.

Rapporteur Cillian Lohan has prepared an Insider Briefing for this bulletin, explaining what is at stake and presenting the EESC's key messages.



Watch the video statement on YouTube



Read the entire article

**Editorial**

MAKING ALL VOICES HEARD IN DECISION-MAKING

Thank you for your continued engagement with our bulletin. This issue offers you diverse insights into the work of the Civil Society Organisations' Group for sustainable communities, the very beating heart of civil society and democracy.

Cillian Lohan, President of the EESC Civil Society Organisations' Group © EU/EESC

Current affairs

2026 HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Europe and Péter Magyar's voters have high expectations of him. Restoring the rule of law, guaranteeing media freedom, unlocking frozen EU funds, bringing civil society out of the defensive: all that is a lot for a beginner.

Rudolf Kolbe, Vice-President of the EESC Civil Society Organisations' Group

Reflections by civil society partners: Building resilient communities

RESILIENCE IS ROOTED IN PLACE

**Davie Philip** facilitating the Feeding Ourselves Community of Practice © Oliver Moore

Community resilience is not simply the ability to bounce back from shocks. It is the capacity of people rooted in place to adapt to change, care for each other, steward shared resources and work together to shape a fairer, sustainable future.

Local food is a pillar of territorial resilience, linking land, livelihoods, health, ecology, nature restoration and local democracy.

Strengthening food sovereignty gives communities greater say over the food systems that nourish them, helps retain value locally and reduces dependence on fragile supply chains and fossil-fuel-based inputs. This is not isolationism or protectionism; it is resilient self-reliance rooted in agroecology, cooperation, fairer trade and stronger local markets.

To enable resilient communities, Europe must view and invest in civil society as essential infrastructure. This requires long-term support, meaningful participation and...

Davie Philip, facilitator and community coach based in Cloughjordan Ecovillage



Read the entire article



EUROPE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2026

The latest report sends a clear and worrying message: progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Europe has stalled and is even reversing in some areas.

Stoyan Tchoukanov, President of the EESC's Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment Section

VISIT OF COMMISSIONER MCGRATH TO SPAIN

The Commissioner repeated a central idea: Consumers are no longer passive actors, but key players in the digital and green transitions, and public policies must support this transformation without leaving anyone behind.

Ileana Izverniceanu, member of the EESC Civil Society Organisations' Group

THE GLAS COMMUNITY GARDEN MODEL: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH SHARED GREEN SPACE



Alex Gray

Community gardens offer a locally-situated, integrated approach to building community resilience and sustainability. The challenge for policymakers is to nurture these spaces...

Alex Gray, Community programme manager, Global Action Plan Ireland (GAP)

The GLAS community garden in Ballymun is a unique space managed as a hub for biodiversity, environmental education and social inclusion. It enhances community resilience in a variety of ways.

Ireland still has one of the lowest levels of community garden provision in Europe. Government guidance, a national umbrella network and a legal framework for Community Land Trusts could enhance support for grassroots adoption of the GLAS model.

[Read the entire article](#)

News on our activities

EVENT OF THE FESTIVAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN BRUSSELS

The event, promoted by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS ETS) and hosted by the EESC Civil Society Organisations' Group, took place at a delicate moment for the future of the Union: in response to current poly-crises, Europe, rather than accelerating, risks slowing down precisely on the ecological and social transition mapped out by the Green Deal and the European Pillar of Social Rights, despite the continued declarations by European leaders in favour of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

It was attended by Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, Teresa Ribera, Directors-General of the Commission, representatives of...

Recap

FROM LARNACA TO THE ENTIRE EU: ANNITA DEMETRIOU SETS OUT CYPRUS' PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND FOOD SECURITY



Anastasis Yiapanis, Annita Demetriou and Cillian Lohan © EU/EESC

They must be considered in light of global uncertainties and growing risks to food supply chains, as well as the EU strategies for islands and coastal communities.

The conference, held under the patronage of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, focused on climate adaptation, food security and biodiversity, particularly from the island dimension.

The EU needs a long-term vision that takes greater account of geographic specificities. Sustainable water management and food security must become top priorities, with food security and biodiversity going hand in hand. These are some of the main messages from a conference organised by the EESC Civil Society Organisations' Group on 22 April 2026 in Larnaca.

The findings of this conference will feed into the work of the Civil Society Organisations' Group, whose work programme focuses, among other things, on the promotion of the sustainable agenda and building resilient communities.

[Read the entire article](#)

Initiative of the month

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC TRUST IN ROMANIAN NGOS: INSIGHTS FROM THE BOSC 2025 REPORT

The Barometer of Opinions on Civil Society (BOSC 2025), conducted by the Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC), shows that NGOs continue to enjoy a relatively constant level of public trust in Romanian society, even in a context marked by crises, polarisation and declining trust in institutions.

Ionuț Sibian, member of the EESC Civil Society Organisations' Group, presenting this initiative in our June bulletin

Your key takeaway



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