

ERADICATING POVERTY BY 2050

fulfilling our collective
responsibility

High-level debate

EESC PLENARY, 10 A.M., 22 OCTOBER 2026

Grand hemicycle (PHSHEM) room of the European Parliament's Paul-Henri Spaak building,
Rue Wiertz/Wiertzstraat 60, 1047 Brussels

Moderator: Jacki Davis, Senior Advisor to the European Policy Centre (EPC)

10 a.m.

NAVIGATING THE ROAD AHEAD

- Séamus Boland, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- Dara Calleary, Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development, Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU
- Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness
- Carlos Susias, President of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
- Li Andersson, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, European Parliament

Q & As

10.50 a.m.

SIGNATURE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE EESC

10.55 a.m.

Matthew Geraci, Milieu Consulting SRL – presentation of the EESC commissioned study
'Breaking the cycle of disadvantage – reviewing EU policy through the lens of poverty',

Q & As

11.15 a.m.

ENDING INTER-GENERATIONAL POVERTY

- Jack O'Connor and Krzysztof Balon, rapporteur and co-rapporteur, of the EESC Exploratory Opinion 'Anti-poverty strategy and intergenerational poverty'
- Octavian Bivol, Director of the UNICEF European Partnerships Office in Brussels
- Maria Petkova, Vice-President of Age Platform Europe (AGE)
- Massimiliano Mascherini, Head of Unit for Social Policies, Eurofound report 'Bridging the rural-urban divide: addressing inequalities and empowering communities'

Q & As

12.05 p.m.

JOINTLY PREVENTING AND PROTECTING AGAINST POVERTY

- Tayyab Munir Choudri, Person Experiencing Poverty, EAPN Norway
- Meelis Joost, Executive Board Member of the European Disability Forum (EDF)
- Sandrine Gaudin, Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank
- Petri Salminen, Entrepreneur, Salminen & Tikka Ltd
- Giulio Romani, ETUC Confederal Secretary

Q & As

12.55 p.m.

Séamus Boland, President of the EESC – **concluding remarks**