**Transcript – Video: End of term in office 2018-2020, Diversity Europe Group President Arno Metzler**

**Achievements of the 2018-2020 EESC Diversity Europe Group**

*Arno Metzler*

*EESC Diversity Europe Group President, 2018-2020*

In the first place: the fight against populism. We made a study how populism spreads in Europe, we made an event in Arlberg and we made a study about the values of European civil society.

The second thing is that we renamed our group and we made it the Diversity Group. We named it like that because we feel that we are representing the diversity of Europe.

And the third thing is that we made a big conference about the new role models in Europe and European civil society and I think that this is as well a success where the LGBT and the conservative Catholic movement discussed with each other.

**Challenges for the Group**

The group is facing the challenge to bridge the diversity in Europe. It is not only the name, it is a fact that all over Europe we have diverse opinions, diverse structures of organisations, diverse problems in civil society organisations and we have to find the joint consent, the joint values and the joint challenges and targets to work on.

**Ideas for the 2020-2025 EESC term in office**

The first thing is that we have to include all the new members.

The second thing is that we should try to play a really important and a contributive role in the Conference for the Future of Europe.

The third thing is that we should pay great attention to all those developments in the post corona civil society. We really have to carefully watch about keeping up the structure of the organised civil societies and the possibilities for the civil societies to express themselves.

**How can the EESC increase its impact on EU policy-making?**

We should strengthen the content of our papers.

We have always to be clear in our self-understanding. We are an advisory body to the EU institutions. We shall reflect and we shall be clear in this role that we are giving advice based on our knowledge, on our experience, and on the points of view of the civil society organisations and when we keep this and when we produce this in content, we will be well-respected. Good luck to the EESC.

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