

Annual European Semester Conference 2021  
**Building a resilient Europe -  
 Civil society and the National  
 Recovery and Resilience Plans**  
 31 May 2021 | 10:00 - 17:30



**ONLINE EVENT**  
 #ResilientEurope | @EESC\_ECO



## SPEAKERS



### **Javier Doz Orrit, President of the European Semester Group, EESC**

Javier Doz Orrit is a member of the Economic and Social Committee since September 2015. He is Vice President of the ECO section, and in October 2020, he was appointed President of the European Semester Group (ESG). He is the founder of the Education Federation in the CCOO (Trade Union Confederation of Workers' Commissions). Javier has represented CCOO in the governing bodies of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). He has been delegate for Spanish workers at the International Labour Conferences.

### **Christa Schweng, President of the EESC**

Christa Schweng was elected President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on 28 October 2020 for two and a half years. She has been an EESC member since 1998. Within the EESC, her work has focused on employment and social affairs. Between 2018 and 2020, she was President of the EESC's Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship (SOC). From 2013 to 2015, she chaired the work of the Labour Market Observatory (LMO). Outside the EESC, she works for the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ). Since 1994, she has been a senior advisor to WKÖ's Social Policy Department.



### **Othmar Karas, Vice-President, European Parliament**



Othmar Karas is an Austrian politician (ÖVP) and since 1999 Member of the European Parliament (EP). Mr Karas is currently Vice-President of the EP, a position he also held from 2012 to 2014. Othmar Karas is Vice-Chair of the FISC Subcommittee and Member of the ECON, ITRE and ACFO Committees. Othmar Karas was born in 1957 in Ybbs an der Donau. Mr Karas received a Master's degree in philosophy from the University of Vienna in 1996 and an MBL in European and International Business Law from the University of St. Gallen in 1997. In 2017, he received his doctorate degree in political science from the University of Vienna. In addition to his activities as president of the Austrian Hilfswerk, Othmar Karas founded the non-party association "Citizens' Forum Europe" in 2010 of which he is still the spokesman today. In the EP he is part of the EPP Group, where he held the Vice-Presidency from 2004 to 2011. Mr Karas also

chaired the ÖVP delegation to the EP from 2006 to 2009 and from 2011 to 2019.

### **Johannes Lübking, Principal Adviser, European Commission**

Johannes Lübking is the Principal Adviser in the European Commission's Recovery and Resilience Task Force and the European Semester Coordinator to support the Member States in the elaboration of their Recovery and Resilience Plans and their assessment during the implementation phase. Before joining the Task Force in November 2020, he was Acting Director of the Directorate-General for Competition's directorate in charge of the energy and environment sectors. He has been also leading several antitrust and cartel investigations in the European electricity, gas, and bioethanol markets.



### **Tiziano Treu, President of the Italian national Economic and Social Council**

Tiziano Treu has had a long university career as a Professor of Labour Law. He has collaborated closely with trade unions (in particular with the Italian CISL) and also with various international associations of labour law and industrial relations. Tiziano Treu has been active in many national and international professional associations and public institutions. He has been Minister of Labour and Social Security in the Italian Government from 1995 to 1998. He was elected to the Senate of the Italian Republic, a position he held until April 2013. He is a member of CNEL, as an expert appointed by the President of the Republic (National Council for Economy and Labour), and was appointed President of CNEL by Presidential Decree on 16 May 2017.

### **Brikena Xhomaqi, Co-chair of the EESC Liaison Group**

Brikena Xhomaqi is the Director of the Lifelong Learning Platform - European Civil Society for Education (former EUCIS-LLL) since 2016. She is the co-chair of the European Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group of Civil Society since January 2020 and a member of the Civil Society Europe Steering Committee since 2017 and the Advisory Board member of Association Hub Belgium. She is the former Head of Office of the European Students' Union (ESU) and Director of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN). She was active in civil society from early ages as an elected representative of different school and university student bodies. She graduated in Innovative Management at the Polytechnic University of Nice Sophia Antipolis in France and holds a professional master's degree in International Development and a bachelor's degree in Political Sciences.



### **Plamen Dimitrov, Member of the European Semester Group, EESC**

Plamen Dimitrov is the President of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria and Deputy Member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.

### **Martin Salamon, Member of the European Semester Group, EESC**

Martin Salamon has worked for 30 years in telecommunications, energy and competition, equally and is currently chief economist at a large national consumer organisation (the Forbrugerrådet Tænk).





### **Denis Meynent, Member of the European Semester Group, EESC**

Denis Meynent is European and International Affairs Adviser at the General Confederation of Labour (CGT).

### **João Morais Sarmento, Technical Counsellor, EU Council Portuguese Presidency**

João Sarmento has been mostly following the climate files in the since 2017 as an attaché at the Portuguese Permanent Representation to the Council of the European Union. His previous experience includes working as a policy officer in the State Secretary for Land Planning and Nature Conservation. Prior to that he was head of the Environment and Sustainability Department of the Portuguese Road and rail network. He began his active work life in the North Region state Department for Regional Development where ultimately he became responsible for the Environmental Impact Assessment Unit. Graduated in Mining Engineer with a MsC in Management and Technologies of Natural Resources both from Porto the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto.



### **Peter Schmidt, President of the NAT section, EESC**

Peter Schmidt has declared that the UN Agenda 2030 on sustainable development, the European green Deal and the European Pillar of Social rights will be the cornerstone of his EESC NAT Presidency. He particularly stressed the importance of the social dimension of the transition to a climate-neutral Europe must be the priority at all political levels.

### **Cillian Lohan, Vice-President for Communication, EESC**

Cillian Lohan is the EESC Vice-President, in charge of communication at the European Economic and Social Committee. In the priorities of his mandate, he has underlined the necessity to invest in an urgent transition away from a dependency on outdated energy systems. In 2017, he helped establish the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, which he helped to establish and is and still represents the EESC on Platform. He is an experienced delegate at United Nations initiatives such as the Climate COP negotiations, and the High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2010, he is the CEO of Green Economy Foundation, an internationally active Irish NGO that works for a green economy, sustainable agriculture and resource efficiency while maintaining education, community scale development projects, and biodiversity activities.







**Francesco Pietro De Lotto, President of the CCMI Section, EESC**

Pietro De Lotto is the President of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change at European Economic and Social Committee. Between 2009 and 2020, he served as Director General of the Confartigianato Vicenza (General Federation of Italian Artisans and Craftsmen) and represented the Italian SMEs at the Economic and Social Committee. He has been a Senior Researcher and Aggregate Professor of International Economics at the University of Trieste for 12 years (until 2009).

**Zsolt Darvas, Senior Fellow, Bruegel**

Zsolt holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Corvinus University of Budapest where he teaches courses in Econometrics and in other institutions since 1994. His research interests include macroeconomics, international economics, finance, EU governance and social policy. His current works focus on policy-related issues, such as policies to address the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, European economic governance, EU budget, financial integration and development, income inequality and inclusive growth, migration, estimation of real-time reliable output gaps and aggregation-theoretic measurement of money.



**Santina Bertulesi, Deputy Head of Cabinet, European Commission**

Santina Bertulesi joined the cabinet of Commissioner Schmidt in December 2019 where she is the cabinet's senior political adviser. She is in charge of the coordination of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European economic policy coordination and the European Semester, the Social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union, the Child Guarantee, the Social economy and the relations with the European Parliament. She also follows Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.

**Carlos Manuel Trindade, Rapporteur, EESC**

EESC Member and President of the General Assembly of the Various Service Workers' Trade Union (STAD) – SPVLD (Port, Security, Cleaning, Domestic and Various Services) Workers' Trade Union.





### **Cristian Pîrvulescu, Rapporteur, EESC**

Since 1999 Cristian Pîrvulescu has been President of the ProDemocratia Association, and since 2004 he has been president of AIRUE (Association for the Integration of Romania in the European Union), a network of Romanian and European organisations with a strong trade union imprint. He is a founding member of the Political Science Association and the Political Science Society.

### **Liina Carr, Confederal Secretary, ETUC**

Liina Carr was re-elected ETUC Confederal Secretary in 2019, having first been elected in 2015. Her responsibilities at ETUC include macroeconomic policy, economic governance and the European Semester, the European Pillar of Social Rights, social protection, external relations, implementation of UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the EU and development cooperation, as well as human resources. Liina has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 2004. From 2015-2019 she handled a wide range of issues at ETUC including trade, mobility, posting of workers, the European Labour Authority, migration, social protection and development cooperation policies. Liina studied law and worked in the private sector in Estonia and Britain and worked in academia and the public sector in UK. In 2002 she started working for the Confederation of Estonian Trade Unions (EAKL) where she served as International Secretary from 2004 to 2015. During EU accession, she was part of the trade union team working with the Estonian government to implement EU social and labour legislation.



### **Rebekah Smith, Deputy Director of Social Affairs, BusinessEurope**

Rebekah has been working in the field of EU affairs for fifteen years. She joined BusinessEurope ten years ago and she is currently Deputy Director in the Social Affairs department of BusinessEurope. Here she manages different policy areas: sustainability, CSR, and diversity; industrial relations, labour law, and working conditions; and social/employment aspects of digitalisation. She also coordinates employer members of the European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions. She is also a member of the management committee of the platform on EU implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. She coordinates employer members of the European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions.

### **Francesco Corti, Associate Researcher, CEPS**

Francesco Corti is an Associate Researcher at CEPS and Adjunct Professor at the University of Milan at the department of social and political science. He is an expert in European social and employment policies, EU budget, EMU governance, and Social Investment. He served as policy advisor to a MEP in the ECON Committee between 2016 and 2019. He is currently involved in the RRF Monitor initiative launched by CEPS (<https://rrfmonitor-ceps.eu/>)

