

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
the European Economic and Social Committee and the Regional Cooperation Council

Preamble

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (hereinafter MoU) is entered into by and between:

THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (hereinafter EESC), the European Union's official advisory body representing civil society, having its headquarters in Brussels, Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99-101, 1040 Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium; and

THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (hereinafter RCC), an all-inclusive, regionally owned and led framework, having its headquarters in Sarajevo, Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1/V, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For the purpose of this MoU, EESC and RCC are hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Signatories” and each as a “Signatory.”

WHEREAS the EESC has the mandate to forge links between economic and social councils (ESCs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans through Joint Consultative Committees (JCCs) and activities of the Western Balkans Follow-up Committee and to act as the main organiser of an biennial Western Balkans Civil Society Forum;

WHEREAS the RCC was established in 2008 as an all-inclusive, regionally owned and led framework which engages participants from the South East Europe (SEE), members of the international community and donors with a view to enabling the implementation of regional programmes aimed at economic and social development to the benefit of the people in the region. RCC is a catalyst for sustainable regional cooperation that is required from the SEE economies in the process of their EU integration;

BEING AWARE that EESC and RCC now express their intent to cooperate in the area of mutual interest, including but not limited to the SEE2030 Strategy, the Common Regional Market (CRM) and Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB), with a particular focus on the inclusion of civil society and youth as stakeholders at the regional dialogue to bring the benefits of regional actions and gain a wider outreach in the communities of the region in an efficient, safe, easy and affordable manner;

The Signatories have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this MoU is to establish a non-binding and non-exclusive framework for cooperation which the Signatories mutually intend to undertake in the area of mutual interests for both Signatories, particularly relating to the civil society sector and its inclusion into the regional activities organised by the Signatories with the objective of promoting an all-inclusive and all-encompassing network of stakeholders among the SEE economies and beyond as feasible.

ARTICLE 2

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Signatories agree:

- 2.1 to boost cooperation between EESC and RCC in areas of mutual interest that include but are not limited to policy areas under the SEE2030 Strategy, Common Regional Market and Green Agenda for the Western Balkans;
- 2.2 to support ongoing socio-economic reforms in the region of the SEE to establish a common area of peace and stability, underpinned by the EU aspirations of the SEE economies;
- 2.3 to promote and mainstream the inclusion of civil society and its deeper engagement with the regional stakeholders on a wide array of areas that promote peace and prosperity of the SEE;
- 2.4 to enhance the dialogue between European and SEE's stakeholders, including through a structured youth and civil society engagement and facilitate the exchange of best practices and knowledge.

ARTICLE 3

WORKING METHOD OF COOPERATION

Subject to other provisions of this MoU and in accordance with their respective mandates, rules, regulations and procedures, the Signatories hereby express their mutual intent:

- 3.1 to regularly meet and ensure the exchange of information on their respective work programmes in relevant fields of mutual interest;
- 3.2 to participate in relevant meetings of both Signatories, as deemed appropriate and upon invitation by the host Signatory;
- 3.3 to organise joint events of mutual interest involving civil society stakeholders, including but not limited to the SEE2030 Strategy, Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and Common Regional Market;
- 3.4 to support visibility of Signatories' activities, according to their role within the joint activities and pursuant to applicable rules, following a reciprocal approach in all cases.

The above list of cooperation activities is not exhaustive and can be updated any time on the basis of mutual written arrangements between the Signatories.

ARTICLE 4

NATURE OF THE MoU AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 This MoU is not intended as, and will not be deemed or construed as, a binding agreement between the Signatories. Nothing contained in this MoU will give rise to any form of fiduciary or legal obligations or responsibilities by either Signatory.
- 4.2 The cooperation between the EESC and RCC will not imply the allocation of any additional funds or financial resources to support and implement activities arising from the MoU; each Signatory shall bear its own costs resulting from the implementation of this MoU.

ARTICLE 5

CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION AND NOTICES

- 5.1 For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of agreements and other arrangements, which may be established by the Signatories under the framework of this MoU, the channel of communication for the Signatories will be as follows:

For EESC:

European Economic and Social Committee
Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99-101
1040 Brussels
Kingdom of Belgium
Attention: Mr. David Hoic
E-mail: David.Hoic@eesc.europa.eu and Rex@eesc.europa.eu

For RCC:

Regional Cooperation Council
Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1/V
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Attention: Ms. Pranvera Kastrati
E-mail: Pranvera.Kastrati@rcc.int

- 5.2 Each Signatory may, by written notice to the other Signatory, designate additional or substitute representatives of such Signatory.

ARTICLE 6

ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

- 6.1 This MoU shall enter into force on the date when the last of the two Signatories signs.
- 6.2 Any proposal for amendment of this MoU shall be submitted to the competent authorities of both Signatories for approval.
- 6.3 Either Signatory may terminate this MoU by giving no less than three months' written notice to the other Signatory. Any such termination will be without prejudice to the orderly completion of any ongoing activity pursuant to this MoU as of the time of such notice.
- 6.4 Any dispute between the Signatories arising from this MoU will be resolved by amicable direct negotiations between the Signatories, or by any other means to which the Signatories mutually agree in writing.
- 6.5 The Signatories have caused their duly authorised representatives to sign this MoU in two (2) originals in English language, as of the date(s) set forth below.

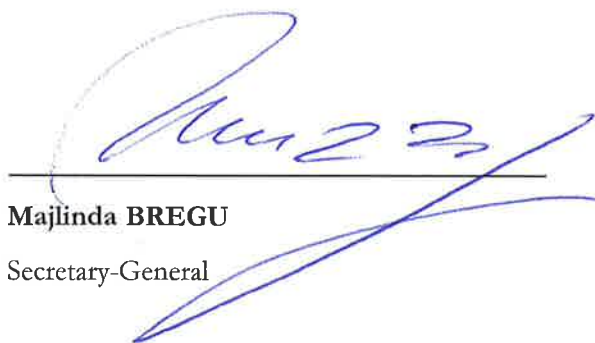
For the
**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE**



Oliver RÖPKE

President

For the
REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL



Majlinda BREGU

Secretary-General

Date: 12 July 2023, Brussels

Date: 12 July 2023, Brussels