



The Reform of the European Semester

21 March 2023

Helsinki (SOSTE)



Organisers of this round table

- [The European Economic and Social Committee \(EESC\)](#)
- [SOSTE, the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health](#)
- [Akava, the Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff](#)

Participants

- Mr. Vertti Kiukas (Secretary General, SOSTE)
- Ms. Kirsi Marttinen (Senior Advisor, SOSTE)
- Mr. Jukka Haapakoski (Chief Executive Officer of the Finnish National Organisation of the Unemployed and Board Member of ICSW Europe)
- Ms. Pia Sundell (Executive Director for the Finnish Children's Welfare Association and member of the Executive Board of EuroHealthNet)
- Mr Markus Penttinen (Akava and EESC Member)
- Ms. Päivi Wood (Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK))
- Ms Larissa Franz-Koivisto (EAPN Fin/CARITAS Finland representative)
- Mr Jüri Soosaar (EESC's ECO Section secretariat)

[The EESC's European Semester Group](#), in cooperation with SOSTE, Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, and Akava organised a round table discussion on the needs for a reform of the European Semester. The debate covered the Recovery and Resilience Facility, country reports, national reform programmes and country-specific recommendations in the context of European economic governance framework. The results of the debate will be included in the EESC opinion on the "[Recommendations for a solid reform of the European Semester](#)" (ECO/600).

On the basis of the round table discussions and the responses to the questionnaire from national delegations, the EESC will draw up an own-initiative opinion on the development of the European Semester. The EESC will pass on these recommendations to the European institutions and national governments and ensure that they are fully taken into account in the European Semester cycle.

This follows on from the consultations and resolutions published in previous years:

Resolution of February 2021 on the "[Involvement of Organised Civil Society in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans – What works and what does not?](#)";

Resolution of May 2022 on ["Involvement of Organised Civil Society in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans – How can we improve it?"](#).

This roundtable discussion addressed the following issues:

Consultation of organised civil society in the context of the European Semester:

- **What works and what doesn't?**
- **How to strengthen the involvement of organised civil society in the European Semester?**

The debate was chaired and moderated by Vertti Kiukas, Secretary General of SOSSTE and member of the EESC.

08:30–09:00

Coffee and tea

09:00–09:10

Welcoming participants

09:10–11:30

Discussion on the questionnaire

09:10–11:30

Conclusions - Summary of the discussions