Introduction

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) was set up as a consultative body of the European Union in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome.

The EESC is an advisory assembly composed of 350 members from Europe’s socio-economic sphere nominated by national governments and appointed in a personal capacity by the Council of the European Union. The EESC is a formal channel for its members to present their views on EU policies, advising the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission and so participating fully in the European Union’s decision-making process.
Part of the EESC, the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (known by its French acronym of CCMI), examines changes in industry across a wide range of sectors.

The CCMI promotes coordination and consistency of EU action on the main changes in industry within the enlarged European Union and ensures the right balance between the need to make changes that are socially acceptable and maintaining a competitive edge for European industry.

The CCMI focuses on how to predict changes in the economic and social environment and find ways of keeping pace with these and tackling them in a way consistent with the values of economic, social and environmental sustainability that underpin the European social model and dialogue.

The CCMI is committed to ensuring that the industrial dimension is properly reflected in all the initiatives taken by the relevant directorates-general of the European Commission and at the European Parliament and the Council. In particular, it scrutinises the interplay between all the policies, which have not always been ideally coordinated.
History of the CCMI

The CCMI is the oldest EU body devoted solely to forecasting the future of industry. It succeeded the consultative committee of the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community) when this expired on 23 July 2002, being established as a distinct body within the European Economic and Social Committee. The CCMI’s remit has been extended to embrace all sectors of industry in both manufacturing and services.
The CCMI is made up of 51 EESC members and the same number of external delegates. The latter are appointed by the EESC from associations representing civil society at European level. Delegates fall into one of three categories (employers, employees and various interests), mirroring the structure of the three groups in the EESC. The CCMI benefits from this unique composition within the EESC by gaining – through the delegates – a direct source of information about forecasts coming from Europe’s economic players themselves.

The CCMI president is an EESC member and the co-president is a delegate. The CCMI publishes its views in the same way as the EESC sections, namely in:

- mandatory opinions under the Treaty,
- optional and exploratory opinions at the request of the European Parliament, the Council or the Commission,
- own-initiative opinions,
- information reports.

Opinions and reports are drafted in a number of stages by a rapporteur and a co-rapporteur backed by a study group made up of members and delegates. Conferences and public hearings are often held to garner contributions from as broad a range of experts as possible. CCMI opinions are officially adopted by the EESC’s plenary assembly.
Presidency and Bureau

CCMI president

Lucie Studničná
(Member, Group II – Employees, Czech Republic)

Co-president

Jacques Glorieux
(Delegate, Category 3 – Diversity Europe, Belgium)

Bureau members

Enrico Gibellieri
(Delegate, Category 2 – Employees, Italy)

Michal Pintér
(Delegate, Category 1 – Employers, Slovakia)

Georgi Stoef
(Member, Group I – Employers, Bulgaria)

Anastasis Yiapanis
(Member, Group III – Diversity Europe, Cyprus)
From left to right: E. Gibellieri, G. Stoev, L. Studnicná (president), J. Glorieux (co-president), A. Yiapanis, M. Pintér