Record of proceedings

1. Welcome and presentation

Conny Reuter relates his activities and meetings, including his speech at the investiture of the new EESC president, a meeting with him and with the Group III president, his participation to EESC events. He mentions also other members' activities in the EESC.

He regrets that only few members participate to the meeting and reminds that according to the Operating rules, adopted last year, "If an organisation or network representing civil society does not participate in three consecutive meetings, including the meetings of the civil society organisations component of the Liaison Group, without having apologised, it will lose its membership.". A letter will therefore be sent to the full members of the LG who have not attended the last three meetings, reminding of this rule and asking them to explain their continued absence, and whether they intend to keep their engagement with the Liaison Group.

It is reminded that this rule apply only to full members. It is anyway decided that every time an invitation is sent to the LG members for a meeting, it should be reminded that they all are invited, including the alternates.

2. Exchange of views on the next Civil Society Day (CSD)

As for the format, a balance needs to be found between the institutional part and a more open and participatory approach which would allow participants to better voice their views.

CSD should gradually become an event similar to the Committee of Regions' Open Days, catalysing and grouping activities from CSO and institutional stakeholders.

A call to volunteer will be launched so to constitute a group that could lead the reflexion on format and content of next CSD.

Once the frame is set, obviously in agreement with the LG institutional partner, the EESC, a form of consultation among LG constituencies could be launched so to gather ideas and facilitate the ownership.
As for the dates, it should fit the institutional agendas, availability of rooms and allows also enough time to be properly organised. May, June could be option.

3. Exchange of views on **LG activities in 2016**.

A calendar of meetings, both for LG-CSO and LG full meetings, will be proposed so to facilitate and increase participation.

It is suggested that a reflexion should be carried out on a report on the state of the civil dialogue which would be made by the LG – possibly in the frame of or connected to the Civil Society Day.

All participants agree that cooperation could be stepped up with Civil Society Europe, which is definitely complementary and not alternative to the LG, which enjoys a unique structured and formal access to an EU institution.

4. AOB

- C. Reuter noticed that everybody was speaking in English and that therefore the use of interpreters in such format of the LG should be reconsidered.

- P. Brombo reminded the LG members of the importance of disseminating the **Liaison Group Newsletter** as widely as possible, notably to the affiliates of the LG members. He reminded as well that all the members (including the alternates) should communicate to liaison-group@eesc.europa.eu any event, or other information they want to have published in the Newsletter.

- In order to **facilitate the circulation of information and the cooperation** among the members, the secretariat will propose an e-tool, probably Yammer.