

EESC EMPLOYERS CALL FOR AN OPEN, UNITED AND STRONG EU

We as European delegates for employers and entrepreneurs stand for the European Union and its values of democracy, freedom, fundamental rights and the rule of law.

We are committed to working for a strong EU. Only a strong EU can succeed against a backdrop of global competition, uncertainty and disruption, and provide European citizens with security and wellbeing. A strong EU is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and resilient.

We believe that the EU is stronger the more united it is – in its diversity. Unity brings about internal efficiency and external influence. It is a matter of common objectives, decisions and action, to tackle issues that cannot be managed through national measures alone.

We are convinced that the strength of the EU lies in its attractiveness: in its ability to enable citizens to enjoy the European way of life. To make this possible, the EU needs to be a good place to do business.

We call for a competitive business environment that encourages enterprises to innovate, invest and trade. This enables businesses to thrive and provide citizens with jobs, goods and services. It also enables the generation of public revenue for education, healthcare and social systems, as well as for internal and external security. Economic and social progress thus go hand in hand.

We firmly believe in an open economy - with open markets and fair competition. While providing businesses with larger markets and better access to resources, it benefits citizens with a wider choice of goods and services and the possibility to travel, study and work abroad. We therefore call for fully functioning single market and rules-based foreign trade.

We think that an open economy must be accompanied by an open society. We are concerned about populist, authoritarian and xenophobic movements that work against the principles of an open society built on the common core values of the EU.

We are in favour of a society that relies on dialogue and good governance. It implies that decision-making is based on democracy, full compliance with the rule of law, subsidiarity principle, transparency, and the involvement of civil society. Vibrant civil society and social dialogue are vital guarantees of a progressive and cohesive society.

We call for enabling and encouraging policies that stimulate creativity, innovation, ongoing learning, agility and entrepreneurial spirit throughout society. An open society relies on freedom and responsibility, not on command and control.

We respect diversity and believe it is a great asset for the EU. This applies to the richness of cultures and natural features across countries. It also applies to diversity in terms of gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, age, religion and beliefs or any other personal characteristic.

We are confident that openness increases stability and security – both in the economy and society, due to stronger interdependence and interaction. Instead of fences, the EU therefore needs connecting bridges.

In conclusion, we believe that an open economy and society are beneficial for all and would generate new confidence in the EU. This is how the positive spiral of an open, united and strong EU can and should continue.