



European Economic and Social Committee
The President

EESC President's key speaking points
at
2nd meeting of the Steering Committee Europe 2020
8 February 2011

My work programme "Engaging People for a Sustainable Europe" has three pillars: Dialogue and participation- Sustainability and Growth- Solidarity and development. It fully supports our work on the Europe 2020 Strategy.

*During my meeting with **Mr Barroso** he stressed that civil society organisations have a key role to play in the practical implementation of the reforms to be carried out in the framework of Europe 2020 Strategy.*

I am confident that our clear strategy to engage all civil society stakeholders to the preparation and implementation of Europe 2020 reforms will be a success. We need everybody's engagement and therefore:

I visited Dutch, Spanish, Luxembourgish, Greek national ESCs and I intend to continue to do so, on a normal basis, during my mandate. Here I would like to put forward the importance of the meeting in Paris, where the president Sarkozy, at the inaugural speech of the renewed ESC has stressed the importance of EU coordination in policy making.

I have also initiated a larger and deeper collaboration with the Members of the Commission, namely:

- *During my discussion with **Commissioner Hahn** we shared views on how the Cohesion Policy could better contribute to the Europe 2020. We agreed that regional partnerships with representatives of organised civil society will form one of the cornerstones of the effectiveness of the 2014-2020 cohesion policy.*
- ***Commissioner Barnier** requested "last minute" our fast contribution on the Internal Market Act, to help him select the "priority one" list of actions to take. Consequently I have written, together with Mr Iozia,*



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president of the SMO, directly to national ESC asking their views and the SMO will organise a hearing in Budapest on 21 February with national ESC's to discuss this topic in depth. And I will take part.

- *Meeting with **Commissioner Sefcovic** gave me opportunity to hand over first draft on national contributions and we agreed that we will meet regularly in order to assess the progress made by stakeholders.*
- *As regards our continuous cooperation with our partners at national level, it is of paramount importance to involve national ECS's and other partners' organisations in the NRP's of their respective Governments. **This confirms and strengthens civil society organisations as main drivers of the reform process.***

Our work with the national ESCs continues to have two objectives:

- *One in the short run is to implicate them in the NRP's, and*
- *The other one is focused on the long term with a wider aim to build up synergies and strengthen cooperation regarding the implementation of reforms.*
