



EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COMMITTEE

EMPLOYERS' GROUP

# Group I Internal

Newsletter of the Employers' Group

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May 2011

## EDITORIAL BY HENRI MALOSSE

### Assessing the Cost of "Non-Europe":

The debate on the future of the EU budget is crucial for the future of Europe. This is not about numbers, but an issue of conception, or even political vision of the European Union.



The question is whether we want to give the EU the means to implement the Lisbon Treaty and the 2020 Strategy, including investments in favour of the magic triangle – Education, Innovation and Research; new EU initiatives on youth mobility, particularly through the teaching or encouragement of the entrepreneurial spirit; and the transport infrastructure which is vital to the European economy.

Of course, **Employers are more aware than others of the need for fiscal discipline over government spending** and oppose higher taxes on economic activity.

But the rigor should apply primarily to the budgets of Member States because it is the political leaders of Member States that have deepened public deficits, not the European Union – whose 2011 budget is **only 141.9 billion euros or**

**1.13% of EU GDP, which represents a little more than the budget of Finland.**

To truly reduce national budget deficits, one must first rely more on complementarity and community action rather than play "every man for himself." The business world knows that this is always the winning strategy among partnerships and alliances.

Projects are not scarce and there is a need to seek new financial procedures such as public-private partnerships or Eurobonds, the use of global grants when it comes to supporting small and medium businesses, or common funds linking national budgets with European ones, in partnerships for 2020.

But we will not succeed in this effort **unless we manage to mobilize the peoples of Europe against national selfishness** and if we made it clear to European public opinion that a euro spent at EU level is more effective than if spent at a national level. That is why we must support the idea of a new study on "the economic and social cost of non-Europe", an initiative launched by the European Parliament, which is the subject of an inter-institutional dialogue, an idea that the EESC, and especially the Employers' Group should support. This will include assessing what the Europeans are losing each year in percentage points of growth, jobs lost, taxes paid unnecessarily, because of duplication and economies of scale which are not realised because of the existing barriers and national egoism.



**Emmanuelle Butaud-Stubbs (FR)**

**Member of Group I**

*“Several colleagues from Group I... gave me a very warm welcome and allowed me to find my bearings in this complex organisation”*

*“I am specifically concerned with the conditions for all the micro-companies and their owners in Europe”*

### MEMBERS' VOICES

Proposed by the MEDEF and nominated by the French Government, **Emmanuelle Butaud Stubbs** is a member of the Employers' Group since September 2010 and is part of the INT and REX sections and the CCMI.

After graduating from Political Sciences, Emmanuelle Butaud-Stubbs joined the CNPF (National Council of French Employers) to monitor the legislative work of the European Parliament. Then, she focused her work in the insurance sector on the subjects of EU lobby and international co-operation.

In 2002, she joined the UIT (Union of Textile Industries) to prepare for the end of quotas and became Managing Director in 2008.

"I discovered since a few months now the functioning of the EESC.

Several colleagues from Group I – French, British, Dutch ..., gave me a very warm welcome and allowed me to find my bearings in this complex organisation."

"I have three priorities during these 5 years:

1. work towards the implementation of a demanding **European trade policy, adapted to the reality of globalization,**
2. make the **voice of SMEs and their employees heard** in developing an ambitious industrial policy,
3. **promote the creative industries** featuring exceptional skills and **enhance their contribution to wealth creation and jobs."**

### MEMBERS' VOICES

**Erik Svensson** has a very versatile background; Economist and Sales Manager in General Motors, Project Manager in IBM, Director of Recruitment and Management Development in the Swedish state-owned companies, President of the Business Enterprises of Farmers Union – and foremost – **entrepreneur and consultant in our family-owned consulting business.**

"My priorities in the Committee are all concerned with how to **improve and strengthen the competitiveness of European Business** and the fulfilment of the strategies for the open market for products, services and people. I am specifically **concerned with the conditions for all the micro-companies and their owners in Europe."**



**Erik Svensson (SE)**

**Bureau Member of Group I**

## GROUP I EVENTS

### Group I hosts a debate on "the Maritime Economy" with Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, 15 March

Henri Malosse, President of the Employers' Group of the EESC, welcomed Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, during a debate on the future of the European strategy for the maritime economy at a Group I meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

Ms Damanaki accentuated the **vital role of employers**, who can provide the interface between the European Commission and national investors, **to promote an EU maritime policy that offers the greatest possibility of long-term development**.

The Commissioner spoke about Europe's maritime traditions, stressing the **importance of the economic potential of European seas**. She broached the subject of "blue growth" which occupies a prominent place in Europe 2020, and outlined the priorities of the EU maritime policy, including investment in scientific research and analysis of the needs of the sector in the areas of transport, tourism and fisheries. The intervention was followed by a lively debate on the future of the European strategy.



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### First meeting of Czech EESC Members and MEPs, 15 March

On 15 March 2011 was held the first formal meeting between Czech EESC Members, including Group I members **Vladimíra Drbalová**, **Ivan Voleš** and **Marie Zvolská**, and the Members of the European Parliament from the Czech Republic, including Libor Rouček, Vice-President of the European Parliament.



The discussion revolved around topics such as volunteering, the possibility of **cooperation at European and national level**, strategic initiatives, as well as contacts with the Czech Senators on specific issues. Both sides expressed their wish for further regular contacts, especially on enhancing the role of civil society and deepening participatory democracy in the present context of new EU economic initiatives.



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### Resolution of the Bulgarian Economic and Social Council on the Single Market Act, 21 February

After the invitation dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 by Mr. Staffan Nilsson, President of the EESC, for the Economic and Social Council of the Republic of Bulgaria (ESC) to present its opinion on the Single Market Act, the Presidential Board of the ESC decided to prepare a Resolution on the document and appointed as rapporteur Dr. Milena Angelova, Member of Group I, Member of the Economic and Social Council, and Chief Secretary of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association. The ESC adopted this resolution at its Plenary Session held on 21 February 2011.



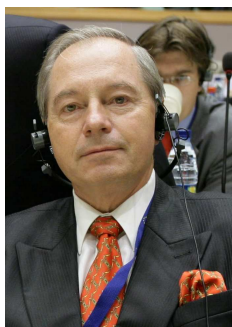
**Milena Angelova (BG)**  
Vice-President  
of Group I

The **resolution calls for a common European social and economic space, as well as the acceleration of Bulgaria and Romania's accession to the Schengen Area.** It states that the Bulgarian ESC supports the European Commission's Single Market Act and **welcomes the Commission's initiative of an active public debate involving all representatives of European society which should always be applied.** Other highlights include: a suitable framework for European supply of goods and services; greater attention to industrial policy and encouragement of European industry to stimulate the creation and preservation of new jobs; reforming the system for the **recognition of professional qualifications and ensuring the free movement of the workforce** within the EU.

You can find the full text of the resolution here:

<http://www.esc.bg/en/documents/category/12?download=122%3Aresolution-the-economic-and-social-council>

### Visit to Belarus by an Employers' Group delegation, 9 - 11 March



**Vitalijs Gavrilovs (LV)**  
Bureau Member  
of Group I

A delegation of the Employers' Group of the EESC visited Belarus on March 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 and included Henri Malosse, President of the Group, Vitalys Gavrilovs, Group Bureau Member, Dzmitry Korbut of INTERACT ENPI - the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The **visit was part of Group I's strategy of making contact with employers' organisations in the EU's neighbourhood**, as well as clarifying the issue of participation by Belarusian entrepreneurs and employers in the East-

importance of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and encouraged Belarusian employers to take part in it. The delegation also met with independent organisations, who expressed their willingness to engage in open dialogue with other economic representative bodies under the auspices of the EESC.

At a round table on cooperation with twenty Belarusian organisations of employers and entrepreneurs, a number of **the organisations confirmed that they had links with counterparts in the EU Member States, but some regretted a certain lack of engagement on their part.** Other conclusions of the visit include: broader representation of entrepreneurs at the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum; a general plea for **greater investment by the EESC in direct contacts with all civil society organisations, which can include through its Employers' Group an exchange of experiences on issues** including economic reforms and privatisation, the promotion of SMEs and innovation, education, vocational training and investment; and consultations with all official and non-official partners.

ern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

During meetings with the BelAPP association of enterprise and industry and the CIE Confederation of industrialists and entrepreneurs of Belarus, their chairman Anatoly Kharlap spoke on economic liberalisation, foreign investment, strengthening of economic contacts and participation in joint projects with employers' organisations in the EU. Henri Malosse stressed the

## MEMBERS' LIFE

### Speech by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, on the prospects for implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, 15 March

During the Plenary session held on 15th and 16th March 2011 in Brussels, EESC members had the opportunity to welcome during their meeting the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso.



Mr. Barroso focused on the prospects of success of the Europe 2020 strategy

which aims to combat the major economic and social problems which Member States are currently facing. The President of the European Commission **stressed the importance of civil society in shaping the future of Europe.**

His speech was followed by a debate, during which Henri Malosse, President of the Employers' Group, emphasized the fact that the Europe 2020 strategy **requires the courage to reduce spending while investing in development projects, as progress is the only way for Europe to emerge from the difficult situation, and ensure stability.** According to Mr. Malosse, "we must find ways to increase own resources, without increasing the burden on the private sector... the most important thing is to win the battle for public opinion."

*"we must find ways to increase own resources, without increasing the burden on the private sector... the most important thing is to win the battle for public opinion."*

### IHEST - the Institute of Advanced Studies in Science and Technology at the EESC, 7-8 February

On 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011, the Employers' Group of the EESC hosted the IHEST (Institute of Advanced Studies in Science and Technology, the French public education body) which held the **seventh session of its national training on the topic "Is Europe creative?"** in Brussels. For two days at the EESC, twenty representatives of the European institutions **came to discuss the Innovation Union, the European political environment and the decision-making process, and the European Research Area.**

Before the dinner, Henri Malosse, President of the Employers' Group, as well as MEPs Sophie Auconie and Jean-Pierre Audy (EPP), debated with the audience on major European policy issues leading up to 2020. The study tour of the IHEST audience continued at the Catholic University of Louvain-le-Neuve and the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union.



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### Ivan Voleš at the 'East Invest' EU programme for Eastern Partnership, 31 March

Ivan Voleš, Member of the Employers' Group and former President of the Contact Group on "Eastern European Neighbours" represented the EESC and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum at the opening conference of the EU programme for Eastern Partnership 'East Invest' in Brussels on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The programme is a **part of the SME flagship project of the Eastern Partnership Thematic platform for economic integration** dedicated to the support of SMEs in the partner countries.



**Ivan Voleš (CZ)**  
Member  
of Group I

In its opinion on the Eastern Partnership adopted in May 2009, the EESC called for **greater involvement of civil society** in the implementation of the goals of the Partnership and it welcomes the 'East Invest' programme as a first

step to enhance the business support organizations in the partner countries and to promote mutual trade, cooperation and investment.

The programme is run by Eurochambres and involves **85 partners from the EU, Turkey and Eastern partnership countries and has at its disposal 8.75 million EUR**. It will mainly provide training for SMEs and technical assistance for business support organizations, and the establishment of the so-called East Alliance network. The network will organise seminars, matchmaking events and investment fora during the next 3 years which will help thousands of SMEs to enter into the EU and international markets. The Eastern European Neighbours Contact Group of the EESC will be following the implementation of the programme and promote it within its partners in the Eastern Partnership countries.

### Filip Hamro-Drotz at the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 6 April

The Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences hosted a conference entitled "Problems and perspectives of social evolution of the modern Europe" on 6th April 2011 in Moscow.



**Filip Hamro-Drotz**, Member of the Employers' Group and President of the EU-Russia Contact Group,

participated with a speech entitled "The role of employers for social development in Europe".

One of the main messages was that **"only successful companies can contribute to better economy and positive social development... today the role of employers is not limited to create jobs and to generate profits"**. Filip Hamro-Drotz called for integrating more social, societal and environmental considerations in corporate activities as well as enhancing CSR. To effectively shape policy and legislation in their fields of interest, **employers must be credible, representative, and have a constructive interaction with the authorities concerned, and can also engage themselves in social and civil dialogue**, on a national level or through the EESC on the EU level.

He explained that the EU-Russia Contact group of the EESC was created in February 2011, in order to promote civil society's contribution to the strengthening of EU-Russia relations. The next joint workshop with its counterpart, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, will take place in June 2011 in Brussels.



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### Group I hosts the 2011 Sci-Tech Challenge event, featuring innovative sustainable energy solutions by European students, 12 April

Parabolic mirrors, hydrogen solar systems, isolating paint and energy-generating pressure pads were just some of the **innovative ideas on using energy efficiently presented by the 40 students from 6 countries** who took part in the Sci-Tech Challenge organized by JA-YE, Junior Achievement – Young Enterprise (Europe's largest provider of entrepreneurship education programmes) and ExxonMobil during the EU's Sustainable Energy Week.

Among the members of the jury, made up of EU institutional and business representatives, was Vladimíra Drbalová, Member of Group I from the Czech Republic. During the challenge, she participated in a panel debate entitled "Skills for a Sustainable Future", which discussed the challenges facing Europe in **encouraging the future technology innovators and enabling its educational systems to adapt to them.**

***"for 60 years now people like us have worked to create a unified Europe and a single market, so that young people can take advantage of this and have a prosperous future"***

Vladimíra Drbalová mentioned the challenge of **the unattractive image of the industrial sector which discourages young people to study STEM subjects:** science, technology, engineering and math. Other topics included business and education partnerships, Vocational education and training (VET), learning foreign languages and green skills, as well as having an entrepreneurial mindset in any career.

Presenting the awards at the closing ceremony of the Challenge, Henri Malosse, President of the Employers' Group stated: **"for 60 years now people like us have worked to create a unified Europe and a single market, so that young people can take advantage of this and have a prosperous future."** Being a European entrepreneur allows one to work in the largest economy in the world. Other participants advised the students looking to join the workforce, to be adaptable and flexible and to focus on math, science and technology know-how.



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### Brenda King at the Economic Partnership Agreement seminar in Trinidad and Tobago, 4-5 April

Brenda King, a member of the Employer's Group, participated in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) seminar organized by DG Trade and the EU Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Targeting businesspeople directly, the region-wide seminar was the first of its kind. It brought together 120 businesspeople from the 15 Cariforum states, who **discussed the contents of the EPA agreement and how to promote its use in order to increase exports, secure greater FDI, and thus stimulate growth and jobs in the Caribbean.**

During her presentation, Brenda King explained the institutional set-up for the EPA Agreement and the **inclusion of the Private Sector in the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)**. Other speakers called for linking the EPA seminar with the Caribbean-EU Business Forum, an initiative promoting exports from the Caribbean, aiming to matchmake companies from the two regions. The seminar's conclusions were judged valuable to the inaugural meeting of the Trade and Development Committee, which is the main oversight body of the EPA, which will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June in Barbados.



For the third consecutive year, Brenda King participated in the Transatlantic Conference on Minority Political Leadership on 24 March 2011, organised by the Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament. The event brought together parliamentarians from the United States and the European Union as well as experts in the field, in order to engage them for a **joint strategy on racial and ethnic equality and inclusion.**

You can find the full video report here:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wesDxqDRr0Q>

### The EESC welcomed its youngest (3-month-old) visitor, 22 March

The EESC welcomed its youngest visitor, a baby girl aged only three months, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011. Her parents brought her to their meeting of the European and Legal Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee of

the regional Parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, which was co-organised by one of the former trainees of the Employers' Group, Juliane Rinas.





### FOR YOUR AGENDA (SAVE THE DATE)

Upcoming events of Group I:

- Industrial sectors thematic meeting (CCMI Group I members, Delegates of Category I and 30 Members \_\_\_\_\_ 06/06/2011, 18:00 – 19:30
- Meeting of the EESC Bureau members of Group I \_\_\_\_\_ 14/06/2011, 10:00 – 12:30
- Meeting of the Group I Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ 15/06/2011, 09:00 – 10:00
- Group I meeting \_\_\_\_\_ 15/06/2011, 10:00 – 13:00
- Extraordinary meeting of the Group I Bureau - Ajaccio (Corsica) \_\_\_\_\_ 07-08/07/2011
- Meeting of the EESC Bureau members of Group I \_\_\_\_\_ 12/07/2011, 10:00 – 12:30
- Meeting of the Group I Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ 13/07/2011, 09:00 – 10:00
- Group I meeting \_\_\_\_\_ 13/07/2011, 10:00 – 13:00
  
- Extraordinary meeting of Group I and the Group I Bureau - Sopot (Poland) \_\_\_\_ 29-30/09/2011
- Extraordinary meeting of Group I "International trade and development aid" - Brussels/London - 30 Members \_\_\_\_\_ 18-19/10/2011
- Young European Entrepreneurs' Seminar \_\_\_\_\_ 16-17/11/2011
- Extraordinary Group I meeting "SME/SBA" - 30 Members \_\_\_\_\_ 02/12/2011
- Extraordinary meeting of the Group I Bureau - Sofia (Bulgaria) \_\_\_\_\_ date to be confirmed

### THE MAY PLENARY

OPINIONS PRESENTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP DURING THE PLENARY SESSION OF 04-05 MAY 2011:

- ECO/285 – Budgetary surveillance in the euro area by **Vincent Farrugia**
- INT/555 – Registration of new passenger cars by **Mihai Manoliu**
- INT/567 – European Securities and Markets Authority, INT/532 - White Paper: Insurance Guarantee Schemes, and INT/562 – Credit transfers and direct debits in euros by **Joachim Wuermeling**
- NAT/504 – Agricultural product quality schemes by **José María Espuny Moyano**
- SOC/392 – Conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal employment by **Christa Schweng**
- SOC/399 – The role of family policy in relation to demographic change with a view to sharing best practices among Member States by **Stéphane Buffetaut** (co-rapporteur Béatrice Ouin)
- SOC/414 – Passenger Name Record data / terrorist offences by **José Isaías Rodríguez García-Caro**
- TEN/437 – Attacks against information systems by **Peter Morgan**
- CCMI/080 – Agricultural machinery, construction and handling equipment: what is the best way out of the crisis? by **Virgilio Ranocchiari**
- CCMI/081 – The external dimension of European industrial policy - is the EU's trade policy really taking the interests of European industry into account?, and CCMI/086 – The effect of the economic and financial crisis on labour force distribution among production sectors, with special regard to SMEs by **Antonello Pezzini**
- CCMI/083 – Industrial Policy by **Joost van Iersel**



Otherwise, Members of Group I have presented amendments to opinions, most notably the amendments presented by **Christa Schweng**, **Madi Sharma**, **Erik Svensson**, and **Ivan Voleš** (on the opinion INT/561 – National co-operation / consumer protection laws), and **José Sartorius Álvarez de Bohorques** (on the opinion ECO/286 – Macroeconomic imbalances).

GROUP I INTERNAL

Newsletter of the Employers' Group of the  
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## The Employers' Group of the EESC

The Employers' Group (Group I) has 114 members, and is made up of entrepreneurs, employers and representatives of employer associations working in industry, commerce, services and agriculture in the 27 Member States of the European Union. These are women and men involved in the business world and in touch with the realities of everyday life who are willing to put their experience to use to further the European venture.

Our goal is to promote European integration by supporting the development of our businesses, which play a key role in fostering the prosperity of our societies and in creating jobs.

In an economically difficult climate, the European Economic and Social Committee is the only European institution that brings together business people and people fully engaged in the economic and social life of their home country.

A strong, coherent and dynamic Employers' Group is therefore crucial to making the voice of business heard at European level.

Naturally, the Employers' Group also works closely with the four major European business organisations – BUSINESSEUROPE, CEEP, EUROCHAMBRES, and EuroCommerce – to which a large number of our members also belong.



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