



EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COMMITTEE

EMPLOYERS' GROUP

# Group I Internal

Newsletter of the Employers' Group

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OCTOBER 2011

## EDITORIAL BY HENRI MALOSSE

### The duty to remember means responsibility for the future!

The visit of the Employers' Group in Gdansk and Sopot put us directly in touch with the contemporary history of our continent, including our responsibilities towards the next generations.

The ceremony at the monument of the Gdansk Shipyard was a tribute to all Polish citizens who gave their lives so that Europe could be liberated and unified. By listening to the testimony of the heroes of the strikes of 1980 in the exact place where the agreements that legalised Solidarność (Solidarity) were signed, we accomplished our duty of memory. This duty of memory goes beyond the summer of 1980 in Gdansk, even if these events were undoubtedly precursors and initiators of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain nine years later!



Lech Wałęsa, Henri Malosse

**These events serve to remind us of the fragile nature of our freedom, but also the power that a civic movement can have. Let us not forget that Solidarność ended up toppling the communist dictatorship – against all odds!**

Rather than looking only focussing on what is going wrong, let us remember 1970 and 1980. At the time, Eastern Europe was characterised by a stifling bureaucracy and by mediocrity! In 1970, the tanks were firing on the crowd in a country that deprived its citizens of democracy! Yet, forty years on, Poland presides over the European Union!

**Civil society can accomplish great things and gather incredible strength when it is driven by feelings of justice and solidarity.** There were merely five strikers at the beginning in 1980, but these five quickly became millions!

The EU is now mired in its inability to address the issue of Greek budget deficit, and the Greek economy represents only 2% of the total wealth produced in the Union! One must question **why we are incapable of finding a solution! We turn around in circles and lament the situation rather than getting to work to solve our problems** in a spirit of unity and solidarity!

We bear responsibility before history of not giving up at the first sign of a crisis! We must act with determination and without weakness! Five individuals began a strike that ended up changing history – that is the great lesson of Gdansk!

We need to **bring a message of hope to the youth of Europe! After this lesson of hope, it is our duty to find "new ideas for Europe"**, as we committed ourselves to doing during this excellent forum organised by Lewiatan in Sopot.

Henri Malosse  
President of the Employers' Group



**Sabine Hepperle  
(DE)**

**Member of Group I**

### **MEMBERS' VOICES**

Dr. **Sabine Hepperle** holds a degree in political science from Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, a degree in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Tel Aviv, and a doctorate in modern history from the Universität der Bundeswehr in Munich.

A German national, Ms Hepperle previously worked for the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Berlin**, initially as **Director for the Africa and development policy section**, then as **Director of the Asia Pacific section**. She was also a **member of the Management Council of the Asia-Pacific Committee** (Asien-Pazifik Ausschuss).

Sabine Hepperle has been **General Director of the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry since July 2011**, and is its **Representative to the European Union**. Her main areas of interest include: the internal market; energy and environmental policy; and international trade relations. She joined the Employers' Group of the EESC in October 2011.



**Gonçalo Lobo Xavier  
(PT)**

**Member of Group I**

Mr. **Gonçalo Lobo Xavier** is the Executive Director of RECET, the Portuguese Technological Centres Network. This is a **private network of eight technological centres that support the R&D+i (research, development and innovation)** activities of several sectors of Portuguese industry (tooling, footwear, metal mechanics, textile and clothing, ceramic and glass, cork, leather, and industrial and ornamental rocks). The CIP (Portuguese Industrial Confederation) designated him as a **member of the R&D and Innovation Task Force of BUSINESSEUROPE**.

Mr. Lobo holds an MBA from the University of Minho in Portugal, and an Internet Marketing Certificate from the University of West Florida in the USA. He is a member of the Employers' Group of the EESC since 10 October 2011.

Mr. Lobo has an ongoing personal interest in developing his activities to better support these industries, including in **benchmarking, training programs for new materials, process and technologies, and green technologies**. His political priorities include Employment and Social Affairs, Single Market, Production, R&D+i.

## GROUP I OPINIONS

We feature two of the opinions with rapporteurs from Group I, adopted during the 474th Plenary session on October 26th and 27th:

### Corporate governance framework, INT/581

The EESC opinion entitled **"Green Book: the EU Corporate Governance Framework" INT/581** by **Milena Angelova** offers a balanced vision for the development of the EU legislation and "soft" law in this direction.



**Milena Angelova (BG)**

**Vice-President of Group I**

The opinion states that **the EC should perform further in-depth studies in this field before making any legislative proposals.** It outlines 10 principles of good corporate governance that should be present in the governance codes across the EU. At the same time, it identifies some areas that need further clarification – the different corporate governance systems in

place across Europe, the restructuring among the players in the capital markets, etc.

Ms Angelova commented: **"While waiting for the future actions of the EC and the EP, the EESC should concentrate its efforts in the next 6 months in promoting its opinion amongst the EU institutions.** Following the report by Ashley FOX (ECR), adopted on 11 May 2011, 3 more reports by the European Parliament are still expected on the topic:

Othmar KARAS (EPP), ECON - Report on Basel II and revision of the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD 4),

Markus FERBER (EPP), ECON - Report on the Market and Transparency Directive,

Sebastian Valentin BODU (EPP), JURI - Draft report on a Corporate Governance Framework for EU companies."

### Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base, ECO/302

The opinion by **Joachim Wuermeling** entitled **"Proposal for a Council directive on a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base" ECO/302** supports the ambitious project of the European Commission.



**Joachim Wuermeling (DE)**

**Member of Group I**

According to it, **tax harmonisation is key for an effective European economic governance.** As the financial crisis has shown **differing legal and tax systems in Europe and around the globe create unlevel playing fields and distort competition. This leads to bubbles in the regions where the regulatory level is low. Instability and crisis follow.**

According to Mr. Wuermeling, **"the proposal of the Commission is sound, balanced and does not lead to an increase nor to a decrease of tax revenue. It makes life easier in particular for SMEs and it reduces the administrative burden for the companies."**

A common European base for corporate tax would be a significant step towards tax harmonisation in Europe. It is an important element of the overall

## GROUP I EVENTS

### Extraordinary Group I meeting “Business and ethics”, held in the framework of the European Forum for New Ideas, organised by Lewiatan, Sopot/Gdansk, 29-30 September

Henri Malosse, President of the Employers' Group of the EESC, hosted an extraordinary meeting on 29 September 2011 in Sopot, Poland [on the topic "Business and Ethics"](#). The two panel debates, which took place in the framework of the European Forum for New Ideas and the Summit of the Eastern Partnership under the leadership of the Polish Presidency of the EU, focused on three topics: **should entrepreneurs respect ethics; what are the essential "societal" responsibilities of business; what can the European dimension add in terms of ethics**. The panellists, including Henryka Bochniarz, President of the Polish Confederation of Private Employers “Lewiatan”, Mr. Sonam Topgyal-la, former President of the Tibetan Chamber of Commerce, **called for a voluntary European code of conduct for ethics in business**.

Mr. Malosse stated: “there is no better place in Europe to talk about new ideas for the EU and European business than in a city where the Solidarnosc (solidarity) movement was born”. He invited the participants to the Gdańsk Shipyards for a ceremony honouring the memory of the fallen shipyard workers of 1970 and a dinner at the Solidarity museum.

**“the current crisis was partly caused by the lack of respect of some fundamental values in business”**

Framing the debate on business and ethics, Henryka Bochniarz stated: **“Ethics can be a guarantee of successful entrepreneurship”**. Professor Magdalena Środa suggested creating a Sopot manifesto laying out guiding principles for ethical business management. According to her, **“the current crisis was partly caused by the lack of respect of some fundamental values in business”**.

Participants however agreed that ethics was not only a business issue but rather a question of society and individual behaviour. Business can only be as ethical or un-ethical as society at large, they said. Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES summed it up pointing out that **“business was about making profit. But it should be run by people behaving in an ethical way”**. Philippe de Buck, General Director of BUSINESSEUROPE, **warned against limiting the issue of business ethics to morality, arguing for the application of ethics to all aspects of business management**.

Brenda King, EESC Member, made a clear distinction between law and ethics, saying that “ensuring legal



Konstantin Zografov, Arnaldo Abruzzini, Brenda King, Magdalena Środa, Marek Serafin, Philippe de Buck,  
Sophie de Menthon, Piotr Jendroszczyk, Sonam Topgyal-la, Martin Robinson

You can find more information about the event here:

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-business-ethics>



compliance is substantially different from following a moral code – **ethics is what you should do on top of what you must do**". However, the idea of a top-down, European regulation of business ethics was flatly rejected: "In no circumstances should the EU intervene in this area. It is and should remain a matter of individual responsibility of businesses"; said Sophie de Menthon, President of the ETHIC

Movement and Member of the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council.

On this occasion, Henri Malosse had a personal meeting with Lech Wałęsa, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, whom he knows for 35 years.



Henri Malosse, Bogdan Lis and Jerzy Borowczak



Brenda King, Bryan Cassidy



**Jürgen Thumann** – President, Confederation of European Business BUSINESSEUROPE,  
**Prof. Danuta Hübner** – Member of European Parliament and former EU Commissioner, and  
**Henri Malosse** – President of the Employers' Group of the EESC, during the European Forum of New Ideas in Sopot, 28 September 2011



Employers' Group members  
 at the dinner in the Solidarnosc museum

## GROUP I EVENTS

### Trade-Related Seminar "Europe, trade and the wider world", London, 19 October

The Employers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) held a trade-related seminar in London on 19 October 2011, entitled '[Europe, trade and the wider world: a voice for EU business and for civil society post Lisbon](#)', with the key objectives of deepening interplay between the Employers' Group and EU businesses and stepping up joint action.

Henri Malosse, President of the Employers' Group at the EESC, stated: **"Europe should involve businesses, large and small, in its trade and foreign policies. The innovation, knowledge and technology initiated by trade can promote inclusive growth, sustainable development and prosperity both here in Europe and in key partner regions such as Africa, South America, India and Japan."**



Pedro Augusto Almeida Freire, Jonathan Peel, Rory Stewart Esq, MP, Henri Malosse, Lord Inglewood

The main aim is to determine how the EU, through its trade policies, can foster economic growth in the current economic climate. Indeed, recent developments in trade between the European Union and the wider world are alarming, especially as far as the balance of payments is concerned, which calls for a more balanced trade strategy. Participants agreed that European businesses often lack a common sense of purpose or a consistent, co-ordinated strategy. Jonathan Peel, Employers' Group member and

President of the EESC's International Trade PSGroup, said: "the need for this would become increasingly important as civil society started to play a critical role in monitoring implementation of key elements of EU Free Trade Agreements".

Placing the debate on development and cooperation in context, Brenda King, Employers' Group member, reminded participants: "it is important to restore the legitimacy of EU cooperation policies". Indeed, reform must bring about more cooperation with the private sector, reduce bureaucracy and, finally, clear the way for agreements between Member States and the European Union when it comes to development aid and subsidies.

European institutions and businesses needed to work together to build this common strategy in order to secure a place as essential stakeholders in the world's economy for the years to come. Mr. Malosse explained that this united Europe would not be complete without a code of ethics in business, on which the Employers' Group is currently working. According to him "not only does this code of ethics show that the EU is concerned about the environment and social issues; it is also an asset for the image of European businesses abroad".



Mihai Manoliu, Ana Bontea, Filip Hamro-Drotz

Oliver Wieck, Stephen Woolcock, Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Jonathan Peel, Sandy Boyle



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### David Sears during the Chemistry Week, 3-7 October

David Sears, Member of the Employers' Group, inspired the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to **contribute to UNESCO's International Year of Chemistry, by organising an exhibition and series of events** from 3-7 October 2011. The agenda included hands-on demonstrations, examples of revolutionary innovations in modern life made possible by breakthroughs in chemistry, presentations on the life of Maria Skłodowska-Curie, Nobel laureate for her work on radioactivity, 'Catalytic clothing' which clean the air and the 'Solar Impulse' airplane, which is the first to fly around the world only powered by solar panels.



You can find more information about the event here:

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-chemistry-week-programme>

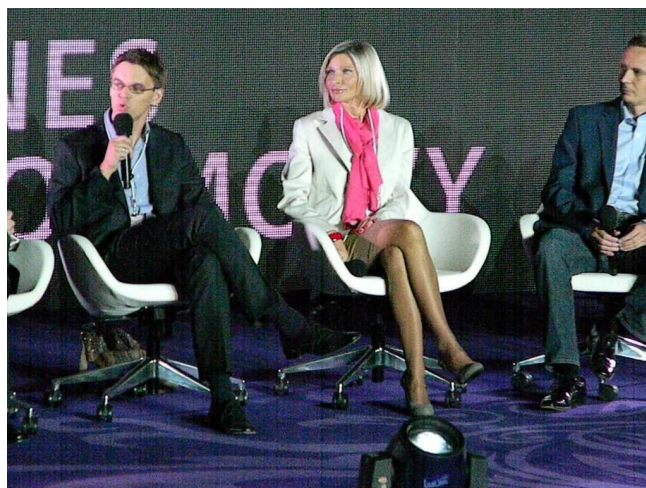


## MEMBERS' LIFE

### Anna Nietyksza during the third Telecommunications Congress "Business in the cloud" in Warsaw, 6 October

On 6th October 2011, Warsaw was host to the third Congress of Telecommunications organised by the Netia telecom company. This year's conference, entitled "Business in the cloud" is one of the largest in Poland and is home to over 600 participants. The participants in this debate addressed the issues related to the **"cloud computing"** ("cloud", a technique advocating the use of remote servers instead of local servers). The CEO of Google Poland, IBM, Microsoft, Groupon, Netia were present on this occasion.

Anna Nietyksza, member of the Employers' Group of the EESC, participated in the debate "Cloud - the concerns and opportunities". She presented the Committee's position and stressed that the **EESC was in favour of the use of cloud computing for SMEs, governments and individuals since the process would help develop digital inclusion**. Ms Nietyksza also stressed that there was a "private" cloud and a "public" cloud and emphasized that **this technique could cause significant cost savings for busi-**



**nesses and governments, particularly beneficial in times of crisis.** At the same time, legal provisions and data protection rules are an integral part of the opinion adopted by the Committee on the subject.

### Brendan Burns at the Euromontana conference on sustainable active tourism in Inverness, 27-28 September

Brendan Burns, member of the Employers' Group of the EESC, took part in the conference organised on 27 and 28 September 2011 in Inverness Scotland by Euromontana. The conference was entitled "Sustainable active tourism - mountain communities leading Europe in finding innovative solutions."

There were a number of recommendations, involving multiple actors – the European Union as well as national governments, local and regional authorities and businesses operating in the mountains.



**Brendan Burns  
(UK)**

**Member of  
Group I**

Regarding the European Union, the **issue of clearly defining sustainable tourism and involving governments was the first** to be raised. Other key points discussed at the conference included establishing a **European tourism observatory** to monitor the implementation of measures, **explicitly including tourism as part of the implementation of EU policies for territorial development, and creating labels harmonized at the European level.**



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### Jean-Pierre Haber during the European SME Week 2011, 6 October

During the "European SME Week" 2011, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) organised a seminar entitled "The participation of SMEs in the value chain", on 6 October 2011. Jean-Pierre Haber, delegate of



the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) of the EESC and co-author of the program of this seminar on innovation, markets and investments, participated as moderator.

Innovative SMEs participating in the seminar have known all the success through the creation of a true entrepreneurial spirit, an unwavering motivation of their teams, great boldness in the organization of their funding and important technological innovations.

Despite these very positive examples, **Mr. Haber and his colleagues, including Patrizio Pesci, stressed the difficulty of combining traditional instruments to support SMEs (such as innovation, training, research, risk capital financing etc. ) with the problems of the sector.**

It was proposed to consider **a further proximity in the future during implementation of EU programs and rely on the help of such socio-professional organisations, which are notably very active in the EESC. The Digital Agenda 2020 – and especially e-business – was also mentioned as the tool that can enable SMEs to focus on their "core business"** and to fight against the sometimes aggressive strategies of large enterprises.

### Jacek Krawczyk opened the Eastern Partnership Business Forum at the European Forum for New Ideas in Sopot, 30 September

Jacek Krawczyk, Vice President of the EESC for budget and member of the Employers' Group, opened the Eastern Partnership Business Forum entitled **"Eastern Partnership Business Dimension: economic cooperation as the key driver for European integration"** on 30 September 2011.



The event was held as part of the **European Forum for New Ideas, organised in Sopot (Poland) by the Polish Confederation of Private Employers Lewiatan** under the auspices of the Polish Presidency of the EU.



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### János Vértés during a conference on "Urban Challenges in India and Cooperation with European Cities," October 12



**János Vértés**  
(HU)

Member of  
Group I

János Vértés, Member of the Employers Group of the Economic and Social Committee (EESC), attended the conference which was part of the "European Week of Regions and Cities" of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) from 10th to 13th October. Kamal Nath, the Indian Minister of Urban Development, was able to speak on the theme of "Urban Challenges in India and Cooperation with European Cities." He is **the first representative of India – in fact any developing nation – to speak during a plenary session of the EESC and the CoR.**

Mr. Vértés **pointed out the infrastructure investment opportunities in India for European companies.** The Minister stressed the need

for unprecedented investment in urban infrastructure in India, not only to anticipate the future increase in population (it is estimated that the urban population in India in the next ten years will exceed 500 million people) but also to make up for past inequities.

Mr. Nath called for the **creation of a special partnership between Europe and India to fill the infrastructure gap.** The figures are: 1.2 trillion dollars should be invested in the urban planning sector in India in the next 20 years. 60% of these expenditures are expected to be in the public transport sector.

Mercedes Bresso, President of the CoR, declared the Committee's "great interest" in cooperation between European and Indian cities. "The sharing of technology can be very useful and we can learn about specific solutions used by the Indian cities" she added.

### Brenda King and Anna Nietyksza at the "Click IT!" forum and the "Innovation for Digital Inclusion" conference in Gdansk, 5-7 October

The European Economic and Social Committee held the "Click It!" forum accompanying the conference "Innovation for Digital Inclusion" from 5th to 7th October 2011 in Gdansk, Poland. This forum was intended to complement the conference and offer practical support, focusing on original and innovative inventions promoting e-inclusion in Europe already in use at all levels, national, regional, local.

Among the participants were Brenda King and Anna Nietyksza, members of the Employers' Group of the EESC. The Committee enjoyed good visibility during these few days and, as pointed out by Ms King, "Anna Maria Darmanin opened the plenary session with the Polish



Minister responsible for Inclusion and the representative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Her performance perfectly reflected the overall work of the Committee in this area."

The **EESC has indeed repeatedly spoken for an inclusive information society, and is interested in the possible measures, to allow the people most affected by digital exclusion – such as the elderly, and the poor – to benefit from the innovations in the field of digital inclusion.**



## MEMBERS' LIFE

### Henri Malosse at the Enterprise Europe Network's Annual Conference "Connecting business to Europe" in Warsaw, 26 September

On 26 September 2011, the President of the Employers' Group, Henri Malosse, spoke during a panel of the Annual Conference of Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) entitled "Connecting business to Europe" in Warsaw. Mr. Malosse stated his position that the current crisis is mostly a European one, and that the main challenges facing Europe are the lack of guidance and leadership, and the need for a change of vision. He expressed his hope for united European goals for the future and reiterated his concern for the situation of Europe's youth.

Being one of the founders of EEN's predecessor, Euroguichet, Henri Malosse told the representatives of the EEN's 600 business support organisations that they are "sitting on gold and the EEN is a fantastic asset" as they have regular contacts with SMEs from all regions of the EU. According to him, the European institutions do not consult SMEs enough, and because of EEN's intimate knowledge of the needs and concerns of businesses, they can help make better policies and address real problems.

The other panellists were Daniel Calleja Crespo - Deputy Director General, SME Envoy, DG Enterprise, Alessandro Barberis - President of EUROCHAMBRES, and Patrick Lambert - Director, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation.

On the following day, Henri Malosse spoke at a conference entitled "The EU Climate and Energy package - myths and costs in the context of the roadmap 2050", organized by the Polish Chamber of Commerce (KIG). The conference aimed to assess the impact of the EU policies on energy and climate change, especially on the energy-intensive branches of European industries, as well as to examine the effects and the economic and social costs of adopting the regulation in its current form. In his address, Mr. Malosse mentioned the different levels of preparedness among the Member States and urged for a deeper understanding of the special requirements on the local and regional levels.





## FOR YOUR AGENDA (SAVE THE DATE)

### UPCOMING EVENTS OF GROUP I:

- Young European Entrepreneurs' Seminar \_\_\_\_\_ 16-17/11/2011
- Working Breakfast with Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva on cooperation  
with business on humanitarian aid and crisis response \_\_\_\_\_ 22/11/2011
- Extraordinary meeting of Group I on Microcredit \_\_\_\_\_ 02/12/2011
- Meeting of the EESC Bureau members of Group I \_\_\_\_\_ 06/12/2011, 10:00 – 12:30
- Meeting of the Group I Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ 07/12/2011, 09:00 – 10:00
- Group I meeting \_\_\_\_\_ 07/12/2011, 10:00 – 13:00
- Extraordinary meeting of Group I: "The impact of the economic crisis  
and EU austerity measures on European business" \_\_\_\_\_ 12/12/2011

## THE OCTOBER PLENARY

OPINIONS PRESENTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP  
DURING THE PLENARY SESSION OF 26-27 OCTOBER 2011:

- ECO/302 - Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB) by **Joachim Wuermeling**
- INT/579 - On-line gambling by **Stefano Mallia**
- INT/581 – The EU Corporate Governance Framework by **Milena Angelova**
- NAT/496 - The impact of the crisis on the ability of European firms to undertake pro-climate investments,  
NAT/519 - Radioactivity in drinking water and CCMI/088 - Opportunities and challenges for a more competitive  
European woodworking and furniture sector by **Josef Zbořil**
- NAT/501 - The development of regional areas for the management of fish stocks and the control of fishing by  
**Brendan Burns**
- SOC/412 - Preventive measures for the protection of children against sexual abuse, NAT/518 - Food intended for  
infants and young children / food for special medical purposes and REX/316 - The role of civil society in the FTA  
between EU and India by **Madi Sharma**



Group I Members were co-rapporteurs on a number of opinions, including:

- TEN/454 - Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area, co-rapporteur **Stefan Back**
- INT/582 - Single Market Act – Twelve levers, co-rapporteur **Ivan Voleš**

Otherwise, Members of Group I have presented amendments to opinions, most notably the amendments by **Ulla Sirkeinen** and **Josef Zbořil** (on the opinion TEN/460 - Directive on energy efficiency), **Reet Teder** (on the opinion ECO/303 - Energy Taxation Directive) and **Joost Van Iersel** (CCMI/087 - The processing and exploitation of industrial and mining waste, as well as CCMI/089 - The prospects for sustainable employment in rail, rolling stock and infrastructure).



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