



EESC info

European Economic and Social Committee
A bridge between Europe and organised civil society
January 2016 | EN

EDITORIAL

The EESC:
Working
with
the people
for Europe



Dear readers,

2015 was a year full of challenges for Europe: the euro-crisis, some political and economic turmoil in a few Member States and, on top of all, the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees and immigrants into the EU.

In addition, unemployment rates are too high, especially among young people, the impact of climate change is perceptible, and terror from radical Islamists latent.

The stakes are high for 2016 and we must all contribute to the search for the best and right solutions.

Europe needs to re-order itself: the EU should become more like a well-organised enterprise, with strong and participative leadership and concerted action towards common goals. Priority must be given to the completion of Economic and Monetary Union, an indispensable tool for a common-currency area. A truly European Asylum and Migration policy must become a reality. A challenging year is ahead and we must implement the necessary regulatory measures without losing time.

Our action must be guided by courage and based on reality, with the welfare of the European people in mind. Civil Society shows us the way, and the European Economic and Social Committee, as the voice of organised civil society, will step up its efforts to take its rightful place in EU policy-making and thus ensure that European policies are carried out with and for the people.

Gonçalo Lobo Xavier
EESC Vice-President for Communication

DIARY DATES

17-18 February 2016/
EESC, Brussels:
EESC plenary session

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Cycling heroes ask EU decision-makers to experience disability for just one day

On 14 December 2015 the EESC, partnering with the UN, hosted a screening of the film *El desorden de los sentidos* (*Disorder of the senses*), featuring two young cyclists from Spain with disabilities, Gerardo and Antonio, who in 2013 undertook the "camino de Santiago" on bike with their families. The team now reached up to Brussels to raise awareness about the difficulties encountered by disabled persons in their daily activities and influence upcoming EU legislation.

The event, held to mark the recent International Disability Day and taking place just after the publication of the new EU Accessibility Act, was an important landmark for people living with disabilities in Europe. The film team and families testified on the lack of consideration for disabled people and their needs. The two families told the EESC that although they had achieved great things, some of the very simple things in life remained a real challenge for people living with disability: access to public places, the labour market and social and public services were a continual struggle. When asked by moderator Pavel Trantina, EESC member and



Irene Hens, film producer, Alejandro González Salgado, film director, Javier Luque, father of Antonio Luque Aumente, Gerardo Fernández Costa and Javier Pitillas, his coach

chair of the section for employment, social affairs and citizenship (SOC) which invited Gerardo and Antonio, the one message they would have for the EU institutions, Javier Luque, Antonio's father, replied by asking EU decision-makers to spend one day living with and understanding the real challenges of disability before deciding on the final text of the new Accessibility Act.

Pavel Trantina said: "The EU still has a lot to do to come fully in line with the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The European Commission's long awaited publication of the EU Accessibility Act is a step in the

right direction but we need to bring real people living with disability, such as Gerardo and Antonio, into the picture and ensure that their needs are met."

The EESC will prepare an opinion on the new EU Accessibility Act in early 2016 and the testimony of Gerardo and Antonio's father will serve as inspiration for its members. The EESC has also set up a permanent study group to monitor the implementation of the UN Convention, to contribute to EU policy making on the topic and to facilitate the participation of civil society, in particular organisations representing the disabled. (aj)

EESC 2015 Civil Society Prize: five organisations recognised for combating poverty



The five winning organisations at the EESC plenary session

The five winning initiatives provide snap-shots of the work being done by thousands of voluntary groups and NGOs across Europe. Each of the projects tackles the 2015 theme of poverty in its own way. The German and the Finnish initiatives were awarded

EUR 11 500 each. The three initiatives from Ireland, France and Poland were awarded EUR 9 000 each.

Each organisation was asked what impact the award would have on their work:

1st Prize winners Armut und Gesundheit in Deutschland (Germany)

"Besides contributing to our good reputation which secures the financial basis of our work, winning the Civil Society Prize will strengthen our position when advocating and campaigning for the improvement of healthcare for people in need using the political arena. The feeling of

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Migrants and refugees at the heart of the December plenary

Migration and the refugee crisis were the focus of the EESC December plenary. The assembly adopted four opinions exploring different aspects of migration (see box below), from the Action Plan against migrant smuggling and the EU Agenda on migration to the establishment of a list of safe countries of origin and of a crisis relocation mechanism. In addition to these the

EESC adopted a resolution on the refugee crisis, which we have made available on this same page to EESC Info readers.

For the EESC, the discrepancies between EU Member States on handling the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants have made it quite clear that Europe urgently needs a truly

common asylum system with harmonised procedures. The current complex situation calls for common efforts to accommodate the refugees and distribute them within the EU. The EESC believes that the new relocation mechanism should be made permanent. It is also important that Europe secure its borders in a common, rather than a national effort.

“We need more responsibility, more solidarity and more Europe” was the common plea at the EESC assembly. The EESC reminded EU Member States that the EU is built on solidarity between all Member States, and that until recently this system has worked very well. (sma/dm) ●

EESC resolution on refugees

At its plenary session of 9 and 10 December 2015, the European Economic and Social Committee adopted this resolution on 10 December by 174 to 8 with 9 abstentions.

The EESC wholeheartedly appreciates the important work civil society is playing in dealing with the refugees fleeing from war-torn countries, and who, therefore, deserve protection according to the Geneva Convention. Without this response, the tragic humanitarian situation which has unfolded in many European countries could have been catastrophic. The European Economic and Social Committee is directly committed to giving voice to this reality, to ensure that it is properly taken into account by the European institutions, governments and other political actors.

The EESC is currently organising visits to meet with civil society organisations offering assistance to refugees in 11 Member States (Hungary, Poland, Malta, Greece, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Sweden, Italy, Croatia) and Turkey, as these countries are most affected by the flow of refugees. As the representative body of organised civil society to the European institutions, we will act as their voice at European level.

The EESC believes that the current situation requires the EU to develop safe humanitarian corridors for refugees from countries affected by wars and threatened by terrorism and to do this together with the countries where these refugees are mostly concentrated. Beyond that we must establish a truly common European asylum system based on harmonised procedures throughout the EU. This includes uniform asylum status and mutual recognition of asylum decisions, shared responsibility and solidarity and efforts with respect to relocation and resettlement, and a revised Dublin Regulation. In addition, there is a need for robust, solidarity-based systems of burden-sharing, in which a permanent, fair and binding system for allocating those seeking protection between all EU countries would be the first step. Due to the exceptional circumstances and in line with the Stability and Growth Pact, the additional costs of hosting refugees should not, after the thorough examination, be recognised in the public deficits of the Member States.

The EESC is also very concerned about the current undermining of the Schengen Agreement and of the principle of free movement, as it is one of the fundamental achievements benefiting EU citizens. It is important to properly secure the external borders of the Schengen countries. However, reinstalling internal barriers and building walls will do nothing to bring EU citizens closer together or foster EU citizenship.

It is also crucial to develop immediate measures to address the root causes of the current refugee flows. The EU needs to work with countries of origin and transit on these issues and the EESC insists on the human right-based approach to be taken by the Commission for this cooperation, and not only on a security-based approach. Lastly, the EESC underlines the necessity of including civil society in the dialogue with third countries.

The EESC, with its long-standing experience with migration issues, in recent years mainly through the European Integration/Migration Forum, believes integration and inclusion of refugees into our societies must be a two-way process where the social partners and other civil society organisations, together with governments and local authorities, play an essential role. Priority should be given to labour market access and, more specifically, to the recognition of qualifications and the provision of vocational and language training where needed. The European Union should launch a series of measures in reception countries and in the EU to centralise applications for employment, training, and recognition of skills.

In order to create the necessary social consensus across Europe, it is essential to fully respect the equal treatment and social rights of both EU citizens and refugees in Europe, with particular attention to the most vulnerable among them. Early investment in the integration of refugees into society and the labour market is important to help refugees rebuild their lives, while minimising potential conflicts with the local population and avoiding greater costs in the future. Adequate funding of local public services and a civil dialogue between refugees and the local population are key to achieving this. ●

The migration package

The following opinions were discussed and adopted at the December 2015 plenary session:

● EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015-2020)

The EESC supports the Action Plan but recommends a more comprehensive approach detailing how the EU will protect and assist victims. It echoes the UN secretary general's call “to consider increasing legal and safe pathways into Europe”, recommends that EASO be given greater powers to carry out its activities in Member States which need special support, that the Sustainable Development Agenda be used to address the root socio-economic causes of migrant smuggling and that more attention be paid to the systematic funding of civil society organisations providing critical assistance to migrants.

Vote: adopted by 176 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions

● A European list of safe countries of origin

The EESC recommends defining precise criteria to assess whether a country should be included in the list of safe countries of origin, on the basis, inter alia, of up-to-date information from human rights organisations. The EESC believes that the concept of safe country of origin should under no circumstances be applied where democratic freedoms are violated. It recommends a more flexible mechanism for amending the list so as to be able to respond to changing circumstances within a reasonable time frame, and believes it necessary to allow human rights organisations, ombudsmen and economic and social councils to initiate the amending procedure.

Vote: adopted by 180 votes to 4, with 6 abstentions

● A European Agenda on Migration

The EESC believes that the EU must establish a truly common asylum system, with uniform status and mutual recognition of decisions, responsibility and burden sharing. It considers that the cost of not integrating migrants greatly exceeds the cost of integrating them, and believes that a European effort is required for the protection of external borders. All EU external policies must focus on helping countries of origin reach a reasonable level of security, stability and prosperity. The expenditure incurred by Member States in connection with the reception and integration of refugees should not be included in the calculation of structural budget deficits.

Vote: adopted by 161 votes to 10, with 7 abstentions

● A permanent crisis relocation mechanism under the Dublin system

The EESC wishes to see the relocation mechanism set up in response to the current refugee crisis included in a general strategy, with a permanent, fair and binding system for distributing those seeking protection between all the EU countries, and calls on the Commission and the other EU institutions to actively support Member States in providing proper conditions for integrating relocated asylum applicants.

Vote: adopted by 152 votes to 6, with 13 abstentions ●



EESC mission to Greece – Emergency reception centre in Eidomeni

Managing the refugee and migration crisis: 12 EESC fact-finding missions by February

As part of its efforts to find a way to tackle the refugee crisis in Europe, the EESC is organising a series of 12 country visits in order to hear first-hand from civil society organisations working on the ground with migrants and refugees. Taking place between December 2015 and February 2016, the visits are aimed at gathering information so as to identify possible strategies for coping with the influx of refugees and to establish a set of best practices and policies that can contribute to a seamless process of reception, relocation and/or integration of refugees. The missions form part of the Committee's Going local programme and intend to identify problems and needs as well as

the successes and best practices of the various organisations active in the current refugee crisis.

The missions' end goal is to provide a well-founded and documented input into EU policy making, as a follow-up to the EESC opinion on *A European Agenda on Migration: Second implementation package*. They are being undertaken by delegations comprising three EESC members and have already taken place in Austria, Sweden, Greece, Hungary, and Germany. Croatia and Slovenia were visited in the first half of January while Italy, Poland, Malta, Bulgaria and Turkey will be visited in the weeks to come. (mm) ●

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EESC 2015 Civil Society Prize: five organisations recognised for combating poverty

standing shoulder-to-shoulder with an institution like the EESC represents an acknowledgement of the work of our staff”.

The Y Foundation (Finland)

“This kind of European recognition is very important because it is a great motivator for our staff. It is also important nationally and is very good for us as it helps our work in Finland become better known. It gives us a more prominent place in Finland among foundations and NGOs working in this sector.”

2nd Prize winners ANDES (France)

“Our organisation is made up of people who are dedicated to what they do. We truly function as a team in partnership with many grass-root associations supported by volunteers. We work with small-scale farmers, food aid beneficiaries and people in precarious situations. For each one of these people, such a reward is meaningful and highly gratifying – European recognition for all people involved!”

Third Age (Ireland)

“Receiving the Civil Society Prize will allow us to share our model with a wider audience. Fáilte Isteach has found an effective solution to support migrants to improve the quality of their social and working lives, to participate to a greater extent in their community and to form lasting friendships. The Civil Society Prize will support us in sharing this simple yet effective concept with many more communities across Ireland and potentially across the EU.”

Barka Foundation for Mutual Help (Poland)

“Winning the award will significantly strengthen the role of Barka in developing the social economy internationally. The Barka Foundation was recently approached by NGOs and institutions from Macedonia and Serbia interested in replicating the Polish system for creating local partnerships, social integration centres and social enterprises in their communities. Barka has also been working with the African diaspora in Europe as well as local communities in Kenya and Ethiopia.” (sg) ●

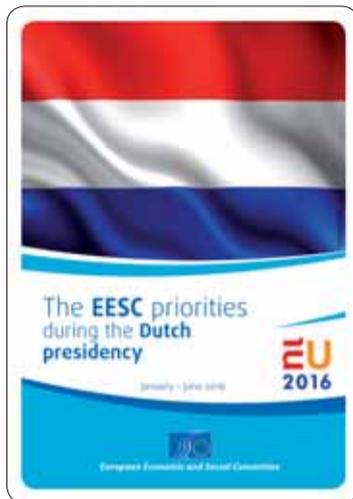
Dutch EU presidency: focusing on the essentials

On 1 January 2016, the Netherlands will take over the presidency of the EU from Luxembourg. Heading the Council of the European Union will not be an easy task at a time of tensions due to the massive influx of refugees and migrants, the threat of terrorist attacks, the fact that public support for the EU is at an all-time low, and the forthcoming British referendum.

"A Union that focuses on the essentials, a Union that focuses on growth and jobs through innovation, and a Union that connects with civil society" will be the guiding principles of the Dutch presidency, which has set the following priorities:

- **Migration and international security**
- **Europe as an innovator and job creator**
- **Sound finances and a robust eurozone**
- **A forward-looking climate and energy policy**

The EESC shares the Dutch government's emphasis on growth and jobs. EESC president Georges Dassis has also welcomed the Dutch government's call for a "unifying Union" and its insistence on fundamental values and the need for public support, and, above all, on the need for the "active involvement of the population and civil society organisations". "If the Dutch presidency makes that its aim and chairs the Council in that spirit, if it can take pride in having listened to civil society organisations, then not only will our Committee naturally be ready to respond rapidly to any request for an opinion, but the presidency will have no stronger ally." (See brochure *The EESC priorities during the Dutch presidency – January – June 2016*).



The Dutch presidency has requested several EESC exploratory opinions:

- The external dimension of the EU's energy policy;
- More sustainable food systems;
- A European Sustainable Development Civil Society Forum;
- Integration of refugees in the EU;
- Fighting poverty;
- The changing nature of employment relationships and its impact on maintaining a living wage;
- Innovation as a driver of new business models;
- Sharing economy and self-regulation;
- Fairer labour mobility within the EU;
- The future of the EU Urban Agenda.

These opinions are scheduled to be finalised in the spring of 2016. (dm/amw)

TTIP – What's in it for the social partners?

The EESC champions constructive dialogue with social partners



Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, with EESC President Georges Dassis at the TTIP conference

In November 2015, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) invited European social partners to discuss the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – currently being negotiated between the United States and Europe – with Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Trade; Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament; Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg; Georges Dassis, President of the EESC and other representatives. The discussions which ensued demonstrated that many questions remain unanswered. Participants called for transparent negotiations, comprehensive information – which clearly shows the advantages and disadvantages of TTIP – and greater involvement of social partners.

President Dassis outlined his vision of an acceptable agreement with the US: "For me a successful TTIP should be able to provide economic opportunities for small, medium-sized and large companies alike in both the US and Europe; it should secure jobs and stimulate job creation while at the same time guaranteeing workers' rights, social protection and dialogue; backed by the two largest economies it should shape environmental and social standards worldwide. The stakes are high and it is important to include social partners. This agreement must

be underpinned by a social and sustainable agenda and we will not accept any lowering of our standards."

Jacek Krawczyk, added that "The sustainable development chapter must include a proper civil society monitoring mechanism. Civil society participation in monitoring the implementation of TTIP is essential".

Gabriele Bischoff stressed that the number and quality of jobs created is important. "We must be able to assess benefits against risks and take the necessary measures to minimise the negative effects."

For **Luca Jahier** the "TTIP negotiations are the most transparent negotiations ever to have been undertaken by the EU". (sma)

COP21 agreement: a promising start

At long last, pressure from citizens and civil society in Europe and other parts of the world seems to have succeeded in convincing world leaders to sign an agreement and play their part in keeping the increase in global temperature below 2°C – and ideally 1.5°C – compared to 1990 levels.

"The signing of the first ever global climate change agreement is a historic moment. It represents an important milestone in the transition towards a low-carbon economy," said EESC President Georges Dassis in his first reaction to the Paris agreement. The EESC has been active in the field of climate change for years, monitoring negotiations and drafting recommendations for EU policymakers. Now it is ready to participate fully in a joint endeavour that is crucial for the planet.

Civil society in the driving seat for implementing the Paris agreement

In many communities across Europe and beyond, citizens and civil society organisations are already the drivers of sustainable change. They have a crucial part to play in stepping up action and accelerating the transition to

The EESC welcomes the European Commission's Aviation Strategy and urges its implementation

Aviation has a very broad impact on economic growth. The air transport system generates benefits beyond the immediate aviation industry. The aviation sector employs almost 2 million people and contributes EURO 110 billion to Europe's economy.

The European Commission has identified 4 key priorities in its Aviation Strategy for Europe: to establish the EU as a leading player in international aviation, whilst guaranteeing a level playing field; to tackle restrictions to economic growth in the air and on the ground; to maintain high EU standards for safety, security, the environment, social issues and passenger rights; and to make progress on innovation, digital technologies and investments.

In September 2015 the EESC set out a series of concrete steps needed to achieve an **Integrated EU Aviation Policy**. In order to remain competitive, **the EU needs a coherent and comprehensive EU Aviation Strategy** which removes the unnecessary burdens undermining the aviation value network, drives for a global consensus on sustainability and reflects the values of European citizens and businesses. "In its opinion, the EESC identified 6 areas in which action must be taken to boost competitiveness: safety, connectivity, innovation, sustainability, the social dimension and global competition. The key to success will be implementation. To deliver we



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need the cooperation and involvement of all representatives of the value chain in aviation," said Jacek Krawczyk, rapporteur for the EESC opinion on an **Integrated EU Aviation Policy**, Anne Demelenne, the rapporteur for the EESC opinion on **Social Dumping in the European civil aviation sector**, also adopted in September, welcomed the European Commission's proposal to reinforce the social agenda and to create high quality jobs in aviation. However, she insisted that more should be done to fight social dumping. (sg)

Victims' rights: now a reality in the EU



Kathleen Walker Shaw, EESC rapporteur on the EU Victims' Rights Directive, Maggie Hughes and Levent Altan, Executive Director of Victim Support Europe

On 19 November 2015, the EESC hosted a debate on the implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive, in the presence of Maggie Hughes, mother of Robbie, the victim of a serious attack in Greece that left him with lifelong brain injuries. When discovering there was no help, support or advice for her and her son, she decided to take on the fight for victims' rights.

The outcome of that fight was that in 2012, with the support of the EESC, she helped to influence

EU legislation to support victims of crime in the EU. The directive for the protection of victims' rights should be implemented in all Member States and citizens should be able to claim their rights to an individual assessment of their situation and respectful treatment, to understandable information on their rights and case, and to access to victim support and protection.

Ms Walker Shaw, EESC rapporteur on the directive, first brought the case of Robbie Hughes to the attention of EU institutions at an EESC hearing in 2011. She expressed her satisfaction at seeing the directive in place to support and protect citizens in need, and announced her decision to keep monitoring implementation in the Member States so that those rights become a practical reality.

Maggie Hughes acknowledged that the new rights would finally provide citizens across Europe with the proper protection victims of crime need, while Levent Altan, Executive Director of Victim Support Europe, underlined the efforts made by his organisation and called on Member States to provide emotional and practical support to help victims recover. (cad)



Georges Dassis, President of the EESC, with panelists at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21)

a low-carbon economy. Their role and involvement will definitely be essential in implementing the decisions taken in Paris.

The international community must use the momentum of this landmark deal to start translating the agreement into concrete action. (sma)

CAP: simplification requires common sense

EESC opinion calls for a reduction in red tape for farmers

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The EESC welcomes the fact that the European Commission has made it a priority to simplify the process of implementing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Increased transparency and legal certainty should go hand in hand with a reduction in red tape for farmers, other beneficiaries, producer organisations and national administrations. A simplified CAP needs to be implemented as soon as possible and farmers should be provided with necessary information and education-based support.

The CAP budget accounts for 38% of the EU budget. It is important to have precise rules to govern the use of this money while avoiding overregulation. An evaluation

commissioned by the EC showed that with the previous CAP reform, red tape increased by 15 to 20%.

The EESC recommends putting forward proposals based on the priority list of simplification measures drawn up by the Agricultural Council and the Presidency. For the Committee, it is particularly important to look into the consistency of current requirements, including their impact on the environment, food safety and availability and job creation. This should be done in order to establish which requirements are necessary and which need to be adapted or scrapped. It recommends fighting red tape by enabling existing rules to be eliminated when new ones are adopted.

While the EESC welcomes the move to make direct payments greener as part of the CAP reform, it also calls for more flexibility in the application of greening rules to take into account unexpected external factors such as weather conditions, drought or price fluctuations that make the measures unreasonable or even impossible to implement.

It is commonly accepted that non-compliance must be penalised. However, inspections and possible fines must be proportionate to the amount of money received by the beneficiary and to the extent of the infringement.

The EESC opinion was adopted at the December plenary by 196 votes to 9, with 26 abstentions. (sma)

SOON AT THE EESC

Your Europe, Your Say! 2016 – EESC – 17-19 March 2016

Giving a voice to young people



For the seventh year in a row the EESC, the voice of civil society, is acting to ensure that the views, experiences and ideas of the younger generation are heard.

The EESC will invite 16 to 17 year-olds from across the EU, and for the first time from the five candidate countries (Albania, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), to come to Brussels and debate the important issue of **migration**.

The refugee crisis has witnessed instances of great human kindness and solidarity on the part of the European public. While governments are responsible for immigration policy, integration also requires the participation of civil society, for example in the workplace, schools and local communities.

One school per country will be picked in a random draw, and three students and one teacher from each of the selected schools will come to Brussels to work together, debate and propose practical action that could be taken in schools and clubs, etc. to help young migrants integrate more effectively and raise awareness of the importance of good integration, especially for younger refugees.

The students will be given an opportunity to prepare for the event and the discussions in Brussels with the help of EESC members, who will visit the selected schools to explain the EESC's work and activities as well as its position on migration and the refugee crisis. (fgr)

NEW PUBLICATION

DISCOVER WHAT THE EESC CAN DO FOR YOU

The general brochure *Discover what the EESC can do for you* has been updated following the renewal of the EESC in October 2015. Printed copies of the English, French and German versions are already available and the other languages will follow shortly.

Copies of the brochure can be obtained on request from vipcese@eesc.europa.eu.

More information on: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.publications.30561>



IN SHORT

EESC expert on the sharing economy represents the Committee in South Korea

EESC member and rapporteur for the sharing economy **Bernardo Hernández Bataller** represented the EESC at the 2015 International Forum on Service Sector Advancement, *Dissemination of the Sharing Economy: Issues and Solutions*, held on 19 and 20 November in South Korea. The forum provided a unique opportunity for all participants to share research findings and experiences in the field of the sharing economy. It was also an occasion to discuss advanced global practices and develop workable regulatory measures that protect and strengthen the industries of the sharing economy. Mr Hernández Bataller was the only speaker to give a European point of view on the subject, which was very appreciated by the conference participants. For more details about the EESC's contribution to the sharing economy please consult the EESC opinion on *Collaborative or participatory consumption: a sustainable model for the 21st century*. (sg)



EESC member Bernardo Hernández Bataller (third from left) at the 2015 International Forum on Service Sector Advancement

Euromed summit: Mediterranean civil society dialogue – a bridge towards solidarity

Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet showcased as a role model

"It is time for the states from the Euro-Mediterranean region to finally put the Barcelona pledge into practice". This was the unanimous view of attendees at the 20th Euromed summit, organised by the EESC on 30 November, which marked 20 years since the launch of the Barcelona process.

"The stabilisation of the region and its security must go hand-in-hand with its economic and social development. Human safety must be at the core of all decisions", said EESC President Georges Dassis at the outset of the meeting.

A common declaration called for better education and opportunities for young people and women in the region and recognition of civil society associations founded on democratic principles. It also called for a genuine common migration and asylum policy (for more information see the EESC website).

Participants from civil society councils committed themselves to continuing their cooperation in the follow-up of the new ENP as well as to intensifying the work on climate change, in view of the COP22 conference that will take place in Morocco. (sma)

EESC info in 23 languages: http://www.eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/eescinfo/index_en.asp

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URL: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.eesc-info>

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