



European Economic and Social Committee
Section for the Single Market, Production and Consumption
Single Market Observatory

European Self- and Co-Regulation

The Single Market Observatory (SMO) is a horizontal structure set up in 1994 with the backing of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council. It allows the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to evaluate progress in the Single Market and obstacles to its completion and to propose solutions based on contributions from civil society organisations – users of EU legislation.

Following the **Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Lawmaking** (2003), the European Commission asked the EESC to provide a mapping of EU self-and co-regulation initiatives. In 2005, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Commission decided to gather operational knowledge on EU self- and co-regulatory moves. In close cooperation with the Commission, the SMO has developed a **database dedicated to European self- and co-regulation** and intended to become a one-stop shop for information and monitoring of stakeholders' initiatives with an EU dimension (i.e. involving more than one Member State). Most of these are linked to the Single Market.

The database facilitates exchange of information and identification of best practices. Its main objective is to encourage and support private parties willing to develop or improve self-regulatory schemes. It also aims at assisting regulators responsible for co-regulatory design.

The website of the Single Market Observatory: http://www.eesc.europa.eu/smo/index_en.asp

The SMO self- and co-regulation website: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/smo/prism/presentation/index.asp>

To know more about our activities or subscribe to our e-bulletin, **contact:** smo@eesc.europa.eu

The self- and co-regulation database: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/self-and-coregulation/index.asp>

The European Economic and Social Committee

The European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body set up by the Rome Treaties in 1957. It consists of representatives of the various economic and social components of organised civil society from the 27 Member States. Its main task is to advise the three major institutions (European Parliament, Council of the European Union and European Commission). It also advises EU Presidencies.

The Committee is made up of **344** members split into three groups: the “**Employers**” group, the “**Employees**” group and the “**Various Interests**” group. This third group brings together representatives from sectors of economic and social life that are not covered by the first two groups, i.e. bodies representing craftsmen, farmers, SMEs, the professions, consumers, environmentalists, social economy organisations (cooperatives, mutual associations), family associations and associations promoting the rights of disabled people and combating exclusion, the general interest (NGOs), etc.

The Committee comprises six specialist sections covering a very wide range of Community spheres of responsibility:

- Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion (ECO) and its Lisbon Strategy Observatory (LSO),
- The Single Market, Production and Consumption (INT) and its Single Market Observatory (SMO),
- Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (TEN),
- Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship (SOC) and its Labour Market Observatory (LMO),
- Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (NAT) and its Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO),
- External Relations (REX).

In addition, following expiry of the ECSC Treaty in July 2002 and on a proposal by the European Commission, the Committee was asked to assume the responsibilities of the ECSC’s Consultative Committee. To this end, the EESC set up a Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) composed of EESC members and delegates representing the coal and steel sectors, but also other sectors affected by problems caused by the modernisation of the economy.

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