



European Economic and Social Committee  
Comité économique et social européen  
Europees Economisch en Sociaal Comité

[www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu)

Welcome



# What is the EESC?





The European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body that represents **organised civil society**

“The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission shall be **assisted by an Economic and Social Committee** and a Committee of the Regions acting in **an advisory capacity**.”

Treaty on European Union, Article 13



## WHAT DOES ORGANISED CIVIL SOCIETY MEAN?

People “on the ground” – represented by organisations of



**committed to defending their interests  
or causes** (human rights, children's rights, environment, poverty,  
combating racism and discrimination, etc.)



# What does the EESC do?





The **European Parliament**, the **Council of the EU** and the **European Commission** are legally obliged to consult the EESC when passing new laws on a wide range of topics.

The EESC examines the proposals and draws up **opinions** based on agreement reached between its members.



The EESC also adopts **own-initiative** opinions on **topics** members believe to be **important in the interests of EU citizens**.

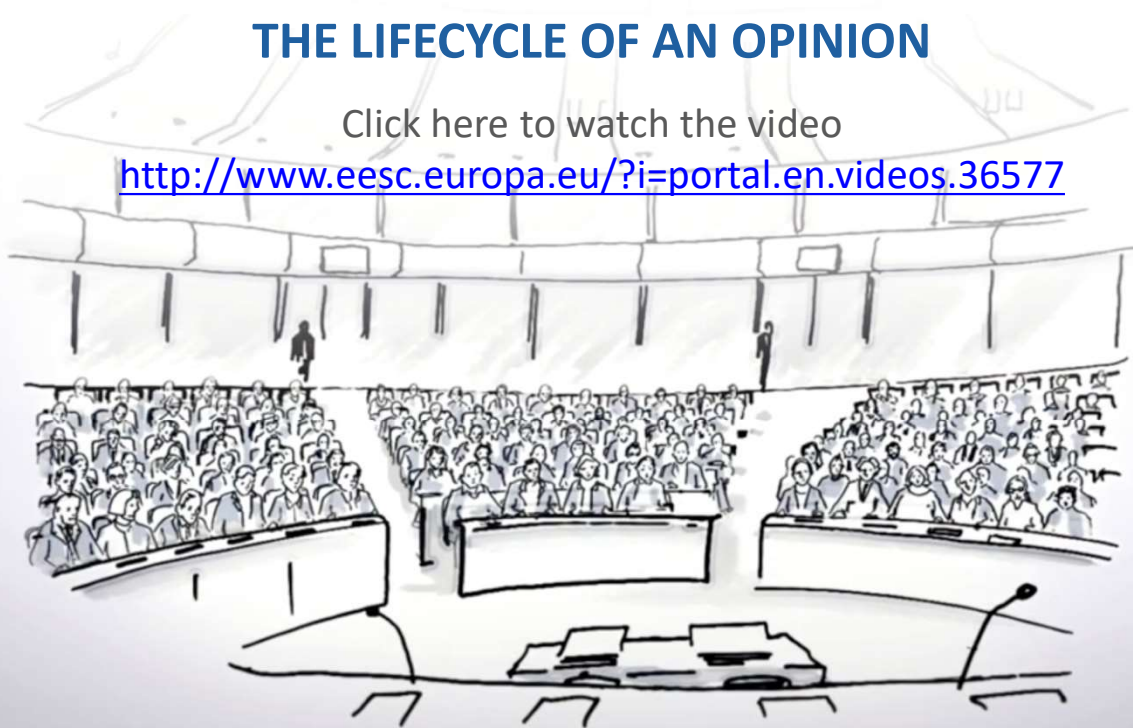
It also produces **exploratory** opinions, requested by EU lawmakers when they want an overview of civil society's views.



## THE LIFECYCLE OF AN OPINION

Click here to watch the video

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.videos.36577>





## OVERVIEW OF OPINIONS AND OTHER WORK

Opinions in the spotlight

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.documents>

Opinion search

<http://dm.eesc.europa.eu/EESCDocumentSearch/Pages/opinionssearch.aspx?culture=EN>



## WORKING METHODS

The Committee can be consulted by the European Parliament, the Council of the EU or the European Commission. Opinions can be **mandatory**, **own-initiative** or **exploratory**.

To issue opinions, the sections usually set up **study groups**, each with a **rapporteur**.

**Constructive debate in meetings to reach consensus.**

**A vote** is taken at the **section meeting**, and then at the **plenary session**.

The **final opinion** is sent to the **European institutions** and published in the **Official Journal of the EU**.



## PATTERN OF WORK

- 9 plenary sessions per year
- The **sections** generally meet **once a month**
- Each **study group** meets **1 - 3 times** to draft **its opinion**
- The members and the various working bodies are assisted by a **secretariat-general**

Session plénière  
← Plenary Session  
Plenarsitzung

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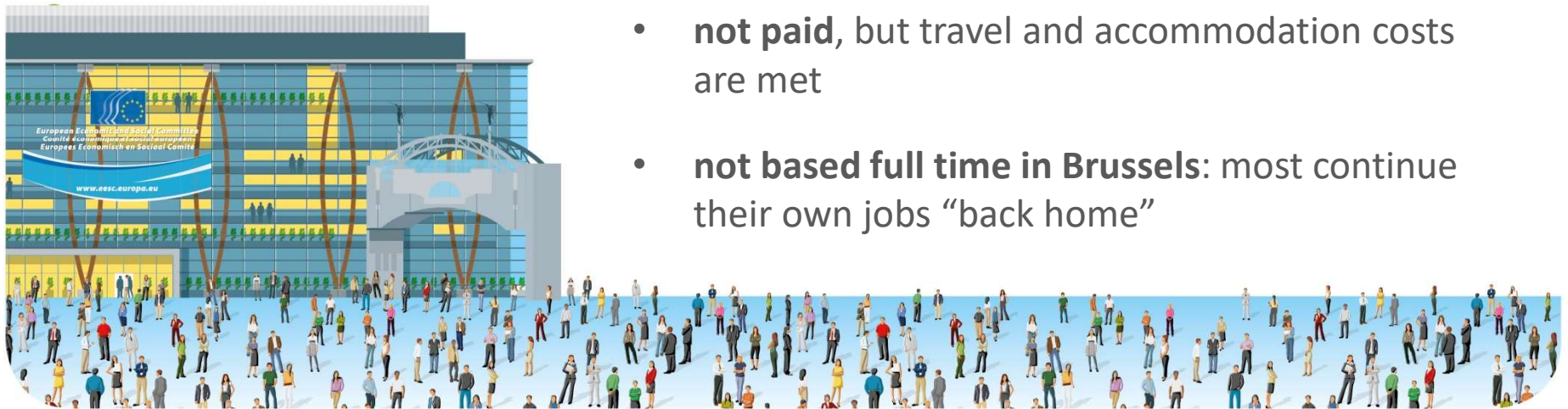


**Who are the EESC members?**



## AN ASSEMBLY OF **350 MEMBERS** FROM ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE EU

- appointed for a **renewable five-year term** by the **Council** on a proposal from each Member State
- **not paid**, but travel and accommodation costs are met
- **not based full time in Brussels**: most continue their own jobs “back home”

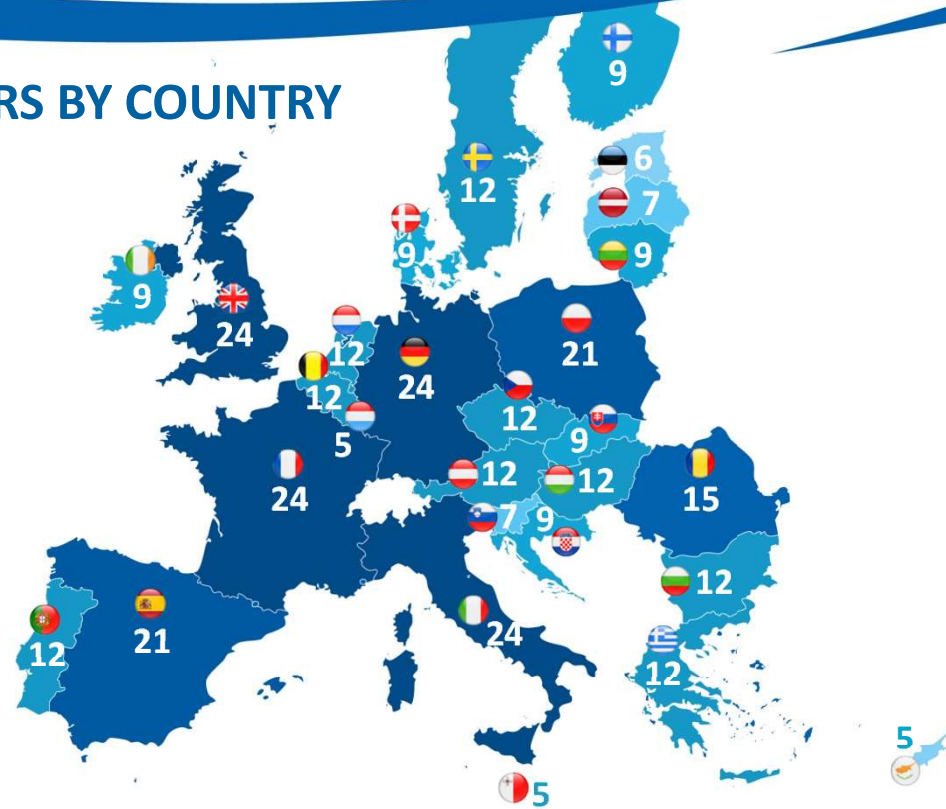




## NUMBER OF EESC MEMBERS BY COUNTRY



24 working languages





## THE EESC PRESIDENCY

elected for a two-and-a-half-year term



Vice-President  
(Communication)  
**Gonçalo Lobo Xavier**  
Employers' Group (PT)



President  
**Georges Dassis**  
Workers' Group (GR)



Vice-President  
(Budget)  
**Michael Smyth**  
Various Interests Group (UK)



## THE EESC PRESIDENCY

For a united, democratic,  
solidarity-based, peaceful and prosperous  
Europe close to its people



## THE EESC PRESIDENCY

### Key priorities

- ✓ Strengthen social and civil dialogue and participatory democracy
- ✓ Sustain SMEs and micro-enterprises and the social economy

- ✓ Support sustainable, “decent” employment
- ✓ Promote a new migration policy
- ✓ Promote security and stability in neighbourhood countries

- ✓ Encourage innovative models of sustainable development
- ✓ Encourage renewable energy sources and balanced climate policy



## THE GROUPS

The EESC is made up of **three groups**:  
**Employers' Group, Workers' Group** and **Various Interests Group**.

The aim is to build **consensus** between these groups  
so that **EESC opinions** truly reflect the **economic and social interests**  
**of EU citizens**.





## THE GROUPS

The Group Presidents are elected for a two-and-a-half-year term



**Employers' Group**  
President  
**Jacek Krawczyk (PL)**



**Workers' Group**  
President  
**Gabriele Bischoff (DE)**



**Various Interests**  
**Group**  
President  
**Luca Jahier (IT)**



## WORKING BODIES: 6 SECTIONS

The EESC has **6 sections**, covering different aspects of the EU's work. Members belong to one or more of these sections depending on their areas of expertise.

In the sections the members do the groundwork, **drafting opinions** on proposals for EU legislation. During this process, all the different participants have to negotiate to reach **consensus**.



## WORKING BODIES: 6 SECTIONS

**ECO**

Economic and  
Monetary  
Union and  
Economic and  
Social  
Cohesion



**Joost  
Van Iersel**

Employers' Group (NL)

**INT**

Single Market,  
Production  
and  
Consumption



**Martin  
Siecker**

Workers' Group (NL)

**TEN**

Transport,  
Energy,  
Infrastructure  
and the  
Information  
Society



**Pierre Jean  
Coulon**

Workers' Group (FR)

**REX**

External  
Relations



**Dilyana  
Slavova**

Various Interests Group  
(BG)

**NAT**

Agriculture,  
Rural  
Development  
and the  
Environment



**Brendan  
Burns**

Employers' Group (UK)

**SOC**

Employment,  
Social Affairs  
and Citizenship



**Pavel  
Trantina**

Various Interests Group  
(CZ)



## OTHER WORKING BODIES

**CCMI**

Consultative  
Commission  
on Industrial  
Change

**Europe  
2020  
Steering  
Committee**

**SMO**

Single Market  
Observatory

**SDO**

Sustainable  
Development  
Observatory

**LMO**

Labour Market  
Observatory

**Liaison  
Group**

Structured  
cooperation  
with EU-level  
civil society  
organisations  
and networks



# Why do we need the EESC?





## WE NEED THE EESC BECAUSE ...

So is the EESC  
a kind of lobby  
group, then?



- it is the only way for Europe's interest groups to have a formal **say on draft EU legislation in an institutional setting**
- participation of organised civil society is a crucial part of democracy: **participatory democracy**
- all **topics affecting people's daily lives** are covered (employment, health, consumer rights, farming, the fight against organised crime, etc.)



## WE NEED THE EESC BECAUSE ...

So is the EESC  
a kind of lobby  
group, then?

No, not at all.

The Committee is the only institutional meeting place and forum for dialogue at European level that enables consensus to be reached between diverse interests.

Whereas lobbies are clearly there to tell just one side of the story.





# What is the impact of EESC opinions? Some examples



**EXTENSION DURATION EFSI**  
**EUROPEAN FUND FOR STRATEGIC**  
**INVESTMENTS**  
**JUNCKER PLAN**



## EIB Group figures

As of 14/11/2017

Of which  
EUR 32bn  
signed

Approved EFSI  
financing\*

EUR 49.6bn

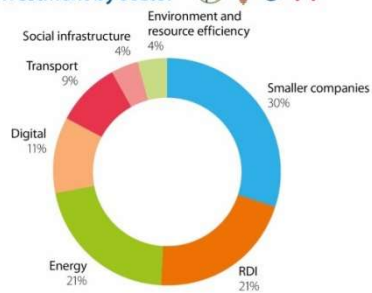
\* EIB-approved: EUR 38bn  
EIF-approved: EUR 11.6bn

Total investment related to EFSI  
approvals

EUR 251.6bn

EIB + EIF  
79.8%  
EUR 315bn

### EFSI investment by sector\*\*



### EFSI investment relative to GDP\*\*

Darker colours signify higher investment



\*\*based on approved operations

## EFSI 1.0

**AT ONE PERIOD AND A HALF OPERATIONS  
APPROVED REPRESENTS 79,8% TOTAL  
BUDGET.**

**STILL MISSING 300 BL EURO INVESTMENTS  
ON MORE THAN 2000 BL PRE CRISIS**

**EESC STRONGLY ENDORSED THE EXTENSION  
AND INCREASE OF FINANCING  
NEED TO ENSURE STABILITY AND CERTAINTY  
EFSI ADDRESSES THE FINANCIAL TRANSFER  
MECHANISM BETWEEN BANKS AND  
COMPANIES**



## FINANCIAL SOURCES

FIRST YEAR PRIVATE INVESTMENTS REACHED 62% OF TOTAL

EXTEND SOURCES TO OTHER BRANCHES OF FINANCE  
INSURANCE, PENSION FUNDS, BOND MARKET

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS MANAGE ASSETS VALUED 13.500  
BL EUR, ONLY 1% IS INVESTED IN INFRASTRUCTURES

4% WOULD EQUAL THE WHOLE JUNCKER PLAN





**ADDITIONALITY WHAT IS NEW?**  
**MARKET DRIVEN AND NO QUOTA BUT**

**NOT YET EQUALLY IN ALL COUNTRIES**

**ADVISORY HUB**

**NATIONAL PROMOTIONAL BANKS**

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**

**STRUCTURAL FUNDS, HORIZON2020,  
CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY**



## **NEW PRIORITIES**

### **SECTORS WITH HIGHEST GDP MULTIPLIERS**

**INDUSTRY 4.0, SMART ENERGY, DIGITAL AND  
TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES,**

**LARGE SCALE EU PROJECTS: SESAR, ERTMS, CITS, GRIDS,  
HPCN, ...**

**DEFENCE AND SECURITY**





## **NEW PRIORITIES**

**SOCIAL DIMENSION  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
CULTURE  
HEALTHCARE  
TOURISM  
COP21**

**STEERING COMMITTEE ROTATION AND TRANSPARENCY**





## **VISIBILITY'**

**205.059 SME'S IN ITALY, VERY FEW AWARE**

**CAMPAIGN REQUIRED**





## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**LEVEL OF INVESTMENTS  
EMPLOYMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

**PHASING OUT??  
A NEW TYPE OF BUDGETARY INSTRUMENT**





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Plenary session summaries

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.Documents#/boxTab1-2>

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EPSO

[http://europa.eu/epso/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/epso/index_en.htm)

