



European Economic and Social Committee

2015 Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions Brussels, 30 November – 1 December 2015

Key challenges for the Euro Mediterranean Region 20 years after the Barcelona Declaration

Draft programme

30 November Key challenges for the Euro-Mediterranean region

8.30 – 9.30 a.m. Registration

9.30 - 11 a.m. Opening session

Welcome speech:

❖ *Georges Dassis, EESC President*

The political situation in the Euromed region and the challenges it faces 20 years on from the Barcelona Declaration

Moderator: **Ms Dilyana Slavova**, president of the external relations section, EESC

- ❖ **H.E. Taieb Baccouche, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tunisia (tbc)**
- ❖ **H.E. Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg (tbc)**
- ❖ **Nizar Baraka**, President of the Moroccan Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC)
- ❖ **Marcos Peña**, President of the Spanish Economic and Social Council
- ❖ **Delphine Borione**, Deputy Secretary-General, Union for the Mediterranean
- ❖ **Christian Berger**, Director and Deputy Managing Director for Middle East and North Africa, EEAS
- ❖ **Sergio Piccolo**, Senior Advisor to the Director, DG NEAR/B European Commission

Discussion

11 - 11.30 a.m. Coffee break and press conference

11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. A new European Neighbourhood Policy

Moderator: **Marianne Nati-Stoffel**, Secretary General, ESC Luxembourg

- *What are the challenges for the Euromed region right now?*
- *To what extent will the EU's new neighbourhood policy enable it to respond to the challenges facing the region?*
- *How do relations between the EU and its southern neighbourhood currently stand and how can progress in the new political framework?*
- **Sergio Piccolo**, Senior Advisor to the Director, DG NEAR/B European Commission
- **Madlen Serban**, Director, European Training Foundation
- **Conny Reuter**, Secretary General, SOLIDAR
- **Grace Attard**, Rapporteur for the report on the situation of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region
- **Salim Salamah**, Blogger and activist, Palestinian Human Rights League - Syria

Discussion

1 - 2.30 p.m. Lunch at the invitation of the EESC

2.30 - 4.00 p.m. Prospects for regional dialogue

Moderator: **Lidija Pavić-Rogošić**, Member of the EESC

- *What are the future prospects for the Euromed region in view of the challenges discussed earlier in the day?*
- *What can drive cooperation and regional integration?*
- *How does the regional dialogue benefit the EU and its southern partners?*
- **Irène Mingasson**, Head of unit, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (tbc)
- **Mohamed Seghir Babès**, President of the Algerian National Economic and Social Council (CNES)
- **Lurdes Vidal**, Chief Officer, Arab and Mediterranean world, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMED)
- **Bichara Khader**, Study and Research Group on the Contemporary Arab World, Catholic University of Leuven (UCL)

Discussion

4 - 4.30 p.m.

Coffee break

4.30 - 6 p.m.

Involvement of economic and social stakeholders in the development of the region

Moderator: Srdja Kekovic, Secretary General, Union of Free Trade Unions of Montenegro

- *How can economic and social stakeholders share in the prosperity of the region and in its economic and social development?*
- *What is their role in the development of participatory democracy?*
- *What specific contributions can they make in the dialogue with the authorities?*

- **Felix Peinado**, Member, Spanish Economic and Social Council (ESC)
- **Kacem Afaya**, Deputy Secretary General, General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT), Tunisia
- **Arnaldo Abruzzini**, Secretary-General, Eurochambres
- **Carlos Lozano**, Coordinator of the Euro-Mediterranean Social Economy Network (ESMED)

Discussion

1 December: Working together to address the challenge of migration and refugees

9.30 - 11 a.m.

Long-term perspective, integration

Moderator: **Roger Nasnas**, President of the Lebanese Economic and Social Council (ESC)

- ❖ *What contribution can migrants make to society across Europe?*
- ❖ *Current examples of good practice by civil society in the integration of asylum seekers*
- ❖ *Vocational training – a key factor in integration?*

- ❖ **Thomas Huddleston**, Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Group
- ❖ **George A. Vernikos**, President of the Greek ESC (tbc)
- ❖ **Representative from ARLEM, Committee of the Regions** (tbc)
- ❖ **Cinzia Del Rio**, Member, EESC
- ❖ **Johan Leman**, President of the Foyer, Molenbeek, and Professor at the Catholic University of Leuven

Discussion

11 - 11.30 a.m.

Coffee break

11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Humanitarian issues

Moderator: **Arjola Alika, Legal Expert**, Union of Independent Trade Unions of Albania

- *How can civil society play its part in the reception of refugees, both North and South?*
- *What are the long-term prospects for the refugees currently in refugee camps in Europe's neighbourhood?*
- *What role should civil society play in combating migrant trafficking?*
- *What solutions can be found to ensure a safe passage to Europe?*

- **Brenda King**, Rapporteur of the EESC opinion on migrant
- **Kamel Mohanna**, President of the AMEL Association
- **Carole Mansour**, Director of the documentary "Not who we are"
- **Taïb Madmad**, Secretary General, Moroccan Human Right Association (tbc)

Discussion

12.30 - 2.30 p.m. Lunch at the invitation of the EESC

2.30 - 4 p.m.

Political issues

Moderator: **Dimitris Dimitradis**, Member, EESC

- *How should this challenge be incorporated into the relationship between the EU and its southern partners as well as into the national dialogue of all of the individual countries?*
- *What impact is this crisis having on regional and bilateral relations in the Euromed region?*
- *How can civil society have a policy input with regard to migration issues?*

- ❖ **Cristian Pirvulescu**, EESC Rapporteur on the EU Agenda for Migration
- ❖ **Ahmed Majdalani**, former Minister for Labour for the West Bank and President of the Palestinian ESC
- ❖ **Dan Catarivas**, Director, Manufacturers' Association of Israel
- ❖ **Osman Yildiz**, Secretary General, HAK-İŞ Workers Confederation

Discussion

4 - 4.15 p.m.

Coffee break

4.15 - 5 p.m.

Adoption of the final declaration

Mr José Marià Zufiaur, *President of the Euromed Follow-Up Committee*

Practical information:

Venue: European Economic and Social Committee (room JDE 62), Rue Belliard 99, 1040 Brussels

Interpreting: French/English/Arabic/Spanish/Croatian

Contact: euromed@eesc.europa.eu