



European Economic
and Social Committee

NEWSLETTER

European ESC



CESlink : Online Cooperation between Economists
and Social Councils

Presentation



Dear Sir, Madam,

First of all, let me wish you a very successful 2012.

On 18 and 19 January, we will hold our **477th EESC plenary session** in the József Antall building of the European Parliament in Brussels.

To mark the start of the Danish EU presidency, the first session of the year will be attended by **Mr Nicolai Wammen**, Danish minister for European affairs on behalf of the Danish EU Council presidency. Together with Mr Wammen, we will examine the Danish presidency's priorities and consider how the EESC can help bring them to fruition. Opinions backing up the Danish presidency's work and a number of related initiatives are already in the pipeline. European civil society is on board!

Wishing you a useful reading,

Staffan NILSSON,
President



Main opinions adopted at the Plenary Session of 7 and 8 December 2011



You will find the information concerning the opinions on: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.opinions-search>

Summary of opinions

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|---|------------------------------|
| → (NAT/532) Distribution of food products to the most deprived persons in the Union | Mr SOMVILLE (GR III–BE) |
| → (TEN/463) Recording equipment in road transport | Mr SIMONS (GR I – NL) |
| → (REX/331) Trade, growth and world affairs: Trade policy as a core component of the EU 2020 Strategy | Mrs PICHENOT (GR III – FR) |
| → (REX/342) Scheme of generalised tariff preferences | Mr PEEL (GR I – UK) |
| → (SOC/419) Strengthening victims' rights in the EU | Mrs WALKER SHAW (GR II – UK) |
| → (EUR/002) Economic policy coordination: guidance for national policies in 2011-2012 | Mr SMYTH (GR III– UK) |



Main debates and opinions at the agenda of the Plenary Session of 18 and 19 January 2012

- On **Thursday 19 January at 9.30 a.m.**, there will be a presentation about the Danish presidency's priorities by **Mr Nicolai WAMMEN**, minister for European Affairs of the Danish government, on behalf of the EU Council Danish Presidency.

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| → (TEN/459) Involving civil society in the establishment of a future European Energy Community | Mr COULON (GR II – FR) |
| → (REX/326) The role of the European Union in peace building in external relations: best practice and perspectives | Mrs MORRICE (GR III – UK) |
| → (NAT/513) GMO in the EU | Mr SIECKER (GR II – NL) |
| → (SOC/409) Making post-secondary vocational education and training more attractive | Mrs DRBALOVA (GR I – CZ) |
| → (SOC/421) Youth employment, technical skills and mobility | Mrs ANDERSEN (GR I – DK) |

To consult the draft agenda of the plenary session and related documents, click on next link : [Agenda of the plenary session](#)

News from the European institutions

- EU Council Danish Presidency: <http://eu2012.dk/en>
- Memo Danish Presidency: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.publications.21746>
- On Wednesday 18 January (Atrium 6 of the EESC's building), launch of the exhibition "**A Modern Royal Household**" (event in the framework of the Danish Presidency), in the presence of the President Staffan Nilsson and the Ambassador of the Danish Embassy in Brussels, H.E. Paul-Skytte Christophersen.
- The EESC has published a little guide on the **European Citizens' Initiative**, available in print and as a PDF download in all EU languages. For more info: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.publications.18960>
- The **Irish Council (NESC)** has proposed to take the presidency of the European ESC's network of the EU for the year 2012.
- On 7-8 February (EESC): A **large-scale EESC conference** in order to prepare European civil society's position for the UN conference on sustainable development in Rio in June 2012, titled "**Go sustainable, be responsible! European civil society on the road to Rio+20**".
["Go sustainable, be responsible!"](#)

We welcome all your comments. Just e-mail us using this link: [suggestions](#).

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"Interinstitutional relations, relations with national ESCs"