

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCILS OF THE EU MEMBER STATES AND THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Bucharest 19-20 November 2015

Caro Hotel

INVITATION

Dear President

Dear Secretary-General,

We have the honour and the pleasure to invite you to the annual meeting of Presidents and Secretaries-General of European ESCs and the EESC, which will be held in **Bucharest – Romania, on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 November 2015.**

We propose as the central theme for discussion during our meeting:

“The role and implication of European ESCs in combatting poverty and social exclusion in times of economic and political crisis”

Rising wealth inequality, high unemployment rate, homelessness, civil unrest and support for political extremes are some of the worrying political phenomena that have raged in Europe since 2008. This extremely complex reality has shaken people’s faith in the EU. The future of ESCs depends on their capacity to include and to mobilise all the forces of European civil societies in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. What does this mean, in fact, in concrete terms? What good practices and societal values can ESCs put forward in order to address and to fight this economic and political crisis, which is first and foremost a humanitarian crisis?

We are confident that this theme offers ample opportunity for discussions and that we will all benefit from presentations by various councils on these issues. In this regard, please

kindly provide us with your written contribution as early as possible. This will enable us to have the translations ready for the meeting and to include them in the participants' files.

Attached please find a draft programme, a meeting registration form and a hotel registration form. We kindly request that you send the completed meeting registration form by **10 November 2015**.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Eugenia Ștefănescu, Director of the Direction for International and Public Relations, sjeni@ces.ro, and Ms Anca Simitopol, Expert, International Relations Department, anca.simitopol@ces.ro, for any inquiries.

We earnestly hope that you will be able to participate in this meeting and we look forward to welcoming you to Bucharest in November.

Yours sincerely,

Florian Costache
President

Marin Suliman
Secretary General