



European Economic
and Social Committee

NEWSLETTER

European ESC



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Economic and Social Councils

SPECIAL EDITION: STAFFAN NILSSON IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE EESC

Presentation

Dear Sir, Madam,



- This Special Edition of our newsletter gives me the opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new elected president of the European Economic and Social Committee.
- It is my intention to pursue the excellent cooperation with the national ESCs . According to the Lisbon Treaty, this is a 5 year term **renewal of the EESC**, which gives a **new mandate** (the 14th) for the period **2010-2015**. The **new members** are **99** out of 344. I believe the EESC, which I now have the great honour to represent for a two and half year period, will play its institutional role in ensuring the best possible synergy with the EU ESCs . The Treaty of Lisbon, which enters into its operational phase, is a precious instrument for future collaboration among us.
- Starting from the beginning of my mandate, I will pay visit to all the ESCs Presidents, in order to discuss in person about the best cooperation strategy for the future.
- My programme motto is "**Engaging People for a Sustainable Europe**"; dialogue and participation, sustainability and growth, solidarity and development are the **three pillars** of the working programme that I intend to promote during my mandate.
- One of the **Lisbon Treaty priorities** is to increase the participation of the organised civil society to the EU policy making and this is the core business of the European - union ESC's network.. I look forward to keep on building the **bridge between the EU and the European citizens**.

With all my best wishes,

Staffan Nilsson



- This [Plenary Session](#) (19-21 October) has been dedicated to the setting up of the main bodies of the EESC. In particular, the election of the new **President** (Mr Staffan Nilsson, Group III) and **Vice-Presidents** (Mrs Anna Maria Darmanin, Group II, Mr Jacek Krawczyk, Group I), the new [Bureau](#) and the **specialise sections**.
- On Thursday 21 October, the new President, Mr Nilsson, presented the **working programme** for his mandate "[Engaging People for a Sustainable Europe](#)", which was distributed to all participants. This programme is based on three main guiding lines, which are also fully reflected in the EU - 2020 Strategy: civil dialogue and participative democracy, sustainability and growth, solidarity and development.

The plenary was attended by the Vice-President of the Commission and Commissioner for Inter-institutional Relations and Administration, **Mr Maros Šefčovič**, who, making allusion to the EU ESC's network, gave a short **speech**, in which he highlighted the Commission's working progress on the basis of the EU-2020 Strategy, i.e. the finalisation of the Member States' National Reform Programmes and, on January 2011, the launching of the European Semester. He recalled the European Citizens Initiative, an instrument allowing the European citizens to actively participate in the EU works and he stressed that cooperation among EU institutions is the key to achieve EU goals.

[Main opinions approved by the Plenary](#) (initiatives + exploratory opinions)

