

European Economic and Social Committee



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Where is the EESC located?



European Economic and Social Committee

What is the EESC ?

Consultative body

the only one which represents Civil Society

legitimated by Treaty of Lisbon

Art 13.4 TEU (Treaty on European Union)

"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."



European Economic and Social Committee

What does civil Society mean?

People "on the ground" - those most directly affected by EU legislation!

That is, representatives of **organisations of**

- employers
- workers
- various interest (farmers, the professions, consumers, and so on)



Why do we need the EESC?

- the EESC is the only way for Europe's interest groups to have a formal and institutionalized say on draft EU legislation

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

No, not at all!

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

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

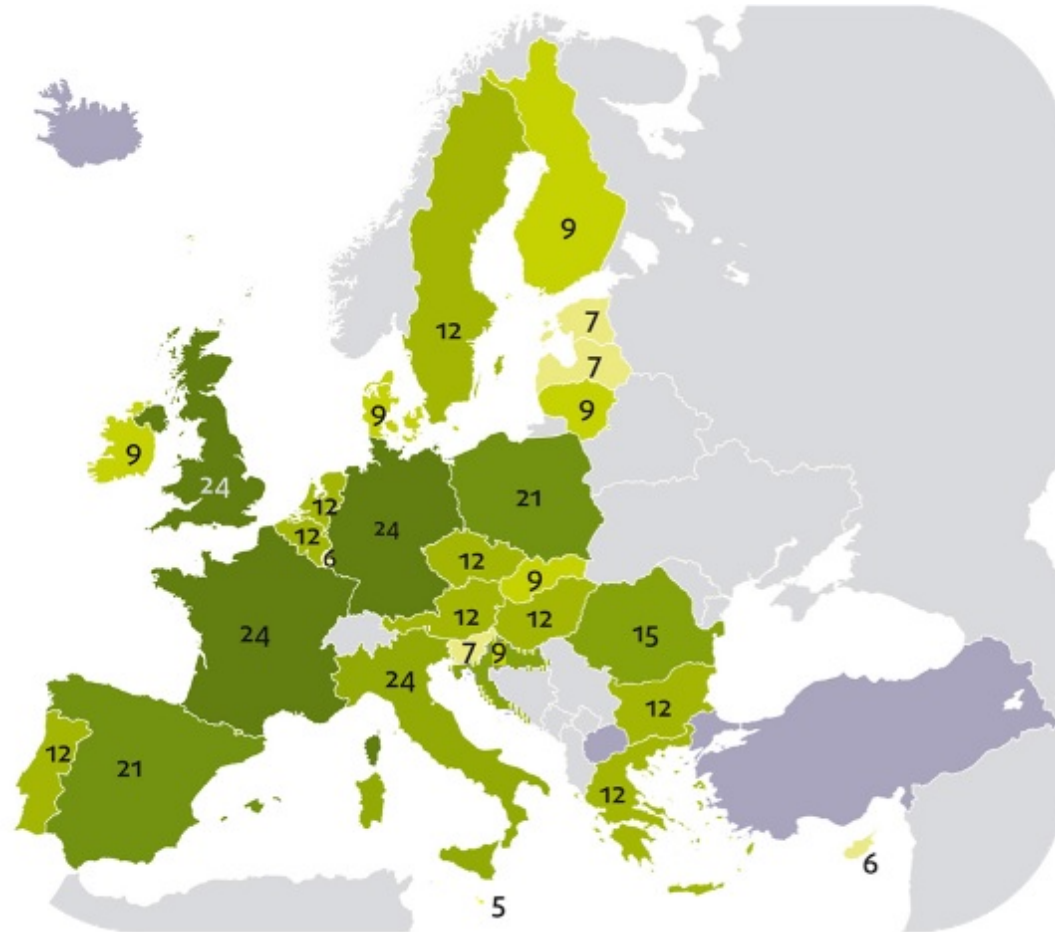


What is the structure of the EESC?

- It is an assembly of 353 members from the 28 Member States of the EU.
- Members are appointed for a renewable five-year term.
- They are appointed by the Council of Ministers on the basis of lists drawn up by national governments.



Number of Members by EU country



President

Vice-Presidents



Henri MALOSSE
Group 1



Hans-Joachim
WILMS
Group 2



Jane MORRICE
Group 3



An assembly divided into 3 GROUPS



Group I – Employers

- Public and private sectors of industry, commerce, finance, etc. (large companies)
- President: **Jacek Krawczyk** (Poland)



Group II – Workers

- National trade union confederations
- President: **George Dassis** (Greece)



Group III – Various Interests

- Farmers, consumers, the social economy, craftsmen and SMEs, social and environmental NGOs
- President: **Luca Jahier** (Italy)



The EESC's decision-making bodies



The Presidency

Elected for a two and a half-year term

wind of change
le moteur citoyen



The Bureau

Elected for a two and a half-year term



The plenary assembly

Nominated by national governments and appointed by the Council of the EU for a renewable five-year term



The EESC's working bodies:

6 SECTIONS



Economic and Monetary Union and
Economic and Social Cohesion – **ECO**



Joost Van Iersel
(Group 1)



Single Market, Production and
Consumption – **INT**



Martin Siecker
(Group 2)



Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and
the Information Society – **TEN**



Stéphane Buffetaut
(Group 1)



External Relations – **REX**



Jose Maria Zufiaur
Narvaiza (Group 2)



Agriculture, Rural Development and the
Environment – **NAT**



Dilyana Slavova
(Group 3)



Employment, Social Affairs and
Citizenship – **SOC**



Maureen O'Neill
(Group 3)



The EESC's working bodies:

5 other bodies

- The Consultative Commission on Industrial Change – **CCMI**
- Europe 2020 – **Steering Committee**
- The Single Market Observatory – **SMO**
- The Sustainable Development Observatory – **SDO**
- The Labour Market Observatory – **LMO**



Working methods

- To issue opinions (mandatory, own-initiative or exploratory opinions), the sections usually set up “**study groups**”, each with a **rapporteur**
- A continual quest for a “**dynamic compromise**”
- **Constructive debate** based on expertise
- A **vote** is taken in the **section**, and then in the **plenary session**
- The **final opinion** is transmitted to the **European institutions** and published in the Official Journal of the EU



How we work: opinions



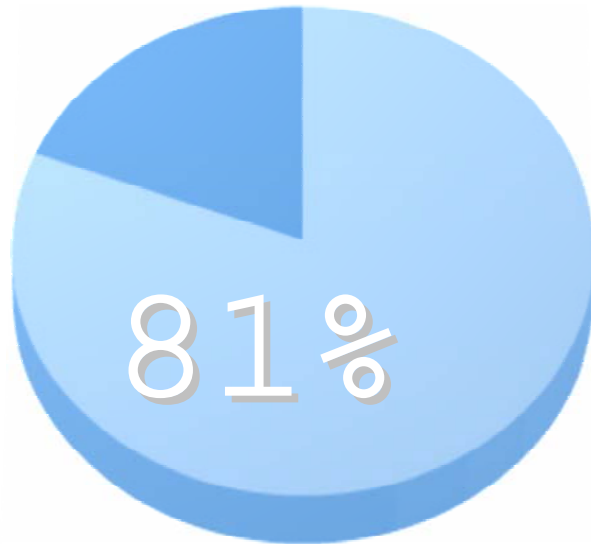
Pattern of work

- 9 plenary sessions per year
- Each of the 6 sections generally meets once a month
- Each study group meets between one and three times
- The members and the various working bodies are assisted by a secretariat-general



Does the EESC influence EU laws?

Yes. The *European Commission* acts on 4 out of 5 EESC opinions



EU Commission President Barroso – EESC President Malosse



Challenges for the future...

- to optimize the Committee's role as a consultative body to the European Parliament, Council and European Commission by **stepping up cooperation**
- to improve the EESC's **representativeness and credibility** as the institutional representative of civil society
- to reinforce the EESC's presence in the **debate on the future of Europe**



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and Social Committee**



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