

CEPLIS TELEGRAM



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Mobility of Health Professionals in the EU - Ethical Recruitment and Policy Coherence

Continuing with our monitoring of developments relating to the mobility of Professionals in the Healthcare filed, we feel that it is interesting to report on the event "Mobility of Health Professionals in the EU: Ethical Recruitment and Policy Coherence" that took place the 5th of last May in the premises of the EP in Brussels.

The event's objective was in fact to attempt to answer questions regarding the role ethical recruitment can play for a fairer distribution of healthcare workers? Amongst other issues, participants have focused on the role of Europe in ensuring that freedom of movement of healthcare workers in the Single Market does not translate into unequitable access to health services in less affluent regions.



Jointly organised by the Health Workers for All partnership, the European Federation of Public Service Unions EPSU and the European Public Health Alliance EPHA, and **hosted in the EP by Nessa Childers, MEP (S&D, Ireland)**, the Conference debated on the applicability of the World Health Organisation's Global Code of Practice, focusing on the **International Recruitment of Healthcare Personnel in the European context, marked by increased professional mobility**. The latter has begun to have a significant adverse impact on health system sustainability due to increasing shortages and **unequal distribution of physicians, medical specialists and nurses**. A phenomenon that is hitting hard in some Southern European countries, but also in Poland, Bulgaria and in particular Romania, where **since 2007**

several thousand physicians and nurses have received certificates that allow them to work in another European Union (EU) Member State.

Austerity measures are altering the balance between healthcare workforce investments and mobility, which is at the heart of the WHO Global Code of Practice: new wage-related imbalances between countries are being shaped and have the potential to further increase healthcare worker brain drain. This means that Member States have to focus their health workforce planning towards self-sufficiency, while EU Cohesion Policy can have a role in supporting countries in retaining their health workers, to avoid mounting health inequalities and safeguard universal access to healthcare.

Crucially, what emerged from the debate is that mobility in the healthcare sector is different than in other areas such as IT or construction where the loss of qualified professionals does not pose a danger for public health. In that context, already in 2104, Health Workers for All had issued a Call to European decision-makers in support of proper implementation of the ethical principles contained in the WHO Code.

“It is about time for policy-makers to realise that investment in public health systems, and in a sustainable health workforce, help advance Europe’s economic recovery,” said **Linda Mans**, global health advocate at Wemos Foundation and Health Workers for All coordinator. *“The EU, with its Cohesion Policy instruments, should do a better job to help retain health workers in their home countries,”* Mrs Mans went on to say.

In a Europe of increased labour mobility, it becomes even more important to safeguard the rights of workers. *“Fair and transparent contracting and equal access to training and career development need to be ensured by employers, who should also go to great lengths to guarantee a safe and healthy work environment,”* added **Mathias Maucher**, Policy Officer on Health and Social Services at EPSU.

Although terms like ‘source’ and ‘destination’ country are becoming blurred in the face of increasingly volatile professional flows, all EU countries must consider how their planning and recruitment practices affect individual decisions both at home and abroad. Both migration and reliance on a foreign workforce are indicative of systemic challenges that must be tackled through actions that make working environments more attractive for health workers to stay.

“Professional mobility boosts growth and job creation in the Single Market. Yet, in the healthcare sector things are not that satisfactory: *“If you can earn ten times more in another Member State while developing your professional skills, it’s hard to resist the call,”* concluded **Sascha Marschang**, EPHA’s Policy Manager for Health Systems.

For further information about the European Health Workforce Action, please feel free to contact our Secretariat.

"Improving SME Business Environment - What Next?"

On 14 April 2015 the SME Intergroup of the European Parliament held a discussion about the improvement of the environment for SMEs. The meeting was chaired and facilitated by SME Intergroup President Othmar Karas, MEP (EPP). Statements were delivered by Joanna Drake, Director for SMEs and Entrepreneurship, DG GROW, European Commission, Maria Grapini, MEP Vice-president of the SME Intergroup as well as by Representatives from stakeholder associations and chambers.



CEPLIS would like to share with you the conclusions that the SME Intergroup has drawn on the occasion of the this event:

- The EU SMEs Policy, embodied in the Small Business Act (SBA), provides a comprehensive set of measures to help European SMEs to grow, innovate and create jobs. **SBA II is not on the agenda of the next Competitiveness Council but will probably be discussed in 2016.**
- The Commission's public consultation towards the end of last year, on the future of SME policy has brought some 1800 replies from all EU Member States. Over 60% of responses came from entrepreneurs, most of them self-employed or running a microenterprise. The reports on the results are available on the website of DG GROW.

The priorities of SME policy for the next years are:

1. Reducing administrative and regulatory burden

- "Think Small First" principle in all Commission policies and legislation proposals as well as the SME Test in the impact assessments.
- The Commission's Better Regulation initiative, will further strengthen the SME dimension in the Commission's policy-making.

2. Promoting SMEs' access to finance

- A more efficient use of the existing instruments, including the COSME financial instruments.

- Online portal, providing a single access point to all EU financing programmes, which SMEs can approach directly. This portal has more than 100,000 visits per month as well as an online guide on crowdfunding.
- The Commission is drafting a **Green Paper on Capital Markets Union**. Particular focus on areas such as securitisation, venture capital, stock markets, crowd-funding and credit information on SMEs.
- Parliament supports the SME window of the EFSI fund: it will be relevant to support risk finance for SMEs and mid-cap companies, leading to investments of approximately €75 billion.
- The Connecting Europe Facility and Horizon 2020 will not suffer budget cuts because of EFSI.
- The EFSI fund will come on top of existing financial instruments for SMEs. Financial instruments under EFSI will build on the products created by COSME/Horizon 2020 and will provide additional financing to SMEs targeted by those programmes.

3. Facilitating access to markets, both in the EU and beyond

- The Commission is working on an **Internal Market Strategy for goods and services**, which will be presented towards the end of the year. SMEs will be mainstreamed – areas such as standardisation or public procurement are of significant importance for small businesses.
- By creating a connected digital single market, we can generate up to € 250 billion of additional growth in Europe
- Promoting SMEs' access to green markets is part of the SBA.
- In 2016 the **European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre** will be launched to provide information and advice on the performance and cost effectiveness of different options directly, and through partners, to SMEs.

4. Promoting entrepreneurship and access to skills

- The Commission continues to implement the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan, adopted in 2013. As an example, more than 3000 exchanges have taken place in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme within the 6 years of its existence. By 2020, funding in the COSME programme will allow more than 10,000 exchanges.
- More than a third of the aspiring entrepreneurs, who have participated, actually take the step towards the realization of their business idea.
- Also 60% of host entrepreneurs gained new ideas or technical know-how and 65% tapped into new markets and increased their turnover.

First figures for SME participation in successful Horizon2020 projects indicate that 20%-objective for SME participation is achieved. The interest and expectations among SME are very high. Entry barriers are low: less than 2% of applications are excluded because of formal errors.

However, there are also some concerns: More than 80% of proposals are evaluated below the threshold. This means that they present a better product for the same market – but no growth opportunity. More than 50% of applications that present a new business idea are awarded a grant.

For further information about the meeting, please feel free to contact our Secretariat.

"Report on the Cross-Border Care directive"

The European Commission has recently published an evaluative report on the Cross-Border Care directive, formerly known as the Patients Rights Directive.

The report aimed at analysing the functioning of the Directive by looking at three main areas:

- **Reimbursement of cross-border healthcare;**
- **Quality and safety of cross-border healthcare;**
- **Undue delay**



The study was carried out at EU-28 level with the aim of gathering reliable and comparable information from all Member States on the implementation of the Directive in question. In order to perform an in-depth assessment, the study sampled 12 focus countries in which the analysis was broadened.

Results demonstrate that **cross-border healthcare is moving at a fast pace with yet still immense potential to grow in the years ahead**. The Directive's implementation also coincides well with the upcoming launch of the **European Reference Network**, an innovative platform for knowledge and best practice sharing.

The main findings of the study are set out below, according to the three aspects subject to analysis: Reimbursement, Quality and Safety, and Undue Delay.

Reimbursement

In summary, with reference to the reimbursement process, there are no apparent problems or particular administrative burden at this stage of the Directive's implementation process. However, it should be kept in mind that an increase in patient numbers seeking cross-border care may reveal unforeseen concerns.

Quality and safety

Since the number of cases under the Directive is still limited, no administrative problems appear to exist linked to quality and safety. However, the interviews showed that in cases where prior authorisations are necessary, health insurance providers often obtain information on healthcare providers by directly contacting the National Contact Points, or

the relevant provider, and verify whether such providers comply with local quality and safety requirements.

Undue delay

The study revealed that there is a general concept well shared among different entities regarding the definition of waiting times. Websites of governments or health insurance providers often disclose information on the average waiting times for different treatments. Using this data, the study compared the average waiting times for certain countries. **There are large differences in Member State practices in terms of undue delay.** From interviews with patient groups, it appeared that patients are aware of their waiting time when requesting treatment. Furthermore, undue delay is most often evaluated on an individual basis.

Conclusion

The Directive is at an early stage of implementation. Due to the small number of related cross-border healthcare referrals, some of the Directive's fields of application are not mature enough to be evaluated. This study represents a starting point to evaluate the evolution of the Directive in the future. Further evaluative efforts require a stronger focus, for example, on not only identifying good practices, but also addressing barriers to their implementation across Europe. **A major outcome of this study is that the Directive's implementation could benefit from more targeted and regular publicity and communication activities. Evidence indicates that demand for cross-border healthcare would be larger should the patients be made aware of the possibilities offered.**

This could be achieved by facilitating provision of additional information not only on citizens' rights, but also on the specific steps that need to be followed for each individual request on procedures and other administrative aspects. Moreover this could be further assisted by enhancing the usefulness of the information provided on the websites of the National Contact Points through cross-referencing and by involving patient organisations in defining standard requirements:

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients rely on information provided by NCPs to make informed choices about healthcare providers 2. Patients benefit from enhanced patient-oriented cooperation between NCPs and other professional stakeholders, i.e., healthcare providers and health insurance providers 3. Patients benefit from the recognition of follow-up care subsequent to cross-border healthcare treatments 4. Patients benefit from rules related to waiting times in the Directive, having the right to be treated abroad when undue delay occurs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients were not directly targeted by information campaigns, instead the focus leaned towards medical professionals. 2. Patients are often given predefined responses concerning the procedure for accessing cross-border healthcare. Answers are based on the legal text of the Directive rather than being appropriately tailored to the patient's query 3. Patients have difficulty in interpreting quality and safety information about cross-border healthcare 4. Patients are not normally informed of their rights under the Directive by their frontline healthcare providers as these healthcare professionals do not have sufficient knowledge of the Directive 5. Patients often refrain from choosing cross-border healthcare due to burdensome administrative procedures
Opportunities	Threats
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients could benefit from improved quality and safety and shorter waiting times through competition between healthcare providers, stimulated by the Directive 2. Patients could benefit from the introduction of an interoperable online health record system, as their clinical data would be available to healthcare providers 3. Patients could benefit from targeted communication campaigns on the procedural processes of cross-border healthcare 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients may encounter difficulties in proving to their insurers that the waiting time for treatment in their country of affiliation causes them undue delay 2. As patient flow increases, patients may incur unforeseen administrative delays due to the case-by-case assessment of claims 3. Increased patient flow may also result in further administrative burden for Member State authorities 4. Opportunistic behaviour of healthcare providers in close proximity to national borders may hamper the implementation of the Directive 5. Difficulties for patients in understanding quality and safety information may discourage them from using cross-border healthcare

For further information about the Directive, please feel free to contact our Secretariat.

Better Regulation Plan

The European Commission has recently unveiled its 'Better Regulation Plan', the objective of which is to streamline regulation, to cut red tape and to help the EU to become "big on big things, small on small things".

In the context of the guidelines given by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker – who hailed the plan as one of his key policy goals – Commissioner Frans Timmermans declared that he and his colleagues are "*determined to change both what the Union does and how it does it*" and pointed out that citizens and businesses feel that: "*Brussels and its institutions don't always deliver rules they can understand or apply.*" According to a recent poll 70% of Europeans are of the opinion that EU laws are over-complex, often unnecessary and, on occasion, downright frivolous.



Timmerman's plans have been challenged in some quarters as being merely a cover-up job for a lack of regulation citing that he has been quoted as saying: "Legislation is not the answer to every problem and there are problems that we need to tackle that we can tackle without creating new legislation." Recently though, the Commissioner declared that: "Better regulation is not about more or less EU rules, or undermining our high social and environmental standards, our health or our fundamental rights. Better regulation is about making sure we deliver on the ambitious policy goals we have set ourselves in the most efficient way."

The task set for Timmermans was to identify regulations that can be dismantled, changed or streamlined but it would not be achievable without an institutional agreement with the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers – who will now consider the proposal. An agreement should be reached by the end of this year but key is reducing the incidence of member states' governments adding 'local' elements into EU-formulated laws (known to Brussels insiders as 'gold-plating').

The final document aims to "deliver tangible and sustainable benefits for citizens, business and society as a whole". Its introduction contains the mantra that better regulation is "essential for sustainable development" and "underpins the European social model".

But not everyone is convinced. While businesses generally have backed the plan as a step in the right direction, some NGOs, trade unions and other groups have quickly formed a 'Better Regulation Watchdog' to monitor whether regulatory proposals would undermine social and environmental laws.

Timmermans clearly has a major challenge ahead. **There is no denying that the field of EU regulatory affairs is by its very nature a complex one and plenty of interested parties will be watching developments closely, CEPLIS being obviously one of them.**

Promoting Our Common Values

Following the Board's decision to raise the biggest possible awareness amongst all stakeholders on CEPLIS updated list of principles common to all liberal professionals, our Director General, Professor Koutroubas was invited by the **Hellenic Regulatory Body for Nursing (ENE)** to present and discuss this work with the nurses of Greece at the occasion of their Pan-Hellenic and Pan-European Scientific and Professional Conference, held in Thessaloniki from the 7th to the 10th of May.



The 12th of May, Prof. Koutroubas had the opportunity to discuss our common values with the Executive Board of the **European Experts in Automobiles (FIEA)**, who visited our premises in Brussels



The 10th of June, our Director presented and discussed these values with the Croatian Nurses in Zagreb, at the kind invitation of the **Croatian Regulatory Body for Nursing (HKMS)**, chaired by FEPI President, **Ms Dragica Simunec**. The day before, Prof. Koutroubas met with the Presidents of the Regulatory Bodies of all the Professions of Health-care in the youngest member of the EU and discussed, among other issues, their project to set up a Centre of Excellence in Continuous Professional Development and the central role of ethics in professional activities.



For further information about the Common Values Promotion, please feel free to contact our Secretariat

Speech of Eric Thiry, UNPLIB at the International Labour Conference

On the occasion of the 104th annual session of the International Labour Conference hosted in Geneva, the 8th of June 2015, the President of the World Union of the Liberal Professions (UMPL) and of the “Union Nationale des Professions Liberales et Intellectuales de Belgique (UNPLIB), Mr. Eric Thiry has given an very important speech the full text of which can be found in our website in French.



International
Labour
Organization

In this issue of our Telegram we would like to share with you the key points highlighted by the President of UMPL, who is also a Member of our Executive Board:

A large number of extremely important international standards have been adopted thanks to the remarkable work of government delegations, employers' organizations and trade unions within the International Labour Organization (ILO). Professionals coming from different continents can report of significant differences of experienced working conditions. Whether in health care, in the field of legal advice, in the field of technical advice, accounting advice, or more generally in the environmental area or living environment, liberal professionals are active as workers and are important assets alongside the different categories of employers and different categories of workers they collaborate with, in the multiple missions they carry.

Professionals, wherever they are in the world and whatever are their characteristics, can play a very constructive role in achieving the four objectives of the strategic part of the implementation of the agenda for decent work, registered by the International Labour Organisation, namely **equality between men and women, the creation of jobs, the guarantee of labor rights** and the **extension of social protection with the promotion of social dialogue**. The World Union of Professions welcomes the excellent initiative proposed on the future of work and its implementation around the four conversations: Work and Society; organization of work and production; decent jobs for all and labor governance.

Non-governmental organizations and especially the World Union of Professions and CEPLIS can to play a valuable role in this context, by conveying the thoughts and experiences that can be used to prepare the report for the ILO's Centennial Conference.

A large number of professionals are organized in small businesses, and today small businesses or micro-enterprises are those that allow the greatest number of men and women to earn a living.

The ILO report noted that about two thirds of the world's workers are employed in SMEs. It is true that they therefore represent a potential to meet the challenges of the labour market.

Therefore, it is necessary to encourage the creation of small and medium enterprises knowing that the challenges for SMEs are specific. The World Union of Professions cannot but agree on stating challenges such as: access to credit, the question of skills, the transition of the informal economy to the formal economy and also add that of maintaining skills, lifelong learning, transmission of business and especially that of these management capabilities.

Professionals, in their respective spheres of competence, can help achieve the objectives set each year by the International Labor Organization; they are part of a future perspective by following closely the work of the Organization and wishing to make their contribution in the most efficient manner possible.

Millions of liberal professionals worldwide assist and advise, in the various areas where they work, individuals, patients and businesses. They contribute to the development of individuals and also to that of the social, technical, scientific and legal societies. UMPL is their natural ally and their voice towards international institutions



For further information about the speech, please feel free to contact our Secretariat

TTIP

France: A hotbed of opposition to the TTIP?

10 June 2015 Policy paper - Elvire Fabry

It was initially expected for opposition to TTIP to come primarily from France, where public opinion is traditionally wary of trade liberalisation. But Germany has become the leading voice in opposition, while French public opinion teetered around a 50% approval rating in November 2014. Attention has nevertheless been brought to the possibility that this anti-TTIP dynamic might be transmitted to neighbouring France.

In this Policy paper, published in partnership with the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Elvire Fabry, senior research fellow at the Jacques Delors Institute, analyses the evolution of the French debate on TTIP since the launch of negotiations two years ago in July 2013, until its most recent developments.

EP vote and debate on TTIP recommendations postponed: what's next?

OTHERS Article - Constitutional affairs / External/international trade – 11-06-2015

The debate and vote on Parliament's recommendations on the ongoing Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations were postponed because of the high number of amendments tabled. What does this mean and what happens next?

EP President Martin Schulz decided late on Tuesday to send the 116 amendments tabled in plenary to the Parliament report on TTIP to the international trade committee for further deliberation. The following morning the debate scheduled on the same issue was also postponed for a later date by the plenary.

German S&D member **Bernd Lange**, chair of the international trade committee and responsible for drafting the Parliament's recommendations on the TTIP agreement, said after Tuesday's decision: "We will use the additional time we gained to work towards reaching a stable majority for the TTIP-resolution. The EP can only come forward with a strong message for the TTIP negotiators if our resolution is supported by a broad majority."

TTIP: risks and opportunities - The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

External/international trade 11-06-2015

Negotiations between the EU and the US on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) could lead to the world's largest free-trade area. Although this could help to boost economic growth and create jobs on both sides of the Atlantic, there are concerns about the consequences the deal could have. This is why the European Parliament is following the talks very closely to ensure the agreement's benefits do not come at an unacceptable cost.

Call for proposals / Representation in France of the European Commission / Actions and Events in the EU during 2015.

The Representation of France in the European Commission published on 28 May a call for a proposals within the framework of the Strategic Partnership on the Communication on the European Union between the European institutions and the French authorities, and in the renewal of the European institutions in 2014. This call aims to identify and support during the year 2015, the European dimension of projects that accompany and amplify the corporate communication of Europe in France. The deadline for receipt of proposals is July 3, 2015.

European Blue Card / policies of the European Union on migration of labor / Public consultation (May 27)

The European Commission launched, on 27 May, a public consultation on the EU Blue Card and policies of the European Union in terms of labor migration of work. It aims to gather the views of stakeholders to develop a new EU regulation on legal migration and on the recast of the Directive 2009/50 / EC laying down the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for highly qualified employment. This new regulation should enable the Union to address the shortage of competencies, allowing it to become a more attractive destination for talented workers and entrepreneurs who desire to invest in Europe. Interested parties are invited to submit their observations before 21 August 2015, responding to an online questionnaire.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Integrating migrants in the labour market: a win-win situation for both migrants and society

When?	25 June 2015. 9 a.m – 16:50 p.m
Who organise it?	Labour Market Observatory (LMO) and Immigration and Integration (IMI) meeting - EESC
To Whom?	Public hearing
Where?	European Economic and Social Committee Rue Belliard, 99 B-1040 BRUSSELS
Language?	English
Why?	<p>This event will be dedicated to the integration of legal migrants in the labour market (third-countries nationals coming to the EU for family reunification, work or study).</p> <p>After recalling the benefits of their integration, the conference will look into remaining challenges such as the divergence of legal frameworks and the recognition of skills and qualifications.</p> <p>Good practices regarding employment (as employee / entrepreneur) will be shared by various public employment services and organisations coming from several Member States.</p> <p>http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-labour-market-integrating-migrants-program</p>

"Convergence and divergence within the European Union: the role of politics, the role of civil society"

When?	1 July 2015 from 17h to 20h.
Who organise it?	Confrontations Europe
To Whom?	Stakeholders
Where?	Auditorium of CNP Assurances 4 Place Raoul Dautry, Paris 15th (Metro Montparnasse)
Language?	French
Agenda	<p>- 18h30-20h: Conference on "Convergence and divergence within the European Union: the role of politics, the role of civil society"</p> <p>around a panel of European stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philippe Leglise-Costa, Secretary General for European Affairs to the Prime Minister (confirmed) - Babette Nieder, Director Energy and Industry to the mayor of Herten, North Rhine-Westphalia (confirmed) - Sir Peter Ricketts, the UK Ambassador in France (confirmed) - A Greek representative <p>Moderated by Philippe Herzog, President of Honour and concluded by Marcel Grignard, President of Confrontations Europe.</p>

Regulatory cooperation in CETA and TTIP

When?	Wednesday, 24th of June 2015, 18:30h
Who organise it?	AK EUROPA, the Brussels office of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour, and the ÖGB Europabüro, the Brussels office of the Austrian Trade Union Federation
Where?	Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU Avenue de Cortenbergh 30, 1040 Bruxelles, 1st floor
Language?	English, German
Why?	<p>The new generation of EU trade agreements goes far beyond the classic topics such as tariff dismantling and removing technical trade barriers. Hence, the majority of the anticipated trading profits is the result of the agreements of the EU with the USA and Canada and the reduction of so-called non-tariff barriers to trade. However, the term “barrier to trade” can be interpreted in many ways, and may also affect a wide range of regulations and standards relating to consumers, workers, health or the environment.</p> <p>Prof. Peter-Tobias Stoll, University of Goettingen, will present the results of a legal opinion with the title "Regulatory Cooperation in CETA and TTIP". He and his team have addressed among other the questions, to which extent European standards for the protection of the environment, health, workers and consumer interests will be guaranteed, and to which extent the contractual parties will still have a right to sovereign domestic protection policies.</p>

" Making the EU services market an engine for growth "

When?	July 2, 2015
Who organise it?	European Commission and the Bertelsmann Stiftung
To Whom?	Stakeholders
Where?	The conference will take place at the Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne 11-19, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.
Language?	English
Agenda	<p>Opening addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska and Bertelsmann Stiftung CEO Aart De Geus, will focus on the economic rationale for future services reforms and more generally on the state of integration and the merits of the internal market. <p>Panel session I - Services as a cornerstone of the future internal market strategy: opportunities and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level panel discussion on how the EU services market is currently functioning, also covering options and challenges for future services reforms. <p>Keynote speech - Creative Destruction, Growth and Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Philippe Aghion, Harvard University, on the interplay between innovation, growth and well-being and the link to the internal market. <p>Panel session II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2a - Economic effects of services reform, and • 2b - Global value chains and services integration in manufacturing • Two parallel panel discussions: one on the economic evidence of services reforms and one on cross-border sourcing of inputs for production and the increasing interlinkages between services and manufacturing. <p>Closing addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen and Professor Henrik Enderlein, Hertie School of Governance, will sum up the discussions and take a forward-looking perspective on how to make better use of the single market for services; how to address challenges of economic imbalances and governance issues in the single market and the euro zone; and on the role the single market can play in improving the conditions for growth, job creation and investments in Europe.

" Reshaping Europe: Civil Society's Perspective on the Europe of Tomorrow"

When?	23 and 24 June 2015
Who organise it?	Various Interests Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
To Whom?	Stakeholders
Where?	Premises of the EESC, 99 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels
Language?	English, French
Agenda	<p>The objective of the conference will be to examine the extensive thematic work of the Group over the last five years and to review this work in the perspective of future European policy-making. Lastly, to engage in discussions on the future of the EU and the role of civil society in this process.</p> <p>In the morning of the 23 June keynote speakers will reflect on the topic 'The Europe of Today and Tomorrow: What Challenges? What Perspectives'. Speakers will be invited to make very creative and broad presentations covering a wide spectrum of angles from the cultural to the social, economic, political etc. This session will intrinsically examine what European identity is, what are the European values, what instruments we have to promote and to safeguard them, the challenges facing Europe and what role civil society can play in this process.</p> <p>In the afternoon of 23 June the participants will work in groups of ten persons to brainstorm and to make recommendations on the three topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Sustainable Growth and Investment in Europe' • 'Promoting a Social and Inclusive Europe' • 'Participative Democracy and Active Citizenship' <p>In the morning of 24 June the participants will reconvene in the main meeting room for the reporting on the workshops. After this, a session will begin which will reflect on future perspectives of the EU and on the contribution of civil society to this process. During this panel, presentations will be made by, inter alia, the co-rapporteurs of the European Parliament on the draft report 'Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty'.</p>