



Working Group 2 Recommendations

Berlin, 18 November 2010

A. General Recommendations to the EU and Eastern Partner countries

Working Group 2:

1. Reiterates the demand to include the representatives of civil society as permanent participants in the EaP intergovernmental platforms, panels and other related programs.
2. Recalls that civil society should be included in the monitoring of EaP through existing or future national platforms and insists that these platforms should have balanced representation and include representatives of social partners (employers' organisations and trade unions)
3. Recalls the importance of visa facilitation including the reduction of fees and advancing towards visa free regime to enable mobility and business contacts
4. Recommends, in addition to existing EU financial instruments supporting NGO sector activity to explore possibility of exploiting such institution building programs as TAIEX, TWINNING, CIB, CBC and others, to build capacity of Civil Society organization to contribute effectively to the EaP process.
5. Encourages Eastern Partners governments to support civil society in taking active role in decision making by extending the social and civil dialogue that is already established in most countries in the areas of labour relations as well to other spheres such as employment, education and training.
6. Requests to render financial and technical support to consumer organizations to enable them to defend consumer rights and promote consumer protection especially in the field of product and service safety.
7. Asks EU to encourage innovation driven transformation of Eastern Partner countries and recommends Eastern Partners governments to take inspiration from the Flagship Initiative "Union of Innovations" Strategy Europe 2020. The measures should include support programs for innovative SMEs, promotion of business incubators, technological parks, skills development and technology transfer, participation in research and development framework programmes and clustering mechanism.

8. Brings the attention of Eastern Partner countries to the necessity to promote women entrepreneurship by all possible policy means.
9. Calls on Eastern Partners governments to adopt programs of reduction of administrative burden and better regulation to enable enterprises to develop their activities in favour of growth, employment and decent work. In this respect it s necessary to facilitate the start up of businesses and encourage the spin off development.
10. Calls to contribute to the poverty reduction and reaching social objectives by encouraging social economy and rural development programs in Eastern Partner countries.
11. Emphasizes the necessity to develop and support the Green Business in Eastern Partner countries by exchanging best practices from EU Member States, transfer of appropriate technology and know-how.
12. CSF calls governments of EaP countries to consistently move towards and to facilitate alignment with all DCFTA requirements as preconditions for sound development of their countries. At the same time, CSF calls the EaP governments to find ways to assist those businesses/citizens, which would be negatively affected by relevant changes in laws and regulations in the short term, to overcome the difficulties.
13. Calls on the EC and Georgian government to remove obstacles for opening of DCFTA negotiations and enable civil society to closer monitor the negotiation preparatory process.
14. Asks Eastern Partner countries governments and the EU to support social dialogue, which is substantial basis for European social model; to encourage and support the exchange of experience between Social Partners from EU and Eastern Partner countries. The genuine social dialogue needs the strong and representative employers and trade unions organizations.
15. Recommends to the Eastern Partner countries to use the experience of the European Economic and Social Committee as an institution of the European civil dialogue to promote the dialogue with the civil society of their countries.

**B. Recommendations for ongoing work program of the Thematic Platform 2
“Economic Integration and Convergence with EU Policies”**

1. Sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures and animal welfare – to involve the representatives of the relevant CSOs (farmers associations, consumer organizations, foodstuff industry) to the training for the officials.

2. Customs cooperation and border control – organize training for the chambers of commerce who issue the certificates of origin and enhance the cooperation between customs offices and business representatives
3. Transport – to make a survey of the problems that business and public face due to the weaknesses in the transport networks and logistic centers between EaP countries themselves and between EaP and the EU neighbouring states and of their proposals for the improvement of the transport networks.
4. B2B meetings – WG 2 suggests to review the form of this meetings and to transform them into Business Forum or Development Forum (as proposed by the Belarus government) that would involve the economic operators, financial institutions and official authorities. The Forum should take inspiration from the transatlantic dialogue, EU-Japan business platform or other platforms existing between EU and third countries and regions.
5. SME
 - 5.1. to include in the goals the transfer of know and to establish and promote the Eastern Partnership Charter of SMEs based on experience of the Mediterranean Small Business Charter and Small Business Act of the EU;
 - 5.2. to organize regularly big matchmaking event for the SMEs from EaP countries and EU in the form of Europartenariats that helped develop business to the SMEs from Eastern European accession countries.
 - 5.3. to promote and support the establishment of clusters as a tool for upstreaming the activities of the SMEs in partnership with the academic and research and development sphere and extend the clusters to involve the partners from the bordering regions between the EU and EaP.
6. Labour market and employment issues – to agree with the DG Employment and with the ETF the CSF participation in the regional learning project 2011-2013, conference on EQF for partner countries and present proposals to the CIS ministers' conference of education ministers of education and VET in Minsk. Involve social partners in these activities. (Initiate a Panel on Labour Market and Employment Policy.

7. Technical Regulations and Standards – to provide mechanism for developing Impact Assessment studies in Eastern Partner countries for the gradual introduction of the Global directives into the national legislation. Intensify exchange of results of such studies among Eastern Partner States. Establish mechanism for communication of results of such studies to wider circles of civil society.
8. Intellectual property rights - to develop a special guide on actions to enforce the IPR legislation in Eastern Partner countries.

C. Suggestions on Future Work of the Thematic Platform 2

1. Assistance to the partner countries to create rules for fair competition and fight against abuse of monopolistic positions, including the assistance to civil society organisations to monitor the implementation of antimonopoly legislation.
2. To use roadmaps where appropriate with clearly defined benchmarks and dates to reach the specific goals in the field of commonly agreed policies.
3. EaP countries are facing the impact of the global crisis and the need to position in the post-crisis period. A regional conference on input of civil society in the search for solutions can provide a sound base for developing a participatory approach for policy-making to address the challenges of economic, social, labour market and employment areas.