



**European Economic and Social Committee**

**4<sup>th</sup> Western Balkans Civil Society Forum  
Zagreb, 26-27 November 2012**

*Venue: Hotel International, Miramarska 24  
Meeting room "Grand Salon"*

**Programme**

Monday 26 November

9 a.m. Registration of participants

9.30 a.m. **Inaugural session**

Welcome address by **Mr Staffan Nilsson**, President of the EESC

- **Mrs Vesna Pusić**, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia
- **Mr Štefan Füle**, Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

11.00 a.m. Coffee break

11.30 a.m. **The relations between the European Union (EU) and the countries of the region:  
state of play and regional perspective**

*Chair: Mr Sandy Boyle*, member of the EESC, President of the External Relations Section.

- **Mr Eduard Kukan**, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the EP Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo
- **Mr Hido Bišćević**, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council
- **Mr Diogo Pinto**, Secretary General, European Movement International
- **Mr Nebojsa Vukadinović**, Researcher, Center for International Studies and Research (CERI), Consultant

**DISCUSSION**

1 p.m. Lunch break

2.30 p.m. **How to improve freedom of expression and freedom of the media?**  
*Chair: Mrs Maureen O'Neill, Member of the EESC, member of the Western Balkans contact group*

- **Mr Oliver Vujović**, Secretary General, S.E.E.M.O., South East Europe Media Organisation
- **Mr Andris Kesteris**, Principal Adviser, Civil Society and Media, DG Enlargement, European Commission
- **Mr Olivier Basille**, Permanent Representative of Reporters without Borders to the EU

#### **DISCUSSION**

4.30 p.m. Coffee break

5 p.m. **How to involve civil society organisations in the process of accession to the EU?**  
*Chair: Mrs Ana Miličević Pezelj, Co-Chair of the EU-Croatia Joint Consultative Committee*

- **Mr Ionut Sibian**, member of the EESC, Co-Chair of the EU-Montenegro Joint Consultative Committee
- **Mr Vladimir Jovanović**, Centre for Democracy Foundation
- **Mr Wytze Russchen**, Project Manager, Business Europe
- **Mrs Valdete Idrizi**, CIVIKOS NGO platform
- **Mrs Cristina Mihes**, Senior Specialist in industrial relations and social dialogue, ILO Budapest office

#### **DISCUSSION**

6.30 p.m. End of the 1<sup>st</sup> day

Tuesday 27 November

9 a.m.            **Rural development and employment in the Western Balkans**

*Chair: Mr Budimir Raicković, co-Chair of the EU-Montenegro Joint Consultative Committee*

- **Mr Werner Schiessl**, Unit for Pre-Accession Assistance, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- **Mr Cveto Stantič**, member of the EESC, Rapporteur of the opinion on Rural development and employment in the Western Balkans
- **Mrs Marijana Dinek**, Executive Director, SEE-WoRD, Women in rural development

**DISCUSSION**

11.30 a.m.      Coffee break

noon            **Possibilities for future cooperation**

*Chair: Mr Saso Klekovski, Member of the EU-The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Consultative Committee*

- Presentation of the Forum conclusions by **Mr Cveto Stantič**, member of the EESC, President of the Western Balkans Contact group

**DISCUSSION**

1 p.m.            End of the Forum

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