



6 July 2015 | JDE 62

EESC | Jacques Delors Building | Rue Belliard 99 | 1040 Brussels | 6th floor

DRAFT PROGRAMME

9.30 a.m.

Registration

10 a.m.

Welcome and introduction

Etele Baráth, Vice-President of Europe 2020 Steering Committee, EESC

Key-note speeches:

Georgios Dassis, President of the Workers' Group at the EESC

Maria João Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group Vice-Chair in charge of Economic and Social Policies

Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group





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11 a.m.

Panel 1: Tackling sustainability and environmental challenges

The session will discuss the factors which shape post-financial crisis reality from an economic perspective. The debate will concentrate on the ways to improve the business environment, especially through the access to finance for SMEs, promoting research, job creation and upskilling human resources. Focusing on the new challenges the discussion will highlight the need to develop digital and green economy in a sustainable environment in accordance with the Post-2015 Agenda. At the same time, it will consider the importance of strengthening governance and building resilience. The transition towards a smart economy would most probably bring a loss of employment to many sectors, therefore it is urgent to anticipate this change and create suitable economic and environmental conditions. Furthermore, there is a need to take account of changes that can only be measured by creating composite indicators which factor in citizens' wellbeing.

Chair: *Gonçalo Lobo Xavier, Vice-President of Europe 2020 Steering Committee, EESC*

Speakers:

Laura Fort, *Co-Founder and CEO of Studio PixMix*

Luca Jahier, *President of the Various Interests' Group at the EESC*

Andrea Saltelli, *European Centre for Governance in Complexity*

Marcus Scheiblecker, *Deputy Director at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)*

James Watson, *Director of the Economics Department at BusinessEurope*





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1 p.m.

Network Lunch (Atrium, 6th floor)

2.30 p.m.

Panel 2: Addressing social issues

This session will focus on how to re-establish effective dialogue at different levels (local, national, EU). It is necessary to present concrete proposals for resolving the most critical socio-economic issues. The debate in this area will focus on the promotion of social dialogue through social protection, active labour market policies and targeted programmes for disadvantaged groups. At the same time it will consider the importance of tackling unemployment, reducing poverty and social exclusion, and establishing an improved welfare system. Furthermore, it will highlight the need for creating alliances between social partners and other CSOs in order to facilitate more effective cooperation between governments and the organised civil society.

Chair: *Stefano Palmieri, President of Europe 2020 Steering Committee, EESC*

Speakers:

Mary Collins, Senior Advocacy and Policy Coordinator at the European Women's Lobby on behalf of the EU Semester Alliance

Alain Delmas, Vice-President of Economic, Social and Environmental Council of France

Francesco Saraceno, Deputy Department Director at OFCE-Sciences Po

Wolfgang Kowalsky, Senior Political Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)





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4.30 p.m.

Closing remarks

László Andor, *Former EU Commissioner, Mercator Senior Fellow at the Hertie School of Governance*

Stefano Palmieri, *President of the Europe 2020 Steering Committee, EESC*

5.30 p.m.

End of the Conference

Interpreting scheduled from: DE/EN/ES/FR/HU/IT

Into: DE/EN/FR/IT

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