



CEPLIS TELEGRAM

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This Issue's contents:

- **Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy**
- **First overview of responses to the public consultation on the EU 2020 Strategy**
- **News from our Members**
- **Conferences and events to come**

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy

As you probably remember CEPLIS has participated the 29th of October 2009 in a conference organized by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on "The post 2010 Strategy – a way out the crisis" (see CEPLIS Telegram 19/09). The views expressed at this conference have fed into the Opinion EESC has just published on this new Strategy.

According to the Opinion the main advantage of the former Lisbon Strategy was to promote an integrated **policy approach whereby quantifiable targets were determined in a great number of policy areas. On the other hand, the main lack of the Strategy was to focus too much on the implementation of national measures to the expense of promoting an appropriate economic and social framework at the European level.** In that sense, Member States were almost unable to implement the correct reforms in a coordinated way and to prevent these reforms from competing with each other. **EESC notes also the lack of involvement of the social partners and the civil society in the process.**

Among its policy recommendations, EESC proposes to establish a "**European framework for promising reform programs**" in order to allow the structural reforms to be implemented in a coordinated way. With regard to the financial market crisis and

social challenges, the document suggests setting up a “*new global financial system including effective regulation of the banking system as well as hedge funds and private equity businesses*”. A better coordination of tax policy between EU member States is also recommended. **At the same time, EESC puts great emphasis on SME’s which it considers being the main driver of the European economy.** The Opinion states that there is an urgent need to facilitate their development by cutting excessive red tape and improving the framework for their financing.

The Opinion also encourages the new Strategy to “*examine alternatives to EU funding*”. In that respect, EESC proposes to **introduce EU-wide finance mechanisms such as new types of taxation** (i.e. tax on financial transactions or a carbon tax).

With respect to defining the goals of the new Strategy, the document suggests **to maintain “the common targets of the current Strategy”, “to take into consideration the situation in individual Member States in terms of their national contribution” and “to reintroduce qualitative goals”.**

For more information please go to :

http://www.eesc.europa.eu/lisbon_strategy/eesc_documents/index_en.asp

First overview of responses to the public consultation on the EU 2020 Strategy

As you know, the European Commission launched the 24th of last November a public consultation on the new EU 2020 Strategy (see CEPLIS Telegram 02/10). The first overview of the results of the consultation in question has just been published.

A wide range of interested parties have participated with a total of 1500 contributions received by the Commission. Member States, European and national organisations, European and national social partners, regional and local authorities, business and professional federations, companies, NGOs, think tanks and academics and a great number of European citizens took the opportunity to submit their opinion. Some non-EU countries and stakeholders have also responded.

Most of the respondents have generally supported the priorities identified by the Commission in the text accompanying the consultation (see CEPLIS Telegram 02/10).

Among the participants to the consultation, Member States especially have stressed the need to improve “governance” in order to close the implementation gap of the Lisbon Strategy. In that sense a number of them call for **stronger economic policy co-ordination and more binding governance arrangements**. Most of the EU countries are also willing **to give lead responsibility to the European Council in steering the new strategy. Only few of them plead for allowing the European Commission a stronger role in the monitoring process of the Strategy.**

With respect to the European political parties, The Socialists & Democrats (S&D) would like to merge the Lisbon Strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Stability and Growth Pact into a single Strategy. They particularly insist on the

importance of involving more sectoral Councils, the European Parliament and national Parliaments in the process instead of giving the European Council a central role. The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) are instead keen to give the College of Commissioners a central position in the new Strategy with a “carrots and sticks approach” whereby the Commission could reward strong performers with additional funds and sanction bad ones with financial penalties. Other European political parties are still to submit their contributions to the consultation.

Regarding the European Social partners, the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME) and BusinessEurope plead for promoting “thinking small first” when designing regulation, reducing red tape and removing internal market barriers. With respect to the Small Business Act, UEAPME stresses the urgent need to implement policy commitments effectively. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) underlines the importance of strengthening the “EU’s social profile” through a social program dedicated to reinforcing the social acquis and demand-side labour market policies.

Taking into consideration the result of this consultation, the European Commission is to publish by the beginning of March its full proposals for the new Strategy.

The Secretariat of CEPLIS will of course keep you informed on any further evolution.

News from our Members



EFO General Assembly meeting

- The **European Federation of osteopaths (EFO)**, one of our active members, hold its General Assembly meeting the 8th of February 2010 in the premises of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels.

All national members of EFO were present or represented during the event. A delegation from Canada crossed the Atlantic in order to address the meeting.

Messrs. Jacques Reignault Vice-president of CEPLIS and EESC member and Theodoros Koutroubas, Director General of CEPLIS had the opportunity to present our work to EFO members and discuss future synergies.

- **The International Association of Automobile Experts (FIEA)**, one of our Active Members, has informed the Secretariat of CEPLIS that they are going very soon to publish a European Code of Conduct for this profession. A delegation of FIEA met on the 12th of February in the premises of CEPLIS in Brussels with the Director General of CEPLIS, Dr. Theodoros Koutroubas, in order to discuss the following up of the new Code.

Conferences and events to come

- Conference on **the evaluation of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications** organised by the European Commission
17 March 2010 from 09.30–16.30 in the premises of the European Commission
Conference Room Auditorium, Madou Building
1 Place Madouplein, 1000 Brussels.
For more information please contact the Secretariat of CEPLIS
- Conference on “Professional secrecy, quality and trust” organised by the “Union Nationale des Professions Libérales et Intellectuelles de Belgique” (UNPLIB)
5 March 2010 from 14.00 – 18.00
Château de Ruisbroek
Karel Gilsonstraat 15, 1601 Ruisbroek
For more information please refer to
http://www.ucm.be/C1256C0D003C8BF5/_/DD571B60A76857D3C12576CE00597EFA?OpenDocument