

Cooperation Agreement between the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee

The Treaty of Lisbon has reinforced the role of the civil society in the European Union and strengthened the institutional and political role of both the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee.

The European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee will cooperate in order to reinforce the democratic legitimacy of the European Union.

This cooperation agreement will guarantee a sustainable working relationship between the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament based on mutual cooperation.

The European Economic and Social Committee, as the institutional body representing the civil society, will focus its work on the preparation of European legislation while benefiting from the experience and expertise of its members and their networks.

This includes impact assessments on European legislation which will be provided to the European Parliament systematically with information and relevant materials from civil society on how existing legislation and spending programs are effectively working and what are the deficiencies to be taken into account in making and revising legislation and EU policy.

The contributions will be submitted to Parliament in good time before the amendment procedure is starting. Background material will be shared with the European Parliament.

The subjects to be dealt with will be based on the Annual Legislative Work Program of the European Commission and linked to ex-post analysis of existing legal and administrative frameworks.

The Economic and Social Committee will also anticipate its treaty based opinions in order to be timely available.

The European Parliament through its Members Research Service will provide to the Economic and Social Committee additional expertise and materials (analysis and studies on issues of relevance).

Parliament can define priority subjects where deepened input from the Economic and Social Committee would be especially valuable. In those cases an intensified cooperation will be established with the parliamentary committee concerned and its rapporteur. Requests will be made in good time and with reasonable deadlines.

The general legislative cooperation and the work plan will be discussed twice a year between the Chairman of the Conference of Committee Chairs of Parliament and the President of the Economic and Social Committee.

The European Parliament will actively involve the Economic and Social Committee in its European Semester Work.

In parliamentary committee meetings a seat will be reserved for one member of the Economic and Social Committee to be present. Economic and Social Committee Rapporteurs will be invited to present substantial opinions in hearings of the relevant parliamentary committees.

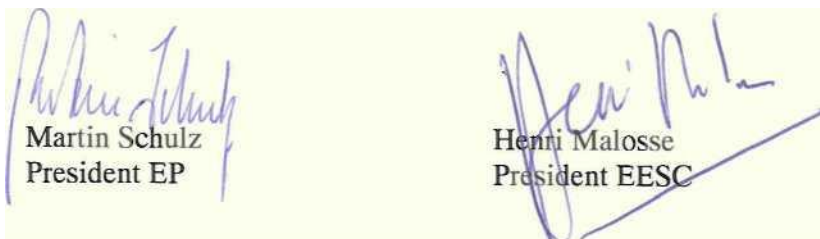
Reciprocally, parliamentary rapporteurs will be invited to participate in the competent bodies of the Economic and Social Committee.

If the Economic and Social Committee so wishes, Parliament is ready to host their staff in its information offices in the Member States. The staff will cooperate in a spirit of mutual support.

The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee approve this cooperation agreement as well as the annexes.

Martin Schulz
President EP

Henri Malosse
President EESC



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President EESC

Annex I on Administrative cooperation
Annex II on budgetary implications

Annex on Administrative cooperation**1. Strengthening staff support for political core functions**

With a view of reinforcing the political and administrative cooperation the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions are prepared to contribute to the building up of the Members Research Service which will in return provide free of charge products and services to the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

The transfers of staff involved will be based on a joint process and on a voluntary decision of the staff of the Committees translation service concerned in the framework of the below mentioned call for interest and should involve AD and AST / AST-SC grades with a target of about 3:1. The modalities of transfers will be jointly agreed.

The translation services of the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions agree on a comprehensive and binding system of workload balancing, providing for mutual support in times of peaks and heavy workload in order to preserve the working conditions of the staff and to maintain high standards. The quantity of services rendered will be balanced out in terms of number of pages over the year based on a mutual understanding of the method of counting. The Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions will have access to the EP framework contracts for external translations.

The services of the Members Research Service will allow being available for members of the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions as well once 50 transfers have been conducted. The maximum staff number to be transferred shall be 80. The moment 90% of the maximum number of transfers have been affected the services of the Library will allow to be equally accessible for all the members of the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The calls for interest will be conducted in January 2014 and effective integration will take place in May 2014.

Budgetary means used up to now for the staff members to be transferred remain available for the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a long term basis in order to guarantee sustainability and autonomy of Committees' translation services. They will be dedicated primarily for outsourcing of translation services and for the remaining

part to improve the political input of the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

For the staff transferred Parliament will cover the 5% staff reduction as foreseen in the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

The Parliament takes note that the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions have decided to implement Resource Efficient Multilingualism (REM) with regard to their translation services. This frees up an important number of staff in order to reinforce their political and legislative role at EU level as well as to strengthen the inter-institutional synergies with the EP.

In view of strengthening the cooperation with the European Parliament the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions decided to reinforce their respective political core functions by way of redeploying empty posts and by launching an internal mobility exercise.

2. Security and Buildings access

The direct access possibilities between the buildings Remard and Remorqueur and Bertha von Suttner and Atrium will be reopened. The feasibility of a reopening of the tunnel linking the Jacques Delors and Paul Henri Spaak buildings will be examined.

If the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions so wish, Parliament is ready to provide the physical security (guards service) for the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions as well in order to establish a common security parameter. This will allow for free circulation between the respective buildings. The Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions will provide clear guidelines concerning their security needs to be respected. The price charged will not exceed the current costs in constant prices.

The buildings of the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions remain for their exclusive use.

3. Interpretation and meeting rooms

As of the new legislature starting on 1 July 2014 Parliament commits to make appropriate meeting space available over and above the current slots provided by extending its offer.

Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions will jointly inquire which changes are necessary in the conditions of service in order for Parliament to become the standard provider of interpretation services for the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

4. Informatics

The European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions agree on an intensified cooperation in the area of informatics in order to increase synergies.

5. Canteens

The European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions agree on the mutual access to their canteens on the same conditions as for their own members and staff.

Verification and follow up

The proper implementation of this agreement will be followed up on an annual basis by the Presidents or his / her representative supported by their respective Secretary Generals.

Martin Schulz
President EP

Henri Malosse
President EESC

Ramon Luis Valcarcel Siso
President CoR



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