

**OPEN DIALOGUE BETWEEN
INSTITUTIONS AND CITIZENS
CHANCES AND CHALLENGES**

**WORKSHOP SERIES I-III
FINAL PRESENTATION**

BRUSSELS

**OCTOBER 4TH 2011
NOVEMBER 29TH 2011
JANUARY 31ST 2012
MARCH 14TH 2012**

IN COOPERATION WITH



Thematic Introduction

According to Article 11 (2) TEU in the current version of the Treaty of Lisbon, „the *institutions* shall **maintain** an open, transparent and regular **dialogue** with *representative associations* and *civil society*.“ This provision raises at least two questions:

- Which are the „representative associations“ and the members of „civil society“ referred to?
- Which are the means and tools that are needed to realise such a dialogue?

In addition, already in the past, and without this specific provision, some sort of dialogue had been maintained between at least the main institutions and some representative associations of civil society. In particular, already from the very beginning of the (now) European Union the „Economic and Social Committee“ and, some decades later, also the Committee of Regions had been established. So the crucial question is now:

- Which specific **value** is **added** by this provision?

This added value could be a *legal* one (realising that the content of the said provisions is going beyond what had been mandatory in the past), but also a more *political* one, **calling** the partners of the dialogue to **improve** their communication. This project aims to get answers to those questions with the clear goal to contribute, if necessary, to an improvement of communication between institutions and civil society (understood in a large sense, i.e. including the „representative associations“). Given the current factual background of more than 500 millions of citizens of the European Union, however, it is suggested, as a starting premiss, that meaningful participation of citizens on a Union-wide level would, necessarily, imply a specific political self-restraint of Union legislation, as required by a strict interpretation of the **principle of subsidiarity** (leaving to the Union only those questions to decide which cannot be treated better on a lower level) and of the **principle of proportionality** (respecting as far as ever possible the autonomy of the individual).

General Methodology

In the three workshops representatives of the main Union institutions shall deliberate together with representatives of the different sectors of “civil society”. To this end, the relevant stakeholders („senior participants“), after delivering short initial statements, shall be given opportunity to discuss the issue among themselves as well as with participants of the general public. Therefore, the intention is to stimulate interactivity on a broader basis of participants. The three workshops will be followed by a final

presentation. The initial statements as well as the results of the discussions and an independent scientific analysis shall be published afterwards.

External scientific input will be provided by *Piotr Maciej Kaczyński*, Centre for European Policy Studies (Brussels) and *Stéphane Carrara*, Centre Européen de Sociologie et de Science Politique, Université Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne)/Institut des Hautes Etudes des Communications Sociales (Brussels), as well as by *Dr. Klemens H. Fischer*, Minister plenipotentiary at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU and adjunct Professor at the Institute for International and Foreign Politics at the University of Cologne, and *Dr. Christine Leitner*, Head of Center for European Public Administration (CEPA), Danube University, Krems.

PROGRAMME

October, 4th, 2011

Opening Session

- 10.00 Welcome Address: Objectives of the workshop series
Prof. Johannes W. Pichler Director of the Austrian Institute for European Law and Policy
- 10.15 Opening addresses
Commissioner *Johannes Hahn* (video)
MEP *Othmar Karas*
Richard Corbett Cabinet of the President of the European Council
Ian Harden Secretary General, European Ombudsman
- 11.00 Opening Reception: First impressions, inputs, incentives

October, 4th 2011

WORKSHOP I:

Dialogue with the European Economic and Social Committee, with the Committee of Regions and Related Interest Groups

Chair: *Johannes W. Pichler*, AIELP, Salzburg

Start: 11.30; Lunch Break: 13.00-14.00; Coffee break: 16.00; Closing: 18.00

Senior Participants:

Council of the European Union:

Giuliano Castellan

General Secretariat, Directorate for Institutional Relations

Pawel Chorazy

Permanent Representation of Poland

European Commission:

Vasco Cal

Bureau of European Policy Advisers

Nathalie Verschelde

DG REGIO Unit E.1

European Ombudsman:

Ian Harden

Secretary General

Gundi Gadesmann

Media and External Relations Officer

European Parliament:

MEP *Andrew Duff*

Friedhelm Frischenschlager

former MEP

David Lowe

Head of Secretariat of the Petitions Committee

European Economic and Social Committee:

Anne-Marie Sigmund

Member, Past President

Luca Jahier

Member, President of Group III

Committee of Regions:

Luc van den Brande

Member, President of CIVEX

Erwin Mohr

Member

Interest Groups:

Max Vives-Fierro I Planas

Fundació Catalunya Europa (Barcelona)

Haaron Saad

Local Urban Development European Network (Brussels)

Daniela Frai

Austrian Association of Municipalities (Vienna)

Sbastien de Brouwer

European Banking Federation (Brussels)

Pablo Snchez Centellas

European Public Services Union (Brussels)

November, 29th 2011

WORKSHOP II:

**Dialogue with Non-governmental and Religious /
Philosophical Organisations**

Chair: *Alexander Balthasar*, AIELP, Salzburg

Start: 10.00; Lunch Break: 12.30-13.30; Coffee break: 15.30; Closing: 17.00

Senior Participants:

European Council:

Michel Praet

Cabinet of the President of the European
Council

Council of the European Union:

Wojciech Wroblewski

Permanent Representation of Poland

European Commission:

Katharina von Schnurbein

Bureau of European Policy Advisers

European Ombudsman:

Gundi Gadesmann

Media and External Relations Officer

European Parliament:

MEP *Heinz Becker*

David Lowe

Head of Secretariat of the Petitions
Committee

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights:

Gabriel N. Toggenburg

Non-governmental Organisations:

Nicolas Beger

Amnesty International Europe (Brussels)

Carsten Berg

Democracy International (Cologne)

Mana Lidvardjani

Union of European Federalists (Brussels)

Bruno Kaufmann

Initiative Referendum Institute (Marburg)

Tony Venables

European Citizen Action Service (Brussels)

Religious and Philosophical Organisations:

Andreas Biesantz

European Alliance of Initiatives of Applied
and Practical Antroposophy (Brussels)

Kathrin Hatzinger

Evangelische Kirche Deutschland (Brussels)

Elisabeta Kitanovic

Conference of European Churches Brussels)

Sophia Kuby

European Dignity Watch (Brussels)

Michael Kuhn

Commission des Episcopats de la
Communauté Européenne (Brussels)

Pierre-Arnaud Perrouty

European Humanist Federation/Centre
d'Action Laïque (Brussels)

January, 31st 2012

WORKSHOP III:

Dialogue with non-organized Citizens

Chair: *Christine Leitner*, Danube University, Krems

Start: 10.00; Lunch Break: 12.30-13.30; Coffee break: 15.30; Closing: 17.00

Council of the European Union:

Pawel Chorazy
Yvonne Toncic-Sorinj

Permanent Representation of Poland
Director for General EU-Matters and
Institutions
Austrian Federal Ministry for European and
International Affairs

European Commission:

Graeme Carter
Richard Kühnel

Bureau of European Policy Advisers
Representative of the European Commission
in Austria

European Ombudsman:

Gundi Gadesmann

Media and External Relations Officer

European Parliament:

MEP *Philippe Boulland*
MEP *Gerald Häfner*
Friedhelm Frischenschlager
David Lowe

former MEP
Head of Secretariat of the Petitions
Committee

Experts in the field of citizens' participation:

Catherine van Eeckhaute
Kenan Hadzimusic
Nele Leosk
Daniel van Lerberghe
Yuri Misnikov
Paul Schmidt

Sarah Froeb
Fiona D. Wollensack

Gov2u (Brussels)
European Citizen Action Service (Brussels)
e-governance Academy (Tallin)
EurActiv / FondationPoliTech (Brussels)
Centre for Digital Citizenship (Leeds)
Österreichische Gesellschaft für
Europapolitik (Vienna)
Tout l'Europe (Paris)
IFOK (Brussels)

March, 14th 2012:

Final Presentation

12.00: Overall presentation of the results, further research prospects

Johannes W. Pichler

Director of the Austrian Institute for European
Law and Policy (Salzburg)

Marco Incerti

Research Fellow and Head of
Communication, Centre for
European Policy Studies (Brussels)

12.30: Engaging with civil society: more than a simple Treaty obligation

Margaritis Schinas

Deputy Head of the Bureau of European
Policy Advisers, European Commission
(Brussels)

12.45: The way forward

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros

European Ombudsman (Strasbourg)

13.15: Discussion

14.00: Closing address and reception

15.00: End of event

Practical Information:

Conference Language: English

Registration / Contact:

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Mönchsberg 2a, 5020 Salzburg

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www.legalpolicy.eu

Venue Details:

Representation of Saxony-Anhalt

Boulevard Saint Michel 80

Brussels



Further questions:

The Austrian Institute for European Law and Policy will be pleased to provide you with further information; please contact us:

Prof. Johannes W. Pichler: johannes.pichler@legalpolicy.eu

Dr. Alexander Balthasar: alexander.balthasar@legalpolicy.eu

Thanks

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