

**CONFERENCE**  
***'Building Together the EU We Want'***  
***Civil Society Organisations' Group***  
***of the EESC***

16 April 2024

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), VMA 23 meeting room, 2 Van Maerlant Street,  
1000 Brussels

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| <b>DRAFT PROGRAMME</b> |
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**Moderator:** Jacki Davis

9.30–10.15 a.m. ***Inaugural session***

- **Séamus Boland**, President of the Civil Society Organisations' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Philipp Schulmeister**, Director for Campaigns, DG for Communication, Secretariat of the European Parliament
- **Ioannis Vardakastanis**, rapporteur of the EESC resolutions on the European elections, President of the ECO Section of the EESC, President of the European Disability Forum (EDF) and of the Greek National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP)
- *Q & A*

10.15–11.00 a.m. ***Keynote speech: the socio-economic and political challenges facing the EU – how to move forward?***

- **Janis Emmanouilidis**, Deputy Chief Executive of the European Policy Centre (EPC) and Director of Studies
- *Q & A*

11.00–11.55 a.m. ***1<sup>st</sup> round table discussion on the EU we want: a democratic and inclusive EU of social justice and protection***

- **Anne van Lancker**, President of Solidar
- **Caroline Van der Hoeven**, Vice-President of the EAPN and Executive Member from Belgium
- **Raymond Gemen**, Head of Policy at the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
- **Alejandro Moledo**, Deputy Director of the European Disability Forum (EDF)
- **Maciej Kucharczyk**, Secretary general of AGE Platform Europe (*t.b.c.*)
- *Q & A*

11.55 a.m. – *2<sup>nd</sup> round table discussion on the EU we want: a sustainable economy based on fair green and digital transitions and quality jobs*  
12.50 p.m.

- **Monique Goyens**, Director General of the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)
- **Petri Salminen**, President of SME United (*t.b.c.*)
- **Sibylle Reichert**, Executive Director of the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (IAM)
- **Peter Meedendorp**, President of the European Council of Young Farmers (*t.b.c.*)
- **Emilie Tricarico**, System Change Officer at the European Environment Bureau (EEB)
- *Q & A*

12.50-1.00 p.m. *Concluding remarks*

- **Maria Rodriguez Alcázar**, President of the European Youth Forum
- **Séamus Boland**, President of the Civil Society Organisations' Group of the EESC