
6th meeting
2 June 2021, 15.00 - 17.00

Luca Jahier
Vice-President, European Semester Group, ESG,
European Economic and Social Committee
The EESCs European Semester Group

39 members, 13 from each of the EESCs 3 groups

President:  
**Javier Doz Orrit**, Workers’ Group

Vice-Presidents:  
**Gonçalo Lobo Xavier**, Employers’ Group  
**Luca Jahier**, Diversity Europe
Main activities of the ESG

- 2 annual opinions on the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy
- Forum for dialogue with Organised Civil Society, including the National Economic and Social Councils
- 1 yearly conference
- Since COVID: Involvement in the NRRPs: how are the plans drawn up, implemented and monitored?
Article 18 of the RRF Regulation, 12 February 2021

It shall in particular set out the following elements: 4(q)

“... for the preparation and, where available, for the implementation of the recovery and resilience plan, a summary of the consultation process, conducted in accordance with the national legal framework, of local and regional authorities, social partners, civil society organisations, youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders, and how the input of the stakeholders is reflected in the recovery and resilience plan.”

HOWEVER, as consultation is NOT INCLUDED IN THE RRF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA, impact is limited and the EESC wants the Commission to thoroughly follow up the implementation of this Article.
Phase 1, January-February 2021

27 delegations of 3 EESC members each consulted OCS in their respective MS on 5 questions:

1) Are there mechanisms for consultation on the NRRP? Do you consider them sufficient and adequate?

2) Are there different consultation mechanisms for the social partners and rest of civil society?

3) Your country must submit its NRRP by 30 April. Where is your country in the process?

4) How does this procedure differ compared to the consultation of OCS during the normal Semester-procedure in your country?

5) To what extent does your country Plan correspond with the policy objectives of OCS?
Classification of the 27 Member states:

- **No or little involvement**: Denmark and Slovakia
- **Some involvement, but little influence**: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Spain, Estonia, France, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia
- **Some involvement, some influence**: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Italy, Malta
Personal experiences from Italy

The consultation of Italian Civil Society by the 3-member delegation took place in January 2021 and was based on two pillars:

• All 24 Italian members of the EESC were consulted in writing, and many took part in a

• joint discussion with 70 members of the Italian ESC (CNEL)
Resolution adopted in February 2021:

• NRRP-consultation of OCS is unsatisfactory, even if it is better than the consultation in the frame of the normal Semester-work
• Social partners are more involved than other CSOs
• Lack of time and access to information were main obstacles
• EESC Resolution on Recovery and Resilience Plans
Follow-up done in April and May 2021:

2 additional questions asked:

• Compared to the situation in January, has there been an improvement regarding the involvement of OSC in the consultation process?

• What will be the role of organised civil society in the implementation of the national plan in your country?
Follow-up done in April-May 2021, II

- In broad terms, the follow-up exercise confirmed the results of the survey undertaken in January-February.

- The general, OCSs have been informed and in many cases heard, but with only few tangible results.

- In a majority of the Member States there have been no further effective consultations, that have produced significant modifications in the initial proposals of the governments. This is often ascribed to a lack of time for the process.

- A few exceptions where some progress has been observed are Poland and – to a lesser extent – Bulgaria, Italy, Estonia and Latvia.
Phase 2, Autumn 2021

- Mobilising the 27 delegations again to examine the situation in the Member states as regards implementation and monitoring.

- Working methods: workshops, Round Tables, using existing networks, using the National ESCs

- Aim: improving the involvement of OCS, possibly through creating a legally binding instrument or common EU guidelines and standards.

- New Resolution foreseen for early 2022
Policy aims of the exercise

✓ Improve transparency, openness, dialogue, empowerment.
✓ This is exactly what we think EP RRF WG is working towards.
✓ Both the directly elected MEP, national parliaments, organised civil society and local and regional authorities must be involved in this process, thereby creating a "Citizens’ Pillar".
The Recovery and Resilience Facility and National Plans, both for the Reform Agendas and the Key Investments, are too important to be left to Commission, Council and Governments.
THANK YOU