



Brussels, 13 March 2026

MINUTES
of the 603rd plenary session
of the European Economic and Social Committee,
held in Brussels

18 and 19 February 2026

List of members:

Mr/Ms	Present	Absent	Apologies
AALTONEN, Kristina	X		
AGAFONOVA, Ina	X		
ALBU, Laura	X		
ANDERSEN, Dorthe	X		
ANDERSSON, Krister	X		
ANDRES, Tina		X	
ANGELOVA, Milena	X		
ANTONIOU, Michalis	X		
ARVIDSSON, Tomas	X		
ATANASOV, Ognyan	X		
ATS, Kerli	X		
ATTARD MONTALTO, Jackie	X		
BĂDESCU, George	X		
BAJARŪNAS, Eitvydas	X		
BALDZĒNS, Egils	X		
BALON, Krzysztof	X		
BARBIERI, Pietro Vittorio	X		
BARBUCCI, Giulia	X		
BARRERA CHAMORRO, Maria del Carmen	X		
BARROS VALE, Paulo	X		
BARTELS, Holger	X		
BÄUMLER, Christian	X		
BÉGUINET, Christophe	X		
BELIER, Sandrine	X		
BERCEA, Florin	X		
BERGLUND, Julia		X	
BERGRATH, Dirk	X		
BERNICZEI-ROYKÓ, Ádám	X		
BERNIS CASTELLS, Jaume	X		
BEURLING-POMOELL, Juha	X		
BIEGON, Dominika	X		
BIJOUX, Stéphane	X		
BLESE, Rihards	X		
BOGDAN, Luka	X		
BÖHME, Martin	X		
BOJIĆ, Mirela	X		
BOLAND, Séamus	X		
BONI, Michał	X		

BONJEAN, Marie-Charles	X		
BORSANI, Matteo			X
BRATIS, Dimitrios	X		
BRISHOUAL, Rachel	X		
BRONIARZ, Wincenty Sławomir	X		
BULK, Marjolijn	X		
BUZEK, Tanja	X		
BYRNE, Peter	X		
CALISTRU, Elena-Alexandra	X		
CAMILLERI, Norma	X		
CAMISA, Cristian	X		
CAPPELLINI, Claudio	X		
CARDOSO, Inês Pena	X		
CHAMPAS, Panagiotis	X		
CHARRY, Philippe	X		
CHASSANG, Michel	X		
COHEUR, Alain	X		
COMER, John	X		
CONTRASTO, Emilio			X
CORAZZA, Chiara	X		
COUTAZ, Renata	X		
CSER, Ágnes			X
CURYLO, Lukáš	X		
DABU, Adelina	X		
DALSTEIN, Florian	X		
DANDEA, Petru Sorin	X		
DANISMAN, Mira-Maria	X		
DĂRĂBAN, Daniela-Raluca	X		
DEBAY, Pascal	X		
DECOSTER, Marc	X		
DEGUARA, Jason			X
DELCROIX, Jean-Paul	X		
DE LEEUW, Rudy	X		
DEL RIO, Cinzia	X		
DE MELLO, Vasco	X		
DE MÚELENAERE, Robert	X		
DESIANO, Carole	X		
DIAMANTOUROS, Konstantinos	X		
DI ASCENZO, Gianluca	X		
DIMITRIADOU, Stavroula	X		
DIMITROV, Plamen	X		

DONATE LÓPEZ, María del Carmen	X		
DOZ ORRIT, Javier	X		
DRESZER-SMALEC, Karolina	X		
DROBINSKI-WEISS, Elvira	X		
DUFEK, Bohumír	X		
DUTTO, Diego	X		
EISCHEN-BECKER, Véronique			X
ÉLŐ, Gábor	X		
EMO CAPODILISTA, Giordano	X		
ESPELT ALBA, Roser	X		
FERRARINI, Lisa	X		
FORNEA, Dumitru	X		
GARAT PÉREZ, Francisco Javier	X		
GARCÍA DEL RIEGO, Antonio	X		
GARCÍA SALGADO, Manuel	X		
GEISEN, Norbert			X
GEORGIEVA, Romyana		X	
GERSTEIN, Antje	X		
GOBIŃŠ, Andris	X		
GÖRANSSON, Thomas	X		
GÖTZ, Nadja	X		
GRAFA, Kinga Maria	X		
GUERINI, Giuseppe	X		
HAFNER, David	X		
HÄGGMAN, Maria	X		
HAJNOŠ, Miroslav	X		
HAKEN, Roman	X		
HANŽEVAČKI, Marija	X		
HARTMAN RADOVÁ, Jana	X		
HEALY, Joe	X		
HEIDE, Srita	X		
HEIMBACH, Sabine	X		
HELLAM, Mall	X		
HENDRICKX, Luc	X		
HENRIKSSON, Jens	X		
HERNANDEZ COLOMER, José Angel	X		
HIDESTEN, Per Erik	X		
HIDVÉGHINÉ PULAY, Brigitta	X		
HOLST, Sif			X
HORN, Miriam-Lena	X		
HUSTER, Frank	X		

ILNICKI, Wojciech	X		
INKEROINEN, Eeva-Liisa	X		
IOANNIDIS, Athanasios	X		
IZVERNICEANU DE LA IGLESIA, Ileana			X
JAHIER, Luca	X		
JANKOWSKI, Rafał Bogusław	X		
JEAMBRUN, Denis	X		
JEANNIN, Hervé	X		
JELIĆ, Violeta		X	
JOHANSSON, Mikael	X		
JOÓ, Kinga	X		
JOOST, Meelis	X		
JORIS, Olivier		X	
JUODKAITĖ, Dovilė	X		
KAHLER, Barbara	X		
KÁLLAY, Piroska	X		
KATTNIG, Thomas	X		
KINDBERG, Mette	X		
KLIMEK, Jan	X		
KOLBE, Rudolf	X		
KOMORÓCZKI, István	X		
KORASIDIS, Moschos	X		
KOVÁCS, Patrik	X		
KREUZER, Gerald	X		
KROPIL, Rudolf	X		
KRUPAVIČIENĖ, Kristina	X		
KULIK-BIELIŃSKA, Ewa	X		
KUNYSZ, Maciej Dawid	X		
LADEFOGED, Anders			X
LAMPERGER, Danijel		X	
LARSSON, Emma	X		
LASZ, Andrej			X
LE BRETON, Marie-Pierre	X		
LEFÈVRE, Christophe	X		
LEITĀNE, Katrīna	X		
LEMCKE, Freya	X		
LEUCHTERS, Maxi Katharina	X		
LIBAERT, Thierry	X		
LOBO XAVIER, Gonçalo	X		
LOHAN, Cillian	X		
LUDWIKOWSKI, Michał			X

LUZ CORDEIRO, José Manuel	X		
MACHYNA, Emil	X		
MALLIA, Stefano	X		
MANOLOV, Dimitar	X		
MARCANTONIO, Giovanni	X		
MARIN, Florian	X		
MARKKULA-KIVISILTA, Hanna	X		
MÁRQUEZ DE LA CALLEJA, María Lourdes	X		
MASTANTUONO, Alena	X		
MATSAS, Andreas	X		
MATTIONI, Renato	X		
MAVROMMATIS, Manthos	X		
MAVSAR, Martin	X		
MAZZOLA, Alberto		X	
MCKEOWN, Patricia		X	
MCLOUGHLIN, Michael	X		
MEDINA MARTIN , Felipe	X		
MENSI, Maurizio	X		
MERLO, Nicoletta	X		
MILTOVIČA, Baiba	X		
MINCHEVA, Mariya	X		
MIRA, Luís	X		
MISSLBECK-WINBERG, Christiane		X	
MITOV, Veselin	X		
MOLKENBOER, Margo			X
MONE, Andrea	X		
MONTEIRO DA SILVA, Orlando	X		
MOOS, Christian	X		
MORENO DÍAZ, José Antonio	X		
MOUSOUROULIS, Konstantinos	X		
MULLER, Catelijne	X		
MURAFI BENGHA, Corina	X		
MURESAN, Marinela Dănuț	X		
NADERER, Heide			X
NEIENDAM, Juliane Marie	X		
NERANTZAKIS, Nerantzis-Stylianos	X		
NICLOT, Laure	X		
NIKOLOPOULOU, Maria	X		
NIKOLOV, Bogomil	X		
NOWACKI, Marcin	X		
NYGREN, Ellen	X		

NØRRING, Niels Peter			X
O'CONNOR, Jack	X		
OCHĘDZAN, Justyna Kalina	X		
OSINGA, Klaas Johan	X		
ÖSTBERG SVANELIND, Maria			X
OSTROWSKI, Krzysztof	X		
OVERGAARD, Flemming		X	
PAGLIARA, Angelo	X		
PAIDAS, Ioannis	X		
PALMIERI, Stefano	X		
PANAYOTOVA, Monika	X		
PARTHIE, Sandra	X		
PATER, Krzysztof	X		
PAVIĆ-ROGOŠIĆ, Lidija	X		
PELTZER, Fredy	X		
PENTTINEN, Markus	X		
PERSSON, Inger	X		
PIERI, Pieris	X		
PIEROTTI, Christian	X		
PINTÉR, Michal	X		
PÎRVULESCU, Cristian	X		
PISTOTNIK, Ajda	X		
PLAT, Jacob		X	
POČIVAVŠEK, Jakob Krištof	X		
PODRUZIŠIK, Szilárd	X		
POLYMEROPOULOS, Vasileios	X		
POTTIER, Jean-Michel	X		
POTYRAŁA, Dariusz	X		
PRETZSCH, Jovita	X		
PROUZET, Emilie	X		
PUECH d'ALISSAC, Arnold	X		
PUXEU ROCAMORA, Josep	X		
PÝCHOVÁ, Silvie	X		
QUAEDVLIEG, Winand		X	
QUIST, Marjolein		X	
REALE, Maurizio	X		
REBIERE, Amélie	X		
REHSE, Sebastian	X		
REHULKA, Johannes	X		
REISECKER, Sophia	X		
RELIC, Danko	X		

RIEDINGER BALZER, Jacqueline	X		
RISTELÄ, Pekka			X
RISTKOK, Kädi	X		
ROBYNS DE SCHNEIDAUER, Wautier	X		
ROCHE RAMO, José Manuel	X		
RODERT, Ariane	X		
ROGET ALEMANY, Joan	X		
ROIBU, Oleg	X		
ROLIN, Claude	X		
ROMELE, Linda	X		
ROTTIGNI, Marco Elio			X
ROUSINOVA, Zornitsa	X		
ROŽIĆ, Marina	X		
RÜBIG, Paul	X		
RUSU, Sabin	X		
RUŽELĚ, Emilis			X
RZECZKOWSKA, Magdalena	X		
SAGRAMOLA, Sabrina	X		
SAJEWSKA, Joanna Patrycja		X	
SAKAŘOVÁ, Dana	X		
SÄKKINEN, Teppo	X		
SANZ MARTÍN, Yolanda	X		
ŠAVELĚ, Gaja	X		
SCHAFFENRATH, Martin	X		
SCHOEMAKERS, Anna	X		
SCHWANNECKE, Holger		X	
SCHWARTZ, Arnaud	X		
SCHWENG, Christa	X		
SEIGNE, Aurélie	X		
SERRA, Nuno	X		
SERRA ARIAS, Ricardo			X
SIBIAN, Ionuț	X		
SIKORA, Grzegorz	X		
SILVA, Carlos	X		
SILVA, Francisco			X
SIPKO, Juraj	X		
ŠIRHALOVÁ, Martina	X		
SITÁROVÁ, Monika	X		
SMOLE, Jože	X		
SÕBER, Kristi	X		
ŠOBOTA, Dijana	X		

SOETE, Paul	X		
SOKOLOVÁ, Radka	X		
SOLER MATUTES, Jacinto	X		
STALPAERT, Pia		X	
STAM, Laura		X	
STILLER, Klaus-Peter	X		
STODOLOVSKÝ, Juraj	X		
STUDNIČNÁ, Lucie	X		
SUBAČIŪTĒ-ŽEMAITIENĒ, Jurga			X
SÜLE, Katalin Elza	X		
SUNNUS, Rebecca	X		
SVENTEK, David	X		
SZENDREI, Róbert Tamás	X		
SZYMAŃSKI, Mateusz	X		
TAMKVAITIS, Vilius			X
TCHOUKANOV, Stoyan	X		
TEDER, Reet	X		
THURNER, Andreas	X		
TIAINEN, Simo	X		
TIMMERMANS, Theo	X		
TRACEVIČIUS, Domantas	X		
TRANTINA, Pavel	X		
TREFON, Grzegorz			X
TRINDADE, Carlos Manuel	X		
TZOTZE-LANARA, Zoe	X		
UHL, Susanne	X		
ULGIATI, Luigi	X		
URBÁNYI, Péter	X		
VALASTRO, Rosario Maria Gianluca	X		
VALENTIN, Olivier	X		
VAN MIERLO, Mario	X		
VARDAKASTANIS, Ioannis	X		
VASK, Kaia	X		
VERNICOS, George	X		
VILELA PIRES, Hélder Jorge	X		
VON BROCKDORFF, Philip	X		
VORBACH, Judith	X		
WAGENER, Marco	X		
WAGNSONNER, Thomas	X		
WALKER, Neil	X		
WEBER, Irena			X

WILLEMS, Heiko			X
WILLEMS, Josiane	X		
WOLFF, Romain	X		
YGLESIAS, Isabel	X		
YIAPANIS, Anastasis	X		
ZARIŅA, Katrīna	X		
ZORKO, Andrej	X		
ZVOLSKÁ, Marie	X		

The following members delegated their voting rights	
Wednesday 18 February	
Member	Delegated to
ANGELOVA, Milena	MIRA, Luís
BĂDESCU, George	SOLER MATUTES, Jacinto
BALDZĒNS, Egils	ROMELE, Linda
BORSANI, Matteo Carlo	BYRNE, Peter
BRONIARZ, Wincenty Sławomir	JEAMBRUN, Denis
CHARRY, Philippe	DESIANO, Carole
CONTRASTO, Emilio	MONE, Andrea
DALSTEIN, Florian	WALKER, Neil
DĂRĂBAN, Daniela-Raluca	TIMMERMANS, Theo
DE LEEUW, Rudy	DELCROIX, Jean-Paul
DEGUARA, Jason	VON BROCKDORFF, Philip
DRESZER-SMALEC, Karolina	DROBINSKI-WEISS, Elvira
GEISEN, Norbert	HEALY, Joe
GERSTEIN, Antje Sabine	REALE, Maurizio
HÄGGMAN, Maria	SOKOLOVÁ, Radka
HANŽEVAČKI, Marija	BUZEK, Tanja
HOLST, Sif	NEIENDAM, Juliane Marie
IZVERNICEANU DE LA IGLESIA, Ileana	SCHOEMAKERS, Anna
JELIĆ, Violeta	ŠIRHALOVÁ, Martina
JORIS, Olivier	ROBYNS DE SCHNEIDAUER, Wautier
KÁLLAY, Piroska	MERLO, Nicoletta
KATTNIG, Thomas	STUDNIČNÁ, Lucie
KULIK-BIELIŃSKA, Ewa	MOOS, Christian
KUNYSZ, Maciej Dawid	SCHWARTZ, Arnaud
LADEFOGED, Anders	POTTIER, Jean-Michel
LASZ, Andrej	ANDERSSON, Krister
LE BRETON, Marie-Pierre	ZARIŅA, Katrīna
LEUCHTERS, Maxi Katharina	BIEGON, Dominika
LUDWIKOWSKI, Michał	BALON, Krzysztof
MALLIA, Stefano	NERANTZAKIS, Nerantzis-Stylianos

MCKEOWN, Patricia	O'CONNOR, Jack
MEDINA MARTIN, Felipe	GARCÍA DEL RIEGO, Antonio
MISSLBECK-WINBERG, Christiane	MAVROMMATIS, Manthos
MOLKENBOER, Margo	SAKAŘOVÁ Dana
MULLER, Catelijne	REISECKER, Sophia
NADERER, Heide	TRACEVIČIUS, Domantas
NØRRING, Niels Peter	ROIBU, Oleg
OCHĘDZAN, Justyna Kalina	MURAFI BENGHA, Corina
ÖSTBERG SVANELIND, Maria	NYGREN, Ellen
OVERGAARD, Flemming	ANDERSEN, Dorte
PAGLIARA, Angelo	DEL RIO, Cinzia
PATER, Krzysztof	MENSI, Maurizio
PIEROTTI, Christian	STILLER, Klaus-Peter Heinrich
PLAT, Jacob	PELTZER, Fredy
POCIVAVŠEK, Jakob Krištof	ZORKO, Andrej
POTYRAŁA, Dariusz Mirosław	MARIN, Florian
RELIĆ, Danko	BOGDAN, Luka
RISTELÄ, Pekka	PENTTINEN, Markus
ROTTIGNI, Marco Elio	RZECZKOWSKA, Magdalena
RUŽELE, Emilis	TEDER, Reet
SCHWENG, Christa	PUECH D'ALISSAC, Arnold
SEIGNE, Aurélie	BÉGUINET, Christophe
SERRA ARIAS, Ricardo	ROCHE RAMO, José Manuel
STALPAERT, Pia	ROLIN, Claude
SUBAČIŪTĖ-ŽEMAITIENĖ, Jurga	AALTONEN, Kristina
TAMKVAITIS, Vilius	SAGRAMOLA, Sabrina
TRANTINA, Pavel	HAKEN, Roman
TREFON, Grzegorz Adam	SZYMAŃSKI, Mateusz
WAGNSONNER, Thomas	VORBACH, Judith
WEBER, Irena	SÄKKINEN, Teppo
WILLEMS, Heiko	ZVOLSKÁ, Marie
YGLESIAS JULIÀ, Isabel	SANZ MARTÍN, Yolanda

Thursday 19 February	
Member	Delegated to
ANGELOVA, Milena	SOLER MATUTES, Jacinto
ARVIDSSON, Tomas	ZVOLSKÁ, Marie
BORSANI, Matteo	TIMMERMANS, Theo
CONTRASTO, Emilio	MONE, Andrea
DEGUARA, Jason	VON BROCKDORFF, Philip
DESIANO, Carole	CHARRY, Philippe
DUTTO, Diego	GUERINI, Giuseppe
EISCHEN-BECKER, Véronique	WAGENER, Marco
GEISEN, Norbert	COHEUR, Alain

GOBIŅŠ, Andris	TRACEVIČIUS, Domantas
HEALY, Joe	COMER, John
HEIMBACH, Sabine	ANDERSSON, Krister
HOLST, Sif	NEIENDAM, Juliane Marie
IZVERNICEANU DE LA IGLESIA, Ileana	HERNÁNDEZ COLOMER, José Ángel
LADEFOGED, Anders	PUXEU ROCAMORA, Josep
LASZ, Andrej	INKEROINEN, Eeva-Liisa
LEUCHTERS, Maxi Katharina	BIEGON, Dominika
LUDWIKOWSKI, Michał	BALON, Krzysztof Stanisław
MANOLOV, Dimitar	MITOV, Veselin
MCKEOWN, Patricia	O'CONNOR, Jack
MOLKENBOER, Margo	SOKOLOVÁ, Radka
MULLER, Catelijne	MERLO, Nicoletta
NADERER, Heide	BELIER, Sandrine
NØRRING, Niels Peter	ROBYNS, Wautier
ÖSTBERG SVANELIND, Maria	NYGREN, Ellen
OVERGAARD, Flemming	MARIN, Florian
PLAT, Jacob	HAJNOŠ, Miroslav
POČIVAVŠEK, Jakob Krištof	GÖTZ, Nadja
POTYRAŁA, Dariusz Mirosław	BRONIARZ, Wincenty Sławomir
REISECKER, Sophia	NIKOLOPOULOU, Maria
RISTELÄ, Pekka	PENTTINEN, Markus
ROTTIGNI, Marco Elio	HIDESTEN, Per Erik
RUŽELE, Emilis	BONI, Michał Jan
SAGRAMOLA, Sabrina	NERANTZAKIS, Nerantzis-Stylianos
SCHAFFENRATH, Martin Josef	KOLBE, Rudolf
SEIGNE, Aurélie	BÉGUINET, Christophe
SERRA ARIAS, Ricardo	ROCHE RAMO, José Manuel
STALPAERT, Pia	ROLIN, Claude
SUBAČIŪTĖ-ŽEMAITIENĖ, Jurga	SAKAROVÁ, Dana
TAMKVAITIS, Vilius	POTTIER, Jean-Michel
TREFON, Grzegorz Adam	SZYMAŃSKI, Mateusz
WEBER, Irena	PINTÉR, Michal
WILLEMS, Heiko	STILLER, Klaus-Peter Heinrich
WOLFF, Romain	ZORKO, Andrej

The European Economic and Social Committee held its 603rd plenary session in Brussels on 18 and 19 February 2026. **Séamus Boland**, EESC president, chaired the session.

Meeting times

Wednesday 18 February 2026 14:30-19:07
Thursday 19 February 2026 09:08-13:00

1) PRESENCE OF A QUORUM

The EESC president opened the session and announced that there was a quorum.

2) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 602nd PLENARY SESSION, HELD ON 21 AND 22 JANUARY 2026

The minutes of the 602nd plenary session were approved.

4) STATEMENT BY THE EESC PRESIDENT

Mr Boland opened his statement by referring to the upcoming four-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, underscoring the dramatic effects of the conflict on Europe and beyond. He added that the anniversary would be marked at the Committee by a debate on the devastating toll of the war on children and young people, and screening of two documentaries intended as a tribute to civil society's humanitarian action. Mr Boland also used the occasion to invite the attendees to observe a minute's silence in honour of the victims of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The president referred to other conflicts around the world that continued to generate dire humanitarian situations. He also referred to current tensions in transatlantic relations and the challenges jeopardising rules-based international order, which, he noted, should prompt further reflection on the role of civil society in shaping the vision of European security and autonomy. He stated that he had already raised this matter with the President of the European Council, Mr Costa, during a previous meeting in which he had presented the EESC's views on competitiveness, when he had set out in four core points: sustainable European competitiveness could be viable only when pursued in conjunction with social policies; there was a need for a European shift in the narrative on competitiveness and security, accompanied by clearer and more accessible communication to the wider public; there was a need to adopt a holistic approach to competitiveness; and that citizens must be involved in building European resilience and security.

As the meeting with Mr Costa had coincided with the 100-day mark of his presidency, Mr Boland proceeded to highlight a number of achievements obtained thus far, ultimately reflecting on the challenging geopolitical context and calling for a clear acknowledgement of what should be defended

in Europe, namely the continent's values, democracies and social market economies.

Against this background, the president continued with a brief overview of his activities since the January EESC plenary. He reported having met with four Commissioners – Glenn Micallef, Jessika Roswall, Jozef Síkela and Maroš Šefčovič – and three MEPs – Aodhán Ó Riordáin, Barry Andrews and Ewa Kopacz. He further noted that he had had the honour of meeting the Irish Prime Minister, Micheál Martin, and the First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney, as well as the State Secretaries from Spain and Ireland and the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for civil society development. Additionally, Mr Boland referred to meetings with several EU ministers in Cyprus on the occasion of the informal meeting of the employment and social affairs ministers, as well as with members of the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly, which he described as an opportunity to jointly acknowledge the need for European unity in the current geopolitical context. He also mentioned his recent interactions with the EESC SOC, NAT and TEN sections, which he had used as opportunities to present his work programme and to hear members' views. Lastly, the president referred to the launch of the fifth edition of the EU organic awards, co-organised by the EESC alongside the European Commission, the European Committee of the Regions, COPA-COGECA and IFOAM Organics Europe. He highlighted the awards as an opportunity to reward innovative actors in EU organic production and encouraged the members to disseminate information on the event.

Mr Boland closed his statement by expressing his gratitude towards the staff of both his private office and all the Committee services, underscoring their support in enabling him to fulfil his institutional responsibility.

5) **CATEGORY C OPINION**

In accordance with Rule 47(3), Mr Boland asked the assembly to vote on the category C opinion on the agenda.

CCMI/260

Amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 (Critical Raw Materials Act)

(category C opinion)

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1252

COM(2025) 946 final – 2025-385-COD

EESC-2026-00393-00-00-AC-TRA

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
184	0	2

6) **COMMITTEE OPINIONS WITHOUT DEBATE**

In accordance with Rule 67 of the Rules of Procedure, the president asked the assembly to vote on one opinion which was put straight to the vote without a debate, and subsequently adopted.

ECO/690

EPPO and OLAF access to VAT information at Union level

EESC-2026-00247-00-01-PV-TRA (EN) 14/22

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 904/2010 as regards the access of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to value added tax information at Union level

COM(2025) 685 final – 2025/0348 CNS

EESC-2025-04282-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: Justyna Kalina OCHEŁDZAN (PL-III)

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
201	0	1

DEBATE

- 7) *The lasting scars of Russia's war against Ukraine: its devastating toll on children and youth*, with **Olena Zelenska**, First Lady of Ukraine (*via video message*); **Baiba Tavaresa**, head of the Ukraine Division and acting director / deputy managing director for Europe and Central Asia at the European External Action Service; **Maryna Domushkina**, senior advisor at the GLOBSEC Kyiv Office; **Munir Mammadzade**, UNICEF representative to Ukraine (*remotely*); **Danielle Bell**, head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (*remotely*); **Rachel Watkins**, child protection and deinstitutionalisation technical advisor at Save the Children (*remotely*); **Mariia Sulialina**, head of the Centre of civil education Almenda (*remotely*); and **Kateryna Rashevskya**, legal expert at the Regional Centre for Human Rights (*remotely*).

A summary of the debate is set out in Appendix I – EESC-2026-00247-01-00-PV-TRA.

OPINIONS WITH DEBATE

8) ECO/688

2026 European Semester – Autumn Package

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of Regions and the European Investment Bank

2026 European Semester – Autumn Package

Delivering on the Competitiveness Compass: pushing forward with reforms and investments

COM(2025) 955 final

EESC-2025-03794-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: Luca JAHIER (IT-III)

The president asked the rapporteur, **Luca Jahier**, to present the opinion.

His statement and a record of the Committee's proceedings on this matter are set out in EESC-2025-03794-00-00-CR-REF.

Opinion adopted

Yes	No	Abs
205	0	4

9) **TEN/867**

The European Life Science Strategy along with the Strategy on Research and Technology infrastructures with focus on the treatment of rare diseases

(exploratory opinion requested by the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU)

EESC-2025-03652-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: Milena ANGELOVA (BG-I)

The president asked the rapporteur, **Milena Angelova**, to present the opinion.

Her statement and a record of the Committee's proceedings on this matter are set out in EESC-2025-03652-00-00-CR-REF.

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
219	0	4

10) **ECO/689**

The Island Dimension in European Cohesion, Competitiveness and Sustainable Development Policies

(exploratory opinion requested by the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU)

EESC-2025-03598-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: Ioannis VARDAKASTANIS (EL-III)

The president asked the rapporteur, **Ioannis Vardakastanis**, to present the opinion.

His statement and a record of the Committee's proceedings on this matter are set out in EESC-2025-03598-00-00-CR-REF.

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
240	1	5

11) **TEN/865**

Energy connectivity, electricity grids

(exploratory opinion requested by the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU)

EESC-2025-03570-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: Christophe BÉGUINET (FR-II)

The president asked the rapporteur, **Christophe Béguinet**, to present the opinion.

His statement and a record of the Committee's proceedings on this matter are set out in EESC-2025-03570-00-00-CR-REF.

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
235	4	4

12) **ECO/605**

Revision of the tobacco taxation Directive

Proposal for a Council Directive on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco and tobacco related products (recast)

COM(2025) 580 final – 2025/0580 CNS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive (EU) 2020/262 as regards the general arrangements for excise duty in respect of tobacco and tobacco related products

COM(2025) 581 final – 2025/0581 CNS

EESC-2025-02514-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: Matteo Carlo BORSANI (IT-I)

The president asked **Mariya Mincheva** to present the opinion on behalf of the rapporteur, **Matteo Carlo Borsani**.

Her statement and a record of the Committee's proceedings on this matter are set out in EESC-2025-02514-00-00-CR-REF.

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
198	38	19

13) **SOC/844**

Union support for Asylum, Migration and Integration; Internal Security; and Integrated Border Management and Visa Policy

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union support for asylum, migration and integration for the period from 2028 to 2034

COM(2025) 540 final – 2025/0540 COD

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union support for the Schengen area, for European integrated border management and for the common policy on visas for the period from 2028 to 2034

COM(2025) 541 final – 2025/0541 COD

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union support for internal security for the period from 2028 to 2034

COM(2025) 542 final – 2025/0542 COD

EESC-2025-03434-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: José Antonio MORENO DÍAZ (ES-II)

The president asked the rapporteur, **José Antonio Moreno Díaz**, to present the opinion.

His statement and a record of the Committee's proceedings on this matter are set out in EESC-2025-03434-00-00-CR-REF.

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
180	15	26

Adjournment

Thursday 19 February 2026

Resumption

DEBATE

- 14) *From ambition to action: an EU affordable housing plan delivering for the people*, with **Dan Jørgensen**, European Commissioner on Energy and Housing (*via video message*); **Matthew Baldwin**, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) and leader of the European Commission's Housing Task Force; **Aodhán Ó Ríordáin**, Member of the European Parliament (*via video message*); **Michaela Kauer**, director of the Brussels office of the City of Vienna and coordinator of the EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership; **Marie Linder**, president of the International Union of Tenants (IUT) and of the Swedish Tenants' Union; **Chiara Martinelli**, director of Climate Action Network Europe; and **Thomas Kattnig**, rapporteur for opinion TEN/866 on *Tackling housing scarcity through affordable, sustainable and family-oriented housing policies* to be adopted in March.

A summary of the debate is set out in Appendix II – EESC-2026-00247-02-00-PV-TRA.

15) NAT/961

Roadmap towards Nature Credits

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Roadmap towards Nature Credits COM(2025) 374 final

EESC-2025-03041-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: Arnaud SCHWARTZ (FR-III)

Co-rapporteur: Teppo SÄKKINEN (FI-I)

The president asked the rapporteur, **Arnaud Schwartz**, and the co-rapporteur, **Teppo Säkkinen**, to present the opinion.

Their statements and a record of the Committee's proceedings on this matter are set out in EESC-2025-03041-00-00-CR-REF.

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
219	3	2

DEBATE

- 16) *The potential of sodium batteries for the EU*, with **Marc Lemaître**, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD); **Fabrice Stassin**, secretary-general of the Batteries European Partnership Association (BEPA); and **Alain Coheur**, president of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI). This debate was linked to the adoption of opinion CCMI/250 on *Enhancing EU strategic autonomy and developing a greener and bluer economy: the potential of the sodium battery manufacturing sector*.

A summary of the debate is set out in Appendix III – EESC-2026-00247-03-00-PV-TRA.

17) CCMI/250

Enhancing EU strategic autonomy and developing a greener and bluer economy: the potential of the sodium battery manufacturing sector

(exploratory opinion requested by the European Commission)

EESC-2025-02464-00-00-AC-TRA

Rapporteur: Paul RÜBIG (AT-I)

Co-rapporteur: Hervé JEANNIN (FR-Cat.2)

The president asked the rapporteur, **Paul Rübzig**, and the co-rapporteur, **Hervé Jeannin**, to present the opinion.

Their statements and a record of the Committee's proceedings on this matter are set out in EESC-2025-02464-00-00-CR-REF.

Opinion adopted		
Yes	No	Abs
152	2	0

18) DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE ASSEMBLY

I. Change in section membership (Rule 23 of Rules of Procedure)

The assembly approved the following change in section membership.

MEMBER	GROUP/ NATIONALITY	LEAVES SECTION	JOINS SECTION
Jacinto SOLER MATUTES	ES-I	REX	TEN

II. Own-initiative opinions (Rule 52 (2) of the Rules of Procedure)

The assembly approved the following requests to prepare own-initiative opinions.

Gr. II

1. The public services sector in the EU adapted to new challenges
(A-6) (SOC) (September)
2. Overcoming digital dependencies protects workers' rights and data – EU sovereignty in the cloud, AI and the information society as a democratic necessity
(A-6) (TEN) (October)

Gr. III

3. The role of volunteering for European population preparedness in an increasingly dangerous world
(A-6) (SOC) (December)
4. Shrinking democratic space as a barrier to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the European Union – placing civil society at the heart of Europe's fight against poverty (SDG1)
(A-6) (SOC) (October)

CCMI

5. How to integrate thousands of humanoid robots in the near future in industry and in our daily lives
(A-3+3) (October)
6. Fostering innovation and digitalisation in the construction industry
(A-3+3) (To be determined)
7. Blue Deal Accelerator – technology, skills and finance for a water positive future
(A-3+3) (To be determined)

ECO

8. Tax rules as code for EU tax directives
(A-6) (September)
9. Introduction of the digital euro
(A-6) (September)
10. Boosting the capacity of the EIB and national promotional banks
(A-6) (September)

INT

11. A strategic standardisation for a stronger single market¹
(A-6) (April)
12. Boosting productivity through a more integrated single market
(A-6) (September)

¹ This proposal would feed into the preparation of the Commission's revision of the standardisation regulation. The EESC opinion must be adopted at the April plenary at the latest.

13. Observations from the business community and civil society on the revision of Regulation EU No 651/2014 on State aid (General Block Exemption Regulation – GBER)
(A-6) (June)

NAT

14. A rural proofing tool to unlock the full potential of rural areas and communities through better rural-centred EU policymaking for a fair and sustainable EU
(A-6) (September)
15. Social farming as a tool for innovation in agriculture
(A-6) (July/September)
16. Enlargement and EU climate policy – Achieving the EU climate targets in a larger union
(A-6) (July)
17. Reforming climate governance in light of recent international judicial decisions
(A-6)² (September)
18. The SDGs beyond 2030
(A-18)³ (December)

REX

19. Empowering civil society in EU security: advancing the civilian common security and defence policy (CSDP) Compact and the European Civilian Peace Corps
(A-6) (October)

SOC

20. Ending forced sterilisation of women with disabilities
(A-6) (December)
21. Posting of third-country nationals (TCNs)
(A-6) (June)

SOC-FRRL

22. The Rule of Law Report – civil society’s perspective
(A-6) (October)

TEN

23. Energy storage as systemically important infrastructure for a sovereign, affordable and resilient European Energy Union
(A-6) (July)
24. Ensuring affordable and stable energy for the European energy-intensive industries using the example of the chemical sector
(A-6) (July)

² This own-initiative opinion would be prepared in the context of the meetings of the Permanent Group on COP (which would serve as a study group), therefore at zero cost.

³ This own-initiative opinion would be prepared in the context of the meetings of the Sustainable Development Observatory (which would serve as a study group), therefore at zero cost.

25. European High-Speed Railways Network 2040 – A strategic, social and industrial project for the European Union
(A-6) (December)

19) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

20) **DATE OF THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION**

The next plenary session would be held on 18 and 19 March 2026 in the Alcide De Gasperi meeting room in the European Commission's Charlemagne building in Brussels. The first part of the session would begin at 14:30 on Wednesday 18 March. Proceedings would resume at 09:00 on Thursday 19 March. Exact timings were to be confirmed.

The assembly approved these dates.

Isabelle Le Galo Flores
Secretary-General
