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 premise, 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
  Pawel Chorazy

European Commission:
  Vasco Call
  David Müller

European Ombudsman:
  Ian Harden
  Gundi Gadesmann

European Parliament:
  MEP Andrew Duff
  Friedhelm Frischenschlager
  David Lowe

European Economic and Social Committee:
  Anne-Marie Sigmund
  Luca Jahier

Committee of Regions:
  Luc van den Brande
  Erwin Mohr

Interest Groups:
  Max Vives-Fierro I Planas
  Haaron Saad
  Nicolaus Drimmel
  Sébastien de Brouwer
  Pablo Sánchez Centellas

General Secretariat, Directorate for Institutional Relations
Permanent Representation of Poland
Bureau of European Policy Advisers
Cabinet of Commissioner Hahn
Secretary General
Media and External Relations Officer
former MEP
Head of Secretariat of the Petitions Committee
Member, Past President
Member, President of Group III
Member, President of CIVEX

Fundació Catalunya Europa (Barcelona)
Local Urban Development European Network (Brussels)
Austrian Association of Municipalities (Vienna)
European Banking Federation (Brussels)
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:**
Pawel Chorazy, Permanent Representation of Poland (tbc)

**European Commission:**
Jorge Cesar das Neves, Bureau of European Policy Advisers

**European Ombudsman:**
Gundi Gadesmann, Media and External Relations Officer

**European Parliament:**
MEP Heinz Becker
MEP Eva Lichtenberger
Friedhelm Frischenschlager, former MEP
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; tbc)
Bruno Kaufmann, Initiative Referendum Institute (Marburg)
Jorge Nuño Mayer, Caritas Europa (Brussels)
Conny Reuter, Solidar / Social Platform (Brussels)
Daniel Schily, More Democracy (Cologne)
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)
David Pollok (tbc), European Humanist Federation (Brussels)
Michael Weninger, Austrian Bishops’ Conference (Vienna)
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
Permanant Representation of Poland
Head of Unit European Fundamental and Institutional Issues, Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

European Commission:
Margaritis Schinas
Richard Kühnel
Bureau of European Policy Advisers
Representative of the European Commission in Austria

European Ombudsman:
Ben Hagard
Head of the Communication Unit

European Parliament:
MEP Philippe Boulland
MEP Gerald Häfner
Friedhelm Frischenschlager
David Lowe
former MEP
Head of Secretariat of the Petitions Committee

Research Institutes with expertise in the field of citizens’ participation:

Catherine van Eeckhaute  Gov2u (Brussels)
Blaž Golob  Centre for eGovernance Development (Ljubljana; tbc)
Liia Hänni  e-governance Academy (Tallin)
Assya Kavrakova  Open Society Institute (Sofia)
Daniel van Lerberghe  Fondation EurActiv PoliTech (Brussels)
Elke Löffler  governance international (Birmingham; tbc)
Paul Schmidt  Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Vienna)
Christelle Werquin  Tout l’Europe (Paris)
Fiona D. Wollensack  IFOK (Brussels)
March, 14th 2012:

Final Presentation

12.00: Overall presentation of the results, further research prospects

Johannes W. Pichler
Director of the AIEP (Salzburg)

Piotr Maciej Kaczyński
Research fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (Brussels)

12.30: The way forward

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros
European Ombudsman (Strasbourg)

13.00: Discussion

14.00: Closing address and reception

15.00: End of event
Practical Information:

Conference Language: English

Registration / Contact:
Austrian Institute for European Law and Policy
Mönchsberg 2a, 5020 Salzburg
Tel: +43 662 84 39 80
Fax: +43 662 84 39 82
dialogue@legalpolicy.eu  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

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