

Civil Dialogue How can we shape the Europe we want?

- **Date** 9-10 December 2008
- **Interpretation** English-French
- **Venue** Centre International pour la Ville, l'Architecture et le Paysage (CIVA)
rue de l'Ermitage 55
B 1050 Bruxelles
- **Objectives** To assess the current structures and processes of civil dialogue at European level

To agree concrete recommendations on how to improve these structures and processes

Tuesday 9 December 2008

09.00 Registration and coffee

10.00 - 12.30 **Why bother with civil dialogue? Discussion between audience and key decision-makers**

Facilitator

Markus Held, European Volunteer Center (CEV), Member of the Management Committee of the Social Platform

Panelists

Genowefa Grabowska MEP, Rapporteur of the European Parliament

Nikiforos Diamandouros, European Ombudsman (tbc)

Risto Raivio, Head of Unit Citizenship Policy, Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission

Conny Reuter, President of the Social Platform

Debate with the audience

Concluding remarks

Prof. Beate Kohler Koch, Jean Monnet Chair International Relations, University of Mannheim and coordinator of the CONNEX network of excellence on European governance

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 17.00 **Workshops** (see below)

17.00 Reception

Wednesday 10 December 2008

9.30 - 10.30 **Workshops continue**
Conclusions and recommendations agreed during workshops

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30 **Concluding session: Café dialogue**
Report from workshops and debate on the conclusions

This session is a series of themed discussions on the recommendations made by each workshop. Each table will have a facilitator but participants will be free to move around the tables and contribute to all discussions.

WORKSHOPS

Make your choice!

Workshop 1 : What is the future for the Open Method of Coordination on social inclusion?

This workshop will explore how the social OMC can deliver better results and the role of European NGOs in this process. The debate aims to address the following questions: (1) What has worked well in the OMC so far? (2) What has not worked? (3) What do we see for the future in particular - how do we expand out of the 'inner circle'? How can we deliver better results?

Organised by Eurochild and the European Federations of Organisations working with the homeless (FEANTSA)

Workshop 2 : Funding for public concerns: where should the money come from?

This workshop will provide space for critical reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of the systems used to fund NGOs working in the public interest. To facilitate this reflection we will draw on national- and European-level experiences. The workshop aims to establish concrete conclusions and recommendations on the future funding of NGOs.

Organised by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

Workshop 3 : What is the role of European NGO networks in bridging the gap between European and national levels?

This workshop will discuss the role of European networks as a capacity-builder, mediator and facilitator of information flow between the national level and the European arena. Participants will be able to exchange experiences and jointly develop recommendations on capacities and structures that are needed. The workshop will also address the related issue of civil dialogue at national level with a particular focus on Central and Eastern Europe.

Organised by Mental Health Europe (MHE) and SOLIDAR

Workshop 4 : New faces in Europe: how can we connect with the 'hard to reach' communities across the EU?

As the EU has expanded into new countries, the expectation of its role has grown. But at the same time, in more established Member States, public confidence in the EU has been shaken. These trends have led to a democratic debate and the recognition of a growing need to engage more effectively with citizens and civil society in every part of Europe. This workshop aims to show how civil society organisations can engage with European institutions in both formal and informal ways, and how the 'hard to reach' community organisations can bring their voices to often-inaccessible European decision-making processes.

Organised by the European Council for non-profit organisations (CEDAG)