

ESC Public Consultation on the Future of Europe

Athens, 4 November 2021
Royal Olympic Hotel, “Kallirroe Hall”

PROGRAM

- 09:30 - 10:00 **Arrival - Registrations**
- 10:00 - 10:45 **Opening**
Ioannis Paidas, President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece
Christos Staikouras, Minister of Finance
Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs
Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission
- 10:45 - 11:15 **Address**
Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the Association of Greek Regions
- Keynote speech**
Christa Schweng, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
- 11:15 - 12:30 **First session: A stronger economy, social justice, jobs**
- *Is sustainable development policy prerogative compatible with the objective of competitiveness, especially as it regards the peripheral countries?*
 - *How is economic democracy can be strengthened in the present EU framework for economic actors, households, and businesses?*
 - *Will current employment trends improve or worsen economic and social inequalities? What initiatives should be taken at national level?*
- Coordinator:** Michail Alepis, Vice- President of the ESC of Greece (Group A’)

Speakers:

- Georgios Kavathas, President of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants (GSEVEE)
- Georgios Karanikas, President of the Hellenic Confederation of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ESEE)
- Pavlos Satolias, President of the Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives (PASEGES)
- Christos A. Ioannou, Director of Employment and labor Market Affairs of SEV-Hellenic Federation of Enterprises
- Giorgos Amvrazis, Advisor to the President of the Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE)

Questions from the audience

12:30 - 13:30

Second session: Climate change, environment and health

- *Does national policy design meet the current demands posed by the accelerating climate change?*
- *Are adequate crisis management and solidarity mechanisms between Member States developed and implemented in the EU to address natural disasters?*
- *In addition to the introduction of new medical treatments and health crisis management, could health sector play a socially developmental role (for non-exclusion, consolidation of public safety, development of the pharmaceutical industry and medical tourism, etc.)*

Coordinator: Georgios Goniotakis, Vice- President of the ESC of Greece (Group C')

Speakers:

- Spiros Mamalis, President of the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece
- Konstantinos Kollias, President of the Economic Chamber of Greece
- Dimitrios Kapsimalis, President of the Hellenic Federation of Building Contractors and Developers (OMKOEE)
- Georgios Eleftheriou, Secretary General of the Greek Medical Association (PIS)
- Georgios Vlachos, President of the Association of Greek Contracting Companies (SATE)
- Georgios Stasinos, President of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG)
- Nikos Charalambides, Executive Director of Greenpeace Greece

Questions from the audience

13:30 - 14:30

Break (Lunch)

14:30 - 15:30

Third session: The role of the EU in the world and migration

- *Should the EU and the Member States take a more active and proactive role in tackling global challenges such as international trade promotion and migration?*

- *What is the country's strategy on the issue of reception and protection of refugees, but also on the formation of a strategy of cooperation with neighboring countries and third countries for the development of institutions in neighboring countries and third countries that strengthen pluralism, peace, social cohesion?*

Coordinator: Dimitris Dimitriadis, President of the External Relations Section (REX) of the European Economic and Social Committee

Speakers:

Introductory speech: Gabriil Amitsis, Professor of Social Security Law, Department of Business Administration (Social Policy Unit) of the University of West Attica

- Dimitra - Ines Aggeli, General Secretary of the Supreme Confederation of Multi-Child Parents of Greece (ASPE)
- Konstantinos Mpardas, Representative of the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE)
- Dimitrios Papastergiou, President of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece
- Ioannis Chatzitheodosiou, President of the Union of the Hellenic Chambers of Commerce (*online*)
- Thodoris Georgakopoulos, editorial director of DiaNEOsis

Questions from the audience

15:30 - 16:30

Forth session: European democracy, values, rights, rule of law

- How could we avoid centrifugal tendencies within the EU and questioning of core European values in the future?

- Do exist/ are they available tools to support democratic institutions at regional and local level? (citizens feel far away from decision-making centers)

Coordinator: Fotis Koleventis, Vice- President of the ESC of Greece (Group B')

Speakers:

Introductory speech: Ioannis Koukiadis, Emeritus Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

- Ilias Dolgyras, Representative of the Supreme Administration of Greek Civil Servants Trade Unions (ADEDY)
- Ioannis Korkovelos, Representative of the Athens Bar Association
- Ioannis Vardakastanis, President of the National Confederation of Disabled People (ESAmA), Member of the Conference on the Future of Europe
- Efi Bekou, former Secretary General for Gender Equality, Member of the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Council of Greece
- Panagiotis Agniadis, Secretary General of the Union of the Hellenic Chambers of Commerce
- Nikolaos Tsemperlidis, President of the Consumers Protection Center

Questions from the audience

16:30 - 17:00

Audience Discussion

17:00 - 17:30

Conclusions - Final Declaration

Ioannis Paidas, President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece

Christa Schweng, President of the European Economic and Social Committee

Working Languages: Greek, English.

The event will be broadcast on <https://www.okefutureofeuropa.eu/>