



European Economic and Social Committee

Brussels, 21 January 2014

RESOLUTION
of the
European Economic and Social Committee
on
The situation in Ukraine

In accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure and Implementing Provisions a draft resolution was approved by the Bureau. The Bureau decided to submit the resolution to the plenary assembly for decision.

The situation in Ukraine

The EESC expresses its concern at the announcement of the Ukrainian parliament's decision to beef up "anti-demonstration" laws. We cannot fail to be concerned by such a decision as the country is shaken by a wave of protests for independence and democracy.

In any democracy, the voice of civil society plays a key role. An EESC delegation visited Kiev on 23 and 24 December to meet and listen to the people protesting on Maidan Square. The Committee has also invited the singer Ruslana to its plenary session on 21 January in order to bring the demonstrators' message to the heart of Brussels.

The Ukrainian people's protests in and around Maidan Square are both crucial and historic.

Civil society wants modernisation and reform: it wants transparency in the way the country is governed, and it wants to rid itself of the heavy burden of the Soviet and post-Soviet legacy which has been marked by corruption and violence. The focus now must be on supporting in any way possible those who are demonstrating peacefully and who are asking for an urgent resolution to the crises that is afflicting the country.

European civil society organisations are committed to vigilance to ensure that these laws do not justify the repression by the police and the courts.

The EESC will continue to support civil society in Ukraine through a deepening of relations and dialogue. The EESC is also committed to assisting in any way possible all efforts aimed at finding a solution to the current crises.

Brussels, 21 January 2014.

The President
of the
European Economic and Social Committee

Henri Malosse