

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
Konstantinos Fragogiannis, Representative of the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Effie Achtsioglou, Representative of the President of the Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA)-Progressive Alliance, MP, Former Minister of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity
Christos Staikouras, Minister of Finance (*online*)
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 European Committee of the Regions (*online*)
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 (*online*)
- 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/>