



Dear Guests and Participants,

The European Union's values are enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union, which states: **"The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail."**

The European Economic and Social Committee is the voice of organised civil society. As such, it acts as a bridge between civil society and the EU institutions. We therefore feel it is our duty to promote and defend European values wherever we see them threatened.

It is no accident that we chose Athens as the venue for this, the 12th Civil Society Media Seminar. After all, Athens is the cradle of democracy and Greece its first laboratory.

In the European Union the values typically associated with democracy are solidly anchored in the treaties. However, even in the EU, we are witnessing tendencies that could pose a threat to these values. With this in mind, we have chosen the title *Reasserting Europe's values* because, even when values are enshrined in fundamental law – such as the EU treaties – it falls to us, to each and every politician, employer, employee, civil servant and ordinary citizen, to promote and, when necessary, defend these values and always live up to them.

Our three panels will focus on the areas where we see our values-based Europe endangered. Together with our panellists and participants, we want to look at the areas where we need to do more to preserve these values. We will also discuss how we can raise awareness of developments that run counter to these values, such as growing discrimination of minority groups, xenophobia, intolerance, the erosion of solidarity, but also the degradation in political discourse. Furthermore, we will look at tendencies that threaten our liberal democracy and we will also elaborate on what civil society can do to better promote and defend Europe's values.

We also want to show the advantages of a united, democratic and free Europe compared to what we see around us. Too often, freedom of speech, freedom of movement or individual freedom are suppressed by state rulers who are far from democratic and who have set up judicial systems that do not deserve to be called just and who do not respect the independence of media.

We should never forget that the EU – the European Commission as the guardian of the treaties but also the community of the Member States that monitor each other and remind each other of the duties and responsibilities incumbent on every single Member State – are ultimately the guarantors of an EU based on democratic values. It is up to us all to make these important values more tangible for the people of Europe!

I encourage you all to join in the discussions and ask questions, as part of a lively exchange of views and an interesting debate we can all benefit from.

Isabel Caño Aguilar
EESC Vice-President for communication

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 22 November 2018

09.00 – 10.00 a.m.

Registration and Welcome Coffee

10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

Welcome session

Chair and short introduction:

- Isabel Caño Aguilar, *EESC Vice-President*

Speakers:

- Luca Jahier, *President of the EESC*
- Georgios Markopoulitis, *Head of the EC Representation in Greece*
- Amra Ducic, *Ambassador for integration and press officer at the Austrian Chancellery*
- Giorgos Kaminis, *Mayor of Athens*
- Georgios Katrougalos, *Alternate Foreign Minister for European Affairs*

Key note and introduction to the seminar:

- Stavros-Ioannis Benos, *President of the DIAZOMA association and former politician*

11.00 – 11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Panel I: European values versus extremist ideologies

Moderated by:

- Matroni Dikaiakou, *Journalist*

Introduction into the topic:

- Adam Rogalewski, *Member of the EESC workers' group*

The panel will try to find a response to the challenge of extremist points of view (political, social, religious, etc.), erosion of solidarity, growing discrimination of minority groups and trends towards radicalism, xenophobia, intolerance, and degradation in political discourse.

Speakers:

- Paula Guisado, *data and investigative Journalist*
- Anna-Lena Lodenius, *Journalist, author and lecturer*
- Barbara Tóth, *Journalist, historian, teacher and author*
- Andrej Zaslove, *Professor at the department of political science at Radboud University, Nijmegen*

1.00 – 2.30 p.m.

Lunch

2.30 – 4.15 p.m.

Panel II: Liberal democracy facing growing moves towards illiberal democracy in some Member States

Moderated by:

- **Christina Siganiđou**, *Journalist and TV presenter*

Introduction into the topic:

- **Violeta Jelić**, *Member of the EESC employer's group*

The panel will cover the degradation of democracy, restriction of media freedom and breaches of the rule of law in some Member States. How can freedom of expression, freedom and diversity of the media, freedom of assembly be preserved? How to protect and reinforce the role and significance of organised civil society, and other actors such as non-governmental organisations? It will also focus on the alleged incapacity of the EU to solve social and economic problems, such as unemployment and growing inequalities.

Speakers:

- **Marius Dragomir**, *Director of the center for media, data and society at Central European University*
- **Boris Kálnoky**, *Hungarian-American-German Middle East correspondent at Die Welt*
- **Sébastien Maillard**, *former Journalist, Director of the Jacques Delors Institut*
- **Edit Zgut**, *Political Analyst, journalist and teacher*

4.30 – 5.30 p.m.

Cultural programme – Visit of the Greek Parliament (former Palace)

8.00 p.m.

Networking dinner at the Royal Olympia Hotel, roof garden

Friday, 23 November 2018

10.00 – 10.30 a.m.

Registration

10.30 – 10.45 a.m.

Opening session

Chair:

- Isabel Caño Aguilar, *EESC Vice-President*

Speaker:

- George Vernicos, *President of the Greek ESC*

10.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.

Panel III: The role of organised civil society in defending a democratic, value-based, united Europe

Moderated by:

- Sarantis Michalopoulos, *Journalist*

Introduction into the topic:

- Arno Metzler, *President of the EESC Diversity Europe group*

The panel will cover the challenges and opportunities for civil society in reasserting, fostering and promoting European values and helping to strengthen European cohesion. It will also look at the European Economic and Social Committee's role in defending these fundamentals.

Speakers:

- Jolanta Kurska, *Writer and journalist, chair of Bronislaw Geremek foundation*
- Lorenzo Pregliasco, *Co-founder of YouTrend and of the research start-up Quorum*
- Tuba Sarica, *Blogger and author*
- Zuzana Številová, *Lawyer, lecturer and activist*

12.45 – 12.50 p.m.

Closing

- Isabel Caño Aguilar, *EESC Vice-President*

12.50 p.m.

Take-away lunch

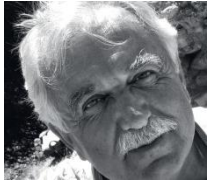
Speakers' bios

Stavros-Ioannis Benos is the President and founder of Diazoma, an association working to preserve Greek cultural heritage.

He has served Greece as mayor of his native Kalamata (1979-1990), as MP (1990-2004, 2004-2007), as deputy culture minister in Andreas Papandreou's last government and as culture minister in Kostas Simitis' executive.

Major achievements during his terms include the reconstruction of Kalamata after the devastating earthquakes of September 1986 – a project that received awards from both the European Council of Spatial Planners for its original and human-centred approach and from Europa Nostra for the preservation and enhancement of the city's monuments –, the establishment and operation of the Citizen Service Centres (KEPs), one-stop shops aiming to simplify access to government services for Greek citizens, and the creation and running of Diazoma.

Mr Benos is a licensed topographical engineer.



Marius Dragomir is the Director of the Center for Media, Data and Society (CMDS) at Hungary's Central European University. Dragomir has spent the past decade in the field of media research, specialising in media and communication regulation, digital media, governing structures of public service media and broadcasting, spectrum management, and ownership regulation.

Dragomir started his career as a journalist some 25 years ago in his native Romania. He co-founded Mediapowermonitor.com, a community of experts in media policy. At CMDS, Dragomir launched the Media Influence Matrix Project to investigate the influence that rapid shifts in policy, sources of funding and technology companies in the public sphere have on journalism today.



Isabel Caño Aguilar is EESC Vice-President for communication.

A member of the General Union of Workers (UGT), she is head of its office in Brussels and has been on the team of the Confederal Secretariat for International Policy since 1993. She is in charge of monitoring European and trade union policy and bilateral relations with other trade unions and social organisations.

She has been a full member of the EESC since 21 September 2010, working on topics such as rural development, the environment, sustainable development, education, training, energy, public health and the information society.

She has also represented the EESC in delegations to the climate change conferences held in Warsaw, Lima, Paris, Marrakesh and Bonn (2013-2017) and to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2016 and 2017).



Amra Ducic is a press officer at Austria's federal Chancellery. She is responsible for the strategic planning of social media content.

Prior to that she worked as a marketing and social media manager at the Österreich Institut in Sarajevo (2017), as a press officer at Austria's Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (2014-2016) and as an editor at Austrian magazine Biber Verlagsgesellschaft (2012-2014).

Amra holds a Master's Degree in Journalism and Communication from the University of Vienna.



Matroni Dikaiakou has worked for the Greek media for the past 20 odd years, covering international news for the Sunday edition of the daily *Eleftherotypia* and subsequently for ERT, Greece's public radio and television service.

Since 2005 she has been on the team of Hellenic Parliament TV. While contributing mainly EU news, since 2007 she has also been producing and presenting three different shows: *Karta Melous* (Member's Pass), *Diavoulefsis* (Consultations) and *Tetradia Koinovouleftikou Loghou* (Notebooks of Parliamentary speech).

She holds a degree in English Literature from the University of Athens and a master's degree in International Journalism from City University, London.



Paula Guisado is a data and investigative journalist at the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*. As a data journalist, she works on a wide range of topics including politics, election data, education and gender issues.

Since 2016, she has coordinated *El Mundo's* work in the European Investigative Collaborations (EIC) network. With this European media association she has developed investigative projects such as *The Weapons of Terror*, about illegal arms traffic and how weapons from eastern Europe fall into the hands of terrorists; *The Malta Files*, a research project on how the country is a tax haven inside the European Union; or *Football Leaks*, a series showing the dark side of the football business.

After working as a journalist in Brussels, covering a variety of European topics, she specialised in data and investigative journalism, doing the first master's course of this kind in Spain thanks to a Google grant. She has taught data journalism on that course and others.



Luca Jahier is President of the EESC. He has been a member since 2002. He was President of its third group (formerly "Various Interests", now "Diversity Europe") from 2011 to 2018.

In the EESC, Mr Jahier has worked extensively on the European Union's social and cohesion policies and on international affairs.

In his home country, Italy, he was President of the national council of the Christian Association of Italian Workers (ACLI), which promotes services, businesses and ad hoc projects that create employment and get people involved in a community's social life (2008-2012). He was also a founding member of the Third Sector Forum and President of the federation of development cooperation NGOs (FOCSIV) from 1994 to 2000.

An expert on associations for social advancement and the third sector, he has been in charge of development programmes in Africa and elsewhere, as well as of international cooperation, first in Italy and then with networks of national and European NGOs (1980-2000). Early on in his career Mr Jahier also worked as a journalist and international political analyst.



Georgios Katrougalos is Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs, responsible for European Affairs and International Economic Relations. He is also professor of public and constitutional law at Thrace Democritus University.

He served as Minister of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity until November 2016, and previously as Alternate Minister of the Interior and Administrative Reconstruction. He was an MEP from May 2014 to January 2015.

In 2000 – 2003 he was on the committee of experts advising the Greek government on the drafting of a European Constitution. He was also legal advisor to the Albanian Parliament on the drafting of the Albanian Constitution (1998-1999) and constitutional expert in many institution-building projects in Uzbekistan, Armenia, Syria and the Balkans.

He has been visiting professor and scholar as well as guest lecturer at several universities in Europe, the USA, Latin America and Asia.

He has published extensively in Greek, American and European legal reviews.

Mr Katrougalos studied law at the University of Athens and at the Sorbonne.



Violeta Jelić has been General Secretary of the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts since 2012 and a Member of the EESC since 2013, serving as Vice-President of the EESC's Employers' Group since 2015.

Ms Jelić sits on the EESC's Employers' Group Bureau and on three permanent EESC thematic sections: on the Single Market, Production and Consumption, on Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion, and on Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment. She is also part of the EESC's SMEs, Professions and Crafts Category. She is a member of the Joint Consultative Committee for Montenegro's accession to the EU and is President of the EESC's Single Market Observatory.



Jolanta Kurska is President of the Bronisław Geremek Foundation in Warsaw. She has a doctorate in political science and communication and information science, and is a lecturer in the journalism department of the Political Science Faculty at Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (Poland).

She is the author of *Mémoires croisées: Bernard Kouchner et Adam Michnik* [Crossed Memories: Bernard Kouchner and Adam Michnik] (Paris, Allary Éditions, 2014), which has also been published in Polish under the title *Rozmowy w Awinionie* [Conversations in Avignon] (Warsaw, Agora, 2014). She writes articles and opinion pieces for the daily newspapers *Gazeta Wyborcza* in Poland and *Ouest-France* in France, as well as for the Collège de France's journal, *La vie des idées*, and the journal of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), *Hermès*.



Boris Kálnoky, born 1961, writes for influential media in all German-speaking countries - *Die Welt*, *Cicero* and *Deutsche Welle* in Germany, *Die Presse* and *Kleine Zeitung* in Austria, and *Weltwoche* in Switzerland. After working as a sub-editor at *Die Welt* (1989-1993), he became a foreign correspondent, based first in Hungary (1993-2004) and then Turkey (2005-2013), before returning to Hungary, where he has been based since 2013.

He regularly comments on central European politics on German TV.



Anna-Lena Lodenius is a well-respected freelancer and investigative journalist with more than 30 years' experience. Based in Stockholm, she has written fifteen non-fiction books and a variety of articles in various publications and magazines. She also works with TV and radio. Her main topics are racism, xenophobia, radical right-wing populism and neofascism. Her latest book has a chapter on left-wing extremism in the Greek "17 November" Movement.

For one of her first books she cooperated with Stieg Larsson, later known for the Millennium saga. Anna-Lena Lodenius is often consulted as an expert in media to provide comments on political violence, radical right-wing parties and anti-migration movements. She has also been involved in information projects about different aspects of globalisation and human rights e.g. HIV/AIDS, terrorism, migration, decent work etc.





Sébastien Maillard is currently Director of the Jacques Delors Institute. A former journalist at *La Croix*, he covered Emmanuel Macron's campaign for that daily, for which he had previously been the Brussels and then the Rome correspondent, besides authoring numerous news reports across the continent.

A specialist in European affairs, he has taught at Sciences Po in Paris and at Boston College. He has also been involved in various activities for Europe (EuropaNova, Comece, Robert Schuman House), and has written *What have we made of Europe?* (published by Salvator, 2013). He is co-author of *Faire l'Europe dans un monde de brutes* with Jacques Delors Institute President Enrico Letta, published in September 2018.

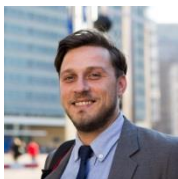


George Markopoulitis was born in Athens in 1960. A mathematician and statistician by training, he began working for the European Commission in 1987. In the course of his career he has worked in the areas of Regional Policy, Maritime Affairs, Fishing and Communication and has held a number of high level posts, including in the Cabinets of several Commissioners (member and Head of Cabinet). He took up office as Head of the European Commission Representation in Greece on 1 February 2018, a post he also held from 2001 to 2006. Between March 2012 and January 2018 he served as Head of the Representation in Cyprus.



Arno Metzler has been a Member of the EESC since 2002. Representing the German liberal professions, he has been instrumental in setting up a specific grouping within the EESC - the 'Liberal Professions' Category - to represent the views of these professionals in Europe.

Mr. Metzler is President of the EESC's third group, now known as the 'Diversity Europe' Group. Combatting prejudice and populism and promoting diversity through responsibility, diversity and education are among the priorities of his mandate. He has been a practicing lawyer in Berlin since 1982. He has also held a number of management positions in several German organisations and worked in various fields related to social policy, tax regulations, public procurement and workers' protection.



Sarantis Michalopoulos has been a journalist for EURACTIV.com since 2014. He has written extensively on EU affairs in English and Greek, with a particular focus on agriculture and food as well as health issues. Before relocating to Brussels, he was a EURACTIV Greece reporter covering the economic and migration crises.

Before that, he was a civil society activist for many years. He was a member of Young European Federalists Europe as well as the National Youth Council of Greece.

Lorenzo Pregliasco is co-founder of the Italy-based political analysis and polling firm Quorum and digital magazine *YouTrend*.

An adjunct professor at the School of Political Science of the University of Bologna, he is also a lecturer at the Scuola Holden, the Rome Business School and other organisations.

He is a regular contributor to TV and radio talk shows and a columnist for *L'Espresso*. He is also the author of *Il crollo* (The Downfall) - 2013 and *Una nuova Italia. Dalla comunicazione ai risultati, un'analisi delle elezioni del 4 marzo* (A New Italy - From Communication to Results, an Analysis of the 14 March Election) - 2018).



Adam Rogalewski is a Member of the European Economic and Social Committee. He represents the Polish Confederation of Trade Unions OPZZ, which he joined in 2008, in European and Polish bodies and is a deputy member of the European Trade Union Confederation.

He has also worked for British trade union Unison and the Swiss trade union Unia.

Rogalewski has been very active in promoting LGBT rights in his native Poland. He was an initiator of the first conference on LGBT workers' rights in Central and Eastern Europe, organised by OPZZ in 2010.

Adam Rogalewski holds a Law degree from Cracow's Jagiellonian University. He is a doctoral student at the London Metropolitan University. His research thesis focuses on trade union policies for the integration of Polish migrants into British and Swiss trade unions.



Tuba Sarica is a political blogger and author of the bestselling book *Ihr Scheinheiligen - Doppelmoral und falsche Toleranz. Die Parallelwelt der Deutschtürken und die Deutschen* (You hypocrites - double standards and false tolerance. The parallel world of German Turks and Germans).

Her main interest is Germany's Turkish community, which she criticises for its unwillingness to become part of German society. She argues that a long-term solution would be to speak openly about the problems the Muslim community has to face to become a modern community, because blaming German and western society for being racist is not helping the situation. In her writings, she includes her own personal experiences as a child of Turkish migrant workers.

Sarica holds a bachelor's degree in media culture studies and German literature.



Christina Siganiđou is a Greek journalist who has been working at the Thessaloniki-based public TV channel ERT3 for the past 24 years. She has been presenting European stories since 2005, covering many European Councils in Brussels and European Parliament plenaries in Strasbourg. In 2013, when Samaras' right-wing government shut down ERT, she was among the 70 employees who continued working at ERT3, broadcasting news bulletins via the web for two consecutive years. She has also been presenting the cultural weekly magazine *Allert3*. For the last two years, she has been hosting the programme from abroad, focusing on Central and Western Europe (2017) and South-Eastern Europe in 2018, covering travel, human stories, history, great museum collections and social trends. She holds a law degree from Aristotle University in Thessaloniki and a master's degree in sociology of information and communication from Paris VIII.



Zuzana Številová is a lawyer and director of the Human Rights League in Slovakia. She specialises in the human rights of refugees and migrants and their integration and inclusion. In her work she focuses on raising awareness of human rights among the general public in Slovakia. She regularly comments and publishes opinion pieces on human rights in Slovak newspapers, comments on TV and other media and speaks at public discussions and events. In spring 2018, she was actively involved in protests in Slovakia in reaction to the murder of journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée. In 2016, she received the International Women of Courage Award from US President Barack Obama's administration for her courage in speaking out publicly and defending refugees' human rights in Slovakia.



Barbara Tóth is a senior editor at Vienna's left-liberal paper *Falter*, where she has managed the political department since 2013 and the urban and rural life department since October 2015. She has worked as a journalist for the past 20 years, first as a freelance writer for the Austrian news magazine *Profil*, then as an editor at the Austrian weekly *Format*, a contributor to *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung's* Berlin pages (2000 to 2004) and later as national news editor of the Austrian daily *Der Standard*. Tóth specialises in Austrian current affairs, party history, new social movements and feminism, Austrian politics, especially election campaigns, political systems, media politics and right-wing populism. Born in Vienna to Czech and Hungarian parents, Tóth also teaches journalism at Vienna's University of Applied Sciences.



George A. Vernicos is the President of Greece's Economic and Social Council. He is also general secretary of the Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE), honorary President of the Hellenic Professional Yacht Owners Association (HPYOA) and a member of the board of the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping (NEE). He served for a short time as Deputy Minister of Marine Affairs and as a member of Athens' city council. He is chairman of VERNICOS YACHTS, a leading yachting company in Greece active in sales and crewed yacht charters. George Vernicos belongs to several organisations working towards Greece's financial, cultural and social recovery and the defence of Greek citizens' rights. He studied economics at the University of Athens and the University of London.



Andrej Zaslove is assistant Professor of Comparative Politics in the Department of Political Science at Radboud University, in Nijmegen, Netherlands. Dr. Zaslove holds a PhD (2004) from York University, Toronto, Canada. He conducts research in the field of comparative politics, political parties and populism. He has contributed to many scholarly publications on populism, including *The Oxford Handbook of Populism* (2017), and has published a single authored book, entitled *The re-invention of the European radical right: populism, regionalism, and the Italian Lega Nord* (McGill-Queen's University Press).



Edit Zgut works as a freelance foreign policy analyst and a PhD researcher at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology in the Polish Academy of Sciences. Previously (2015-2018), she was a researcher at Hungary's Political Capital Research and Consulting Institute, where she worked on topics such as cooperation in the Visegrad group, illiberalism in central and eastern Europe, European integration and Russian influence. She also coordinated research projects to give people a better understanding of the benefits of the EU. Since 2016 she has also been a visiting lecturer at Péter Pázmány Catholic University in Hungary. Between 2010 and 2015 she worked as an editor and journalist for various Hungarian media outlets, such as weekly magazine *Heti Válasz*. Edit holds a master's degree in political science from Hungary's Eötvös Loránd University and a degree from the Bálint György Journalist Academy.

