



#allworkerscount

#publicserviceswork

#closingthegap

The new term for the European Parliament means an opportunity to change course by building a different economic, social and more democratic Europe. Now undermined and under constant pressure and threat, Europe's social systems were once held in high regard. Purely austerity-driven policies have meant public spending cuts and unemployment soaring, inflicting misery on citizens, whether employed or not, in particular on Europe's youth. Relentless competitiveness results in working conditions and pay deteriorating, while social protection has become under severe strain. Rising poverty and inequality threaten the EU's future, and while workers' representation is more needed than ever, social dialogue and the rights of trade unions have been dismantled.

For 2014, CESI's priorities are on ensuring all workers count, letting public services work and focusing on closing the gap.

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#1

Ensuring Trade Union Pluralism

What?

Trade union pluralism gives a voice to **all workers**, regardless of political affiliation or profession.

Why?

Without trade union pluralism, millions of workers in Europe are **not represented** and **left without a voice**. Trade union pluralism is an essential element of democracy and freedom, especially of the freedom of association. CESI ensures that all workers can have a voice, because all workers count.

How?

To achieve trade union pluralism, CESI stands for being a **fully recognised sectoral social partner** in all areas and professionals where it represents workers. The European Institutions, bodies, stakeholders and social partners must fully recognise the support and expertise offered by CESI.

What?

Discrimination rears its ugly head in many forms in Europe: the **gender pay gap**, **precarious work**, **in-work poverty**...The list goes on and on.

Why?

Without trade unions promoting gender equality, fighting against precarious work and in-work poverty little progress would be made to reduce discrimination in the workplace. Progress needs to continue because **all workers count**.

How?

To ensure the voice of those discriminated against are heard loud and clearly, CESI stands for:

- Promoting women in leading positions, by **dismantling structural career obstacles** and implementing an equal pay principle;
- Supporting the **free movement of workers** which is social, fair and just, and ensuring the promotion, monitoring and support of equal treatment of Union workers through the Directives in place;
- Building on the work of CESI Youth to ensure quality jobs and to put an **end to precarious work, especially for young people**.

#2

Fighting discrimination in the workplace

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#3

Protecting Services of General Interest

What?

Services of General Interest (SIG) guarantee a framework for sound economic and financial development, while setting the frame for wealth, democracy, the rule of law and non-discrimination. CESI holds strong belief in the efficiency, impartiality and ethical principles that apply when public administrations deliver services of general interest.

Why?

So far, the EU has been building a single market with an over-emphasis on competition. SIGs need **protection from unilateral deregulation, liberalisation and privatisation.**

How?

SIGs need a high level of quality, safety and affordability, equal treatment and the promotion of universal access and of user rights. To ensure this, CESI stands for:

- A **stakeholders group** promoting good practices for applying these values by public authorities and to highlight the advantages of services of general interest delivered by public entities.
- Continuing the work of the **Public Services Intergroup in the European Parliament**. MEPs need this forum to discuss proposals with consequences on SIGs.

What?

Tax fraud and tax evasions costs up to € 1 trillion in Europe. With **less money in the public purse**, citizens pay a high price for those escaping the social contract on which society is built.

Why?

Europe's social models need sustainable public expenditure and sufficient revenue. To achieve this, **tax systems must work properly.**

How?

Staff in tax administration collect the resources needed to implement economic and social policies. To protect this, CESI stands for:

- Better **tax administration cooperation** across Europe, with transparent tax systems that are easy to understand;
- **Fighting a short-termist budgetary vision** which cuts tax administration staff numbers;
- **Improving VAT reforms** by recognising the need for exemptions which contribute to citizens' well-being, such as exemptions on public services.

#4

Fighting tax fraud and evasion with resources and political will

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#5

Securing a genuine social dimension

What?

Insufficient attention has been paid to Europe's social dimension. The European Social Model has been at best neglected, at worst dismantled. This has led to a situation where **Europe's policies do not take notice of the social impact** or the human factor. Europe is fast becoming a cold, economic project.

Why?

The crisis has seen EU Member States undergoing intense economic and fiscal reforms. The social impact of the crisis has been devastating. **Social rebalance and a strong social agenda** are crucial to sustainably overcoming the crisis.

How?

In order to secure a genuine social dimension, CESI stands for:

- Including social partners in an **open and democratic European Semester**
- **Setting minimum wage rates** across the EU through upward convergence;
- Monitoring **social developments which impact on and lead economic policy direction**, not economic developments which impact on and lead social policy direction, and ensuring the full respect of fundamental social rights in economic policy.

What?

Information and consultation is not only a **fundamental right of workers** but also a means of enhancing trust and securing better anticipation of change. The needs and expectations of employees can fit side by side with those of employers when information and consultation is applied in this way.

Why?

The crisis saw the abandonment of these important values. **Imposed reforms are unsustainable** and will not succeed without genuine information and consultation.

How?

To prevent further restructuring without information and consultation, especially within the public sector, CESI stands for:

- **Granting public sector employees full information and consultation rights** when merging the three directives dealing with those right (REFIT);
- **Guaranteeing trade unions that they are properly consulted** prior to any restructuring, including those occurring within the framework of the so-called bailouts.

#6

Full and effective information and consultation

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