

**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

DIRECTORATE GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

*DEPARTMENT OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER*

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

20 September 2017

PECS (2017)10

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL COHESION PLATFORM  
(PECS)**

**2nd meeting  
Strasbourg, 19 – 20 September 2017**

*Council of Europe, Agora Building, room G 03*

**LIST OF DECISIONS**

## **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

*The Platform took note of the information presented by the Head of the Department of the European Social Charter.*

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS**

*The Platform adopted the agenda as it appears in document PECS(2017)OJ2 and the order of business.*

## **3. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND THE VICE-CHAIR**

*The Platform elected Ms Rita SKREBIŠKIENĖ (Lithuania) as Chair of the PECS and Mr Joseph GERADA (Malta) as Vice-Chair for a one year term.*

## **4. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING**

*The Platform took note of the information on developments in the field of social cohesion / social rights since its previous plenary meeting within the Council of Europe and in member States.*

## **5. WORKING PROGRAMME 2016-2017**

*The Platform:*

- *welcomed the reports by the Rapporteur of each of its three working groups;*
- *decided on the follow-up to the work of the working groups in order to finalise the mandate 2016-2017 of the Platform;*
- *following the discussion on the prospective study and the exchange with the consultant, agreed that a detailed outline of the study will be submitted in writing by the Consultant to the Platform, by 30 October 2017.*

## **6. OPINION ON PACE'S RECOMMENDATION 2112 (2007)**

*The Platform took note of PACE's Recommendation 2112 (2017) and agreed on comments as they appear in document PECS(2017)11.*

## **7. QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO THE PLATFORM WORKING PROGRAMME**

*The Platform took note of the presentation by:*

- *Ms Eliane Chemla, General Rapporteur, European Committee of Social Rights, on 'Article 30 of the European Social Charter - The right to protection against poverty and social exclusion'*
- *Mr Marc de Basquiat, Economist, President of the Association pour l'Instauration d'un Revenu d'Existence (AIRE), on 'Citizenship income'*
- *Mr Samuel Thirion, Secretary General, TOGETHER Network, on 'The SPIRAL approach of the TOGETHER Network - application of the strategy of social cohesion in the territories as a response to the negative effects of the economic crisis'*
- *Mr Jean-Marie Standaert, EU Liaison Officer, European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA), on 'Food Banks'*

- Ms Aiste Ramanauskaite, Secretary to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), on 'PACE's recent relevant achievements'

which were related to its third working priority "The impact of the economic crisis on health and social protection, in particular combating poverty and social exclusion, and the fact that these may foster violent radicalisation" and exchanged views on these issues.

## 8. PROGRAMME 2018-2019

The Platform took note of its Draft Terms of Reference for 2018-2019 and agreed on:

- proposing the following addition under 'Main Tasks', paragraph (i): "ensure the mainstreaming of social cohesion throughout the Council of Europe by further developing the concept, by contributing to impact assessments of the various activities in the different sectors with regard to achieving social cohesion, including the relevant activities aimed at building inclusive societies, **considering the role of the middle class**,[...] ";
- suggesting the establishment of a Bureau to facilitate the smooth running of its mandate, as only one meeting per year is foreseen in this Draft Terms of Reference.

## 9. COOPERATION

### 9.1 Exchange of views with the Representatives/Secretariat of the Council of Europe's Bodies and Committees

The Platform exchanged views with representatives of Council of Europe's bodies and committees in order to find concrete ways of implementing its mandate and agreed to:

- expand WG1 on Mainstreaming, and called for an increased voluntary participation of PECS' members in it;
- strengthen cooperation with the Secretariat of Council of Europe's bodies and committees, including by exchanging significant information/documents, in particular in view of assessing the impact of the activities, and participating in relevant events.

### 9.2 Exchange of views with Observer States, other International Institutions, NGOs and Neighbouring Countries

The Platform:

- welcomed the interventions by the representatives of the Holy See, FRA, OSCE, UNHCR, NGOs and Morocco;
- exchanged views with the aim of a more effective collaboration;
- reached the agreement to exchange relevant information and to consider the best way to further strengthening cooperation.

## 10. REPRESENTATION OF PECS AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

The Platform nominated:

- Mr Ingus Alliks (Latvia) to attend and represent the Platform at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights (Riga, Latvia, 26 September 2017);

- *The Chair (if not available, the Vice-Chair) to attend and represent the Platform at the Seminar on the European Social Charter (Ulyanovsk, Russian Federation, 25-26 October 2017);*
- *Ms Petia Moeva (Bulgaria) to attend and represent the Platform at the meetings of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF);*
- *Mr Riccardo Venturini (San Marino) to attend and represent the Platform at the meetings of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM).*

## **11. WORKING METHODS AND CALENDAR**

*The Platform discussed the working methods with the view of finalizing the implementation of its working programme 2016-2017 and took the following decisions - with related calendar:*

- *all proposals/amendments relating to working documents<sup>1</sup>, in particular the Reports by the Working Groups' Rapporteurs should be sent to the Secretariat by 30 September;*
- *the questionnaire on good practices and innovative approaches will be sent again in order to give the possibility to send completed replies by 15 October;*
- *the questions on 'New trends and challenges' will be sent to all the members of the Platform to reply by 15 October;*
- *once the PECS' Terms of Reference 2018-2019 are adopted, some good practices and innovative approaches identified through the questionnaire will be selected for further work and be translated, if needed, in the other official language.*

## **12. EUROPEAN SOCIAL COHESION PLATFORM NEWSLETTER**

*The Platform took note of the developments relating to the Newsletter and the participants agreed to disseminate the Newsletter around them.*

## **13. EUROPEAN SOCIAL COHESION PLATFORM WEBPAGE**

*The Platform took note of the presentation of the PECS Webpage and the film of the European Social Charter and agreed to send possible suggestions for improvement to the Secretariat.*

## **14. OTHER BUSINESS**

*No other business.*

## **15. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT PECS MEETING**

*The Platform decided to held its third meeting **on 3 and 4 May 2018 in Strasbourg**, provided that its Terms of Reference 2018-2019 are adopted by the Committee of Ministers.*

## **16. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS**

*The Platform adopted the list of decisions as they appear in document PECS(2017)10.*

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<sup>1</sup> All PECS' documents can be downloaded on [CoeECloud](#) or [Zip format](#)