

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER - INFORMATION SESSION

DATE: 7 SEPTEMBER 2026

VENUE: ROOM 3, PALAIS DE L'EUROPE, STRASBOURG

PROGRAMME

14:15-14:30 Welcoming coffee

Chair: **Mr Rafael BENITEZ**, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment

14:30- 14:37 Opening remarks

- **Mr André HASPELS**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe
- **Mr António ALVES MACHADO**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe

14:37– 14:52 Session 1: Introduction to The European Social Charter System and the Reporting Procedure

This interactive session will provide insides to the system of the European Social Charter. It will explain the revised reporting mechanism including the new reporting cycle, targeted questions and follow-up processes.

- **Ms Tatiana PUIU**, Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights

14:52-15:05 Session 2: The Collective Complaints Mechanism

This interactive session will explain the collective complaints procedure as a good governance tool for member States.

- **Mr George THEODOSIS**, Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights

15:05-15:20 Question & Answers, Discussions

15:20-15:32 Session 3: Key Issues in the European Charter System

In this interactive session, participants will learn about current developments in the European Social Charter system, including: the outcomes and follow-up to the Chişinău Conference, the ongoing implementation of the reforms adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2022–2023 ((CM(2022)114-final); (CM/Del/Dec(2023)1460/4.1)), and the contribution of the European Social Charter system to the New Democratic Pact.

- **Ms Aoife NOLAN**, President of the European Committee of Social Rights

15:32-15:47 Question & Answers, Discussions

15:47-15:55 The Role of the GR-SOC and Closing Remarks

- **Mr Nicolas SIGALAS**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Greece to the Council of Europe, President of the GR-SOC