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## **CEEP Water Task Force: CEEP response to the EC public consultation on Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive**

Dear members of the Water Task Force,

As indicated in past communications (messages to the Task Force on 24/07 and on 27/09) the European Commission is currently conducting an open consultation on the Evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. You can find the consultation [here](#), with a deadline on 19<sup>th</sup> October. As several of you are closely following this file, we believe it would be wise to prepare a CEEP joint response to this consultation, coming on top of your respective ones.

As Dieter Staat (Vewin and Unie van Waterschappen) has proposed his help to put together a joint CEEP response, I would appreciate if those of you planning to respond to the consultation, and who would be interested in contributing to a joint CEEP response, could share with me their responses to the consultation, in order to see if there are joint messages we could highlight in this context.

Seen the deadline for the consultation on 19<sup>th</sup> October, I would appreciate to collect all your inputs by next Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, in order to bring it altogether early in the week of 15-19<sup>th</sup> October and get the approval of the Task Force before submitting the CEEP response in due time.

**Maxime STAELENS**, Communication Officer  
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## Draft CEEP response to the Public Consultation “Essential public services–allowing small–scale government subsidies”

Dear members of the CEEP Public Services Board,

Please find with [this link](#) access to a **very first draft reply** to the European Commission’s Public Consultation entitled “**Essential public services – allowing small-scale government subsidies**”. This draft response is intended to be adopted at the level of CEEP Public Services Board by written procedure, i.e. in the course of the next two weeks. Once adopted, it will feed into the results of the Public Consultation and the general public debate on the issue.

Please note that this draft response is yet to be reviewed and possibly amended by the Chair of the CEEP Internal Market Task Force Juan Pedro Marin Arrese. However, it is circulated to you today for the sake of respecting both the two-weeks long written procedure of CEEP and the timeline defined by the European Commission, the deadline for answering this consultation being namely set on Friday 19 October 2018.

You are all encouraged to contribute your reactions and comments in the coming days but by no means later than **Friday 19 October, noon**. Please feel free to contact CEEP Policy Officer [Alexis Le Coutour](#) in this regard, who handled the drafting process and will take good care of a timely submission to the European Commission’s services.

Thanking you in advance for your contributions,

Kind regards,

**Alexis LE COUTOUR**, Policy Officer  
[alexis.lecoutour@ceep.eu](mailto:alexis.lecoutour@ceep.eu) / Dir Tel: + 32 (0)2 229 21 43

## CEEP Public Services Board Plenary Session on October 23rd: Draft Agenda and Invitation

Dear members of the CEEP Public Services Board,

On behalf of Thierry Durnerin, Chair of the CEEP Public Services Board (PSB) Task Force, I am glad to remind you herewith of the **next PSB session**, which is scheduled to take place in three weeks time, on **Tuesday, October 23rd, from 9:45 to 15:30**, at CEEP premises (rue des Deux Eglises 26, Bruxelles).

Please find herewith access to the meeting’s **Draft Agenda** and to the corresponding **official invitation** from CEEP General Secretary Valeria Ronzitti. Registration is possible by sending back the form attached to the official invitation, once filled in and signed, to me ([alexis.lecoutour@ceep.eu](mailto:alexis.lecoutour@ceep.eu)) **by Monday, October 22nd, noon, at the latest**.

All relevant meeting documents will be communicated to you in the coming weeks. However, you may already note that **Mr Stefan Ciobanu, Head of Unit “Fiscal Governance” (DG ECFIN, European Commission)** will attend the meeting for an exchange of views with CEEP members dealing with the European Commission’s ongoing work on management of state assets.

I remain at your disposal, should you have any further question or remark and look forward welcoming you at the upcoming CEEP meetings.

Best regards,

**Alexis LE COUTOUR**, Policy Officer  
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## CEEP Sustainability Board: Meeting of 24 October 2018 – Draft Agenda and Invitation

Dear members of the CEEP Sustainability Board,

In agreement with Mr Moncomble, Chair of the CEEP Sustainability Board, it is my pleasure to circulate to you the invitation to **the next CEEP Sustainability Board meeting, which will take place on 24 October 2018, from 10.00 to 13.00, at CEEP offices in Brussels**. The meeting will be held the day following the meeting of the Public Services Board, and we look forward to welcoming you all to both of those meetings.

Please find hereafter the [official invitation](#) as well as the [meeting's draft agenda](#). As the latter indicates, the meeting will have a dual focus: On the one hand, it will intend to further present the work currently underway on the PSI Directive (Directive on the Reuse of Public Sector Information), providing an update on the legislative state of play and identifying future lobbying actions. On the other hand, the meeting will allow a preliminary discussion on the main priorities to be featured in an upcoming "CEEP Opinion on Sustainability and the role of SGI in the sustainable transition (Infrastructures, Inclusion, Resilience)".

For logistical reasons, please inform us about your participation by next week Monday, 21 October 2018 at the latest. Thank you in advance.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Kind regards,

**Maxime STAELENS**, Communication Officer  
[maxime.staelens@ceep.eu](mailto:maxime.staelens@ceep.eu) / Dir Tel: + 32 (0)2 229 21 40

## CEEP Newsflash – 5 October 2018

### Negotiations of the EU Social Partner's work programme 2019-2021

The European social partners, together with their members, will meet on the 12 October 2018 for what they believe should be the last meeting of their negotiations for a new work programme. In terms of recent developments, the European employers' organisations committed on the 26 of September to include in the future work programme the negotiation of a new autonomous framework agreement on the issue of digitalisation. CEEP validated this approach on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September during the last meeting of its Social Affairs Board. During the meeting, the key focus for public services' employers was clearly to address skills mismatches on the labour market whilst ensuring employability for the workers in a constantly changing technological environment. A consensus rose between CEEP members that a broad perspective is necessary to address the issue of digitalisation, as it may include a wide range of topics such as innovation, H&S, education and training, restructuring... In this context, CEEP strongly believes in the potential of social dialogue to strike compromises and design then instruments fitting both employers and workers' needs. European social partners should therefore in the future provide all the support possible for their members at national level in facing these new challenges. For the meeting on the 12 October, CEEP will be represented by Ms Jeanette Grenfors, Mr Armin Augat and Ms Elvira Gentile, who will work to ensure we reach a smooth compromise which is fully in line with CEEP's mandate of negotiation approved in April 2018 by CEEP's bodies.

Should you wish to receive more information about the project, do not hesitate to contact [Guillaume Afellat](#), Policy Advisor Social Affairs.

### CEEP raises awareness on CETA's need and challenges for small-size public services providers at the EESC

On 4 October, CEEP General Secretary Valeria Ronzitti took part in a debate organised by the employers' representatives to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) aiming at reflecting on the specific opportunities of the [Comprehensive](#)

[Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada](#), or CETA, for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). Representatives from several other relevant stakeholders attended and participated in the meeting, including for the Canadian side, members of the [Canadian Federation of Independent Business](#). This debate is to be seen against the background of the [first anniversary](#) of CETA's [provisional enter into force](#), as CETA's first effects are already perceptible in EU societies and economies, including public services and SGI providers.

The position of SGI providers within their local socio-economic landscape, in direct contact with EU citizens in most aspects of their daily life, leads them to adopt a specific approach on trade, making their input particularly meaningful. On the other hand, whilst SGI providers may be slightly less reliant on trade than other "classical" private sector undertakings, the services they provide on a daily basis are paramount to the economy and to trade since, for instance, every company relies on water and energy supply to produce goods and services, on public health and welfare state provision to have a healthy workforce available, etc. This has already been recognised by the European Commission, which provided CEEP with a seat in several bodies involved in the management and observation of CETA's implementation, such as the [EU-Canada Domestic Advisory Group](#) or the [EU-Canada Civil Society Forum](#).

CEEP emphasized several elements, inter alia stressing the similar situations of SMEs and public services' providers, as a considerable number of small-size SGI providers face similar challenges as those faced by "classical" private-sector SMEs (e.g. in terms of structure and financial or staff-related resources) despite being denied the legal, financial and administrative status granted to "normal" SMEs. CEEP thus mentioned the added-value of tools specifically dedicated to addressing the needs of (small-sized) SGI providers (drawing a comparison with [appeals](#) from the so-called CETA Joint Committee on SMEs to establish so-called SME contact points on either side of the Atlantic to provide information, technical assistance, support "the efforts of other bodies under CETA to integrate SME-related considerations in their work").

Alexis Le Coutour, CEEP Policy Officer Public Services ([alexis.lecoutour@ceep.eu](mailto:alexis.lecoutour@ceep.eu)) remains at your disposal for any further question on this topic.

### **Drinking Water Directive: final effort ahead of the vote of the European Parliament on 22-25 October**

On 1<sup>st</sup> October, the European Parliament (EP) has officially published the report on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast), following the vote of the Environment Committee (ENVI) of the European Parliament (EP) on 10 September. [You can find the report here.](#)

This publication paved the way for the final stretch of activities for CEEP members active in the water sector, ahead of the vote by the EP on the 22-25 October plenary session. Building up on the work done during the preparation of the Dantin report, as well as during the summer on the compromise amendments ahead of the ENVI vote in September, CEEP Water Task Force is currently preparing some key voting recommendations for the plenary. Restating key messages validated by the Task Force in May 2018, our intention is now to make sure that the plenary will understand our points and turn down some of the proposals approved by narrow majorities during the ENVI vote.

In case you wish to receive more information on this topic, please contact Maxime Staelens ([maxime.staelens@ceep.eu](mailto:maxime.staelens@ceep.eu)) at CEEP General Secretariat.

### **CEDEFOP's project 'Building a Complementary Pathway for Adult Refugees with the use of VET, Skills and Qualification'**

CEEP participated last Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October in CEDEFOP's (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) first technical advisory group meeting, that was held in Brussels in the framework of the project 'Building a Complementary Pathway for Adult Refugees with the use of VET, Skills and Qualification'.

CEDEFOP's preliminary research on the potential and the key elements of legal pathway mechanisms for refugees, based on vocational education and training (VET), skills and qualifications, was presented. This study aims to enhance the design and piloting of a VET, skills and qualifications based legal pathway mechanism that could be applied to support:

- mobility of persons in need of or granted some form of international protection in the EU;
- additional legal access to the EU to persons in need of international protection located in third countries.

The aim of the meeting was to identify whose mobility should be promoted on the basis of VET, skills and qualifications: asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection within the EU and/or refugees from third countries. The pros and cons of VET, and skills based complementary pathways, both in general and given the current policy context were also discussed at the meeting.

Additionally, a number of key strategic aspects in designing a VET and skills supported complementary pathway were deliberated during the discussions. The meeting concluded with a debate about the essential features the pathway needs to have to gain the support of social partners and about the potential role of social partners in piloting the pathway.

Should you wish to receive more information about the project, do not hesitate to contact CEEP Project Officer [Carlotta Astori](#).