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## 2017 European Semester – Country–Specific Recommendations

**Communication sent to CEEP UK from Kyle Galler, European Commission (22/5/2017):**

Today the Commission adopted its Recommendation for Country-Specific Recommendations to the Member States.

Explanatory materials and the full text of the Recommendations addressed to the UK are attached.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you wish to discuss any aspects of these documents – I would very much welcome feedback on the texts.

[2017-european-semester-country-specific-recommendations-commission-recommendations - United-kingdom-en \(2\)](#)

[Communication - 2017 European Semester - Country-specific recommendations](#)

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[Policy-areas-in-CSRs-2017](#)

[Press Release\\_EN](#)

# Invitation to CEEP Public Services Summit

## Communication sent to CEEP Members (1/6/2017):

On behalf of CEEP General Secretary Valeria Ronzitti, I would like to invite you to attend the third edition of the Public Services Summit on 28 June 2017 in the SQUARE (Mont des Arts, Brussels).

The event will bring together social partners, policy-makers, academics and actors of the economy to discuss the future of Europe, the challenges ahead and the place of public services in it. In this context, we will receive high-level speakers such as **Donald Tusk**, EU Council President, **Valdis Dombrovskis**, Commission Vice-President for Social Dialogue and the Euro, **Wilhelm Molterer**, Managing Director of EFSI (European Fund for Strategic Investments) and **Klaus Welle**, General Secretary of the European Parliament. The agenda is currently being finalized, and you can consult it [here](#).

We intend to give as much room as possible to the discussions with the audience and engage in high-level debates between panelists and participants. I hope many of you will be able to join us and take part in the discussions on 28 June. You can register directly by using [the following form](#).

If you have any question on the event, please contact my colleague Maxime Staelens ([maxime.staelens@ceep.eu](mailto:maxime.staelens@ceep.eu)), who will be in position to answer all your questions.

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## Meeting with Commission Vice-President Šefčovič and Commissioner Bulc

### Communication sent to members of the CEEP Transport Task Force (19/5/2017):

As you might have noted, on 15 May, CEEP, together with the General Secretaries of cross-industry EU social partners, met with European Commission Vice-President Šefčovič and Transport Commissioner Bulc. They were accompanied by cabinet members of the other Commissioners involved in the transport, energy and internal market policies. The meeting allowed in-depth discussions on the upcoming Mobility Package, to be published on 31 May, and its links with the Energy Union Strategy.

Vice-President Šefčovič opened the meeting by presenting the Commission's ambition to give a concrete follow-up to last year's Strategy for low-emission mobility, ensuring that Europe remains a world-wide leader for future transport trends, such as e-mobility and a digitalised transport system. Commissioner Bulc presented some concrete insights in the upcoming proposals, stressing that, after 18 months of discussions, it is time to go beyond compromises and advance with ambition. In this context, she particularly referred to the need for a deeper, but also fairer internal market that leaves no place for social dumping and lacking enforcement of existing rules in the road sector.

Valeria Ronzitti, CEEP General Secretary, addressed the Package's key elements for public services' providers and presented CEEP's contribution, prepared thanks to the input from several members of the Transport and Energy Task Forces and sectoral federations such as CER. Therefore, I would like to thank you very much for the contributions that we have received, including in the context of the Transport Task Force' work on recent statements (e.g. on the Eurovignette Directive review).

Valeria Ronzitti highlighted three main objectives for public services' providers:

- The transition towards sustainable and integrated mobility solutions, giving a key role to both public transport and e-mobility;
- The review of the EU rules for road infrastructure pricing, presenting the compromise found in the Transport Task over the past months;
- The need for fairer competition between the different transport modes.

The latter was particularly agreed upon by Commissioner Bulc who shared the point of view that progress is needed and should be ensured over the months to come. Regarding the Eurovignette Directive review and the specific question of how to use revenues, she stressed that the Commission proposal will most likely focus on fostering transparency without prescribing a mandatory use of earmarking. However, the upcoming proposal should be seen as a first step towards multi-modal financing possibilities and the inclusion of sustainability related aspects, such as discounts for zero-emission vehicles. Vice-President Šeřčovič especially welcomed our statement on the future role of public transport in order to ensure that mobility gets even more sustainable. In this context, he also announced that another meeting of this kind should be organised in the second half of 2017 in order to discuss together the second Mobility Package to come by then.

The meeting has therefore also recalled the importance of developing further a cross-sectoral CEEP statement on e-mobility that we have discussed at the recent joint meeting of the CEEP Transport and Energy Task Forces. In the aftermath, Alain Taccoen from EDF very kindly offered to propose a first draft that could be finalised over the months of June when we will probably have our next Task Force meetings (Energy on 30 June in Paris, Transport to be confirmed shortly). Therefore, in order to best base the statement on the perspective of both the transport and energy sectors, I would like to invite you to send me any input regarding e-mobility you would like to contribute to such a CEEP statement. I would be thankful if you could do so **by Monday, 29 June, at the latest**. Thank you in advance.

Should you have any questions about this meeting or the next steps within the Transport Task Force, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## CEEP Transport Task Force: Publication of Commission Mobility Package

### Communication sent to members of the CEEP Transport Task Force (31/5/2017):

Today, the European Commission has published its first Mobility Package, entitled 'Europe on the Move'. According to the Commission, it is supposed to allow a "fundamental modernisation of European mobility and transport" by delivering "smart, socially fair and competitive mobility by 2025".

The Communication 'Europe on the Move' is accompanied by a first series of 8 legislative initiatives specifically targeting road transport.

Please find [here](#) an overview of all Commission proposals that have been published today.

Among others, the Commission proposes a [review of the Eurovignette Directive](#) as well as initiatives trying to bring forward [interoperability between tolling systems](#) as well as [common specifications for public transport data](#).

The proposals also aim to improve the functioning of the road haulage market and help improve workers' social and employment conditions. This is supposed to be done by stepping up enforcement, fighting illicit employment practices, cutting the administrative burden for companies and bringing more clarity to existing rules, for instance concerning the application of national minimum wage laws.

This first set of 8 proposals will be complemented over the next 12 months by other proposals, including a review of the Clean Vehicles Directive, proposals on post-2020 emissions standards for cars and vans as well as the first emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles.

Continuing the discussions on CEEP positions that have already taken place over the past months, the next Task Force meeting (date to be communicated shortly) will allow an in-depth debate on these as well as the upcoming Commission proposals.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## CEEP Energy Task Force: First set of draft CEEP amendments to Clean Energy Package

### Communication sent to members of the CEEP Energy Task Force (23/5/2017):

I would like to thank all those who have kindly sent me their proposals for CEEP amendments. I am particularly grateful that you have made the kind effort to suggest amendments with justifications coming directly from the corresponding passages in the [CEEP opinion](#), now finalised within the Energy Task Force. Based on this input from members, please find here the [very first set of draft CEEP amendments](#).

As you can see, this first set of draft CEEP amendments is not yet complete. Moreover, some of you have already informed me that they still need a few more days to finalise internally their proposals for CEEP amendments. Therefore, I would like to invite you all to have a look at this document and to **send me your comments and/or your proposals for additional CEEP amendments**.

When drafting your proposals, it would be very helpful if you could **directly integrate your proposals in this first draft set of CEEP amendments**. Please also make sure that **the amendments' justifications are taken from the CEEP opinion** (see examples in the very first set of draft amendments). In general, as already written in my previous message, it would be much appreciated if you could focus your proposals on max. five key amendments to each one of the legislative proposals of the Commission.

I would be grateful for your possible comments and/or proposals for additional CEEP amendments by **Thursday, 1 June 2017 at the latest**. Afterwards, we will try to put together a revised set of draft amendments.

Given the deadlines for amendments in the European Parliament's ITRE Committee in June (*8 June for the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, 27 June for the Governance of the Energy Union, 28 June for the Energy Efficiency Directive as well as 29 June for the Renewable Energy Directive*) and directly after the summer break in September (*6 September for ACER, 7 September for Electricity Regulation and Directive as well as 8 September for Risk-preparedness Regulation*), the objective is to have all our amendments ready in the course of June. In order to keep this tight schedule, I would be very thankful if you could send me all your proposals by the deadline mentioned above.

Thank you very much in advance.

Should you have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## CEEP SGI Task Force: Draft CEEP Statement on Commission reflection paper "Harnessing Globalisation"

### Communication sent to members of the CEEP SGI Task Force (1/6/2017):

Following the European Commission's publication of its reflection paper on ["Harnessing Globalisation"](#) as part of a series of reflection papers in the context of the [White Paper on the Future of Europe](#) (cf. my message of 11 May), Rainer Plassmann, Chair of the CEEP SGI Task Force, very kindly offered to draft a first proposal for a CEEP opinion on the reflection paper. Together with Nadine Fischer, General Rapporteur, and Ines Summer, who is also member of Mr Plassmann's team, he worked on the Commission's paper and formulated a draft CEEP response that takes into account the contribution of SGIs in the "EU in a globalised world". Please find [here](#) his proposal.

In order to take on board all your contributions to this crucial reflection for SGIs, we would like to invite you to send us your amendments in track changes directly in the draft document. In order to prepare the document for finalisation at the CEEP General Assembly on 29 June (final draft document to be sent out on 15 June), please send me your proposals for amendments by Friday, 9 June, CoB, at the latest. Thank you very much in advance.

I remain at your disposal, should you have any questions or remarks.

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## Draft agenda of next CEEP Environment Task Force meeting on 8 June 2017

### Communication sent to members of the CEEP Environment Task Force (24/5/2017):

As already announced, the **next CEEP Environment Task Force meeting will take place on 8 June, from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm, at CEEP offices in Brussels.**

Please find hereafter the [official invitation](#) as well as the [meeting's draft agenda](#).

As already announced, we are delighted that **Ms Sarah Nelen, Head of the Unit "Waste Management and Secondary Raw Materials" at the Commission's DG Environment, will participate in this meeting.** Given Ms Nelen's important role within the European Commission's activities not only in relation with the EU waste legislation, but also many other issues related to the Circular Economy, we hope that you will all be able to join this meeting in big numbers.

The meeting with Ms Nelen will be the occasion to discuss several issues that are high on the agenda of her Unit: the implementation of the Commission's **Circular Economy Strategy** and, more specifically, the ongoing legislative process for a **reviewed European waste legislation**, the **future role of waste-to-energy**, the Commission's **Plastics Strategy Roadmap** as well as cross-cutting issues such as the **Interface between the chemicals, products & waste legislation**. Should you have any questions that you would like to send me in preparation of this exchange of views, please feel warmly invited to do so.

Regarding the waste legislation review, the meeting will take place at a very timely moment as the **trilogue negotiations** between European Parliament, Council and Commission will just have started with a first meeting on next week Tuesday, 30 May.

The meeting documents will be completed next week, in particular by a proposal for a draft CEEP statement on waste-to-energy. It is currently drafted by David Kainrath, Maja Högvik and Laurence Dockter who very kindly volunteered to do so at the last Task Force meeting.

Should you have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## Commission representative at CEEP Water Task Force meeting on 9 June 2017

### Communication sent to members of the CEEP Water Task Force (24/5/2017):

I am delighted to inform you that **Ms Els De Roeck, Team Leader for Water Industry at Unit C.2. "Marine Environment and Water industry" at the Commission's DG Environment, will participate in our next CEEP Water Task Force meeting on Friday, 9 June 2017.**

On behalf of Michele Falcone, Chair of the Water Task Force, please find hereafter the [official invitation](#), the [meeting's draft agenda](#) as well as the [draft minutes](#) of the last one, kindly drafted by Mr Maurizio Gorla.

The meeting with Ms De Roeck will allow us to discuss the next steps regarding the review of the European Drinking Water Directive and to provide further CEEP input. Please find [here](#) the latest comments of the Water Task Force sent to the Commission at the beginning of May. Thank you, once again, to all those who have provided much appreciated input.

Moreover, the meeting with Ms De Roeck will be the occasion to discuss CEEP members' possible input to the Commission's work on **investment in water infrastructure**. Please find [here](#) again the letter sent to CEEP President Katherina Reiche. The meeting with Ms De Roeck is supposed to follow-up to this Commission letter and to ensure a response by the CEEP Water Task Force that takes into account the feedback received from you over the past weeks. We look forward to a fruitful discussion that will also help to decide on the next steps.

Please also find below several other documents that are relevant in view of the Task Force meeting's agenda:

- [Report from last meeting of Commission Expert Group on Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive](#), very kindly and quickly written by Mr Marco Callerio, CEEP representative in the Expert Group
- [CEEP response to Commission consultation on EU Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#) (and [here](#) a simple, first factual summary of the Commission on the participation in the consultation)
- [Commission Staff Working Document on "Agriculture and Water Management in the EU"](#)
- [Final report on the outcome of the Commission consultation on water reuse](#) by the consultant as well as its [annex](#)
- [Commission Roadmap on strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment](#)

Furthermore, following the discussions on this issue over the last months and years, please find [here](#), for your information, the results of a Commission (DG GROW) study on water services in relation to the EU concessions directive.

Should you have any question or remark, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## Social Europe e-newsletters – May 2017

Latest Social Europe e-newsletters attached:

[Social Europe e-newsletter – 23 May 2017](#)

[Social Europe e-newsletter – 30 May 2017](#)

## Eversheds Sutherland : E-briefings, Updates and Conferences

See below links to information received from our partners **Eversheds Sutherland**:

[Adjustments – what is reasonable](#)

[Business Immigration Update day course for Sponsor License Holders](#)

[Crime at work external investigations with expert investigators](#)

[Eversheds Sutherland UK Equality law review – May 2017](#)