

REGISTER NOW FOR THE PSS 2019!

12 December 2019 - European Committee of the Regions (Brussels, Belgium)

NEWS FROM CEEP MEMBERS

The CEEP Greek member SBE organised its 2019 Thessaloniki Summit. On 14 and 15 November, the Federation of Industries of Greece (SBE), in cooperation with Symeon G. Tsomokos (SGT) S.A., organised the [2019 Thessaloniki Summit](#) (in Thessaloniki, Greece). The 2019 Summit gathered more than 90 prestigious expert speakers, including high-level representatives of the Greek state, of other EU countries and members of EU organisations, with more than 750 participants. The Thessaloniki Summit welcomed the participation of three Prime Ministers – Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic; Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria; and Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia – to discuss regional cooperation and reforms in South East Europe. This year's Summit focused on issues, such as the priorities for the new EU leadership, the ongoing challenges & future prospects for South East Europe or energy security considerations in Eastern Mediterranean. You can find more information in the agenda of the 2-day Summit [here](#). CEEP Vice-President Milena Angelova took part in the event, addressing the panel on the critical role of employers' organizations in the economic and social development of Eastern Europe.



SOCIAL AFFAIRS BOARD

CEEP at the conference “Enhancing the Effectiveness of Social Dialogue Articulation in Europe”

On the 21 November, the Final Conference of the project "Enhancing the Effectiveness of Social Dialogue Articulation in Europe (EESDA)" took place in Lisbon. The aim of this conference was to facilitate a discussion on enhancing the effectiveness of social dialogue articulation in Europe between social partners, experts, policy makers and other stakeholders. Research conducted within the EESDA project includes an assessment of social dialogue articulation between the national and the European level across 27 EU Member States by means of desk research, an online survey among national social partners and interviews with EU-level social partners. It then concentrates on the effectiveness of social dialogue in six EU Member States (i.e. Estonia, Ireland, France, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden – with distinct industrial relations models and traditions) and four sectors (i.e. construction, commerce, education and healthcare and hospitals – with in each case a focus on a specific occupation). The chair of the CEEP Social affairs Board Ms Jeanette Grenfors took part in the cross-sectoral social partners panel during the conference, together with representatives from BusinessEurope and ETUC, and delivered an intervention focused on the Interactions between the EU-level and national-level cross-sector social dialogue for policies and bargaining in the EU Member States, the outcomes of EU social dialogue and the effectiveness of social dialogue and its articulations.

SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Water and Environment Task Force meetings with guest speaker Gilles Gantelet, Director at DG ENVI

This Tuesday, the Water and Environment Task Force met and discussed several topical dossiers such as, amongst others, the Water Framework Directive and the prospects of the future Circular Economy Plan 2.0. At the meeting of the Environment Task Force, chaired by Vice-Chair Federico Foschini, CEEP welcomed guest speaker and policy coordinator Gilles Gantelet, Director for Policy Co-ordination at the European Commission's DG ENVI, for a discussion on the next steps of the new European Green Deal. Besides the fact, that it is not yet clear what the Green Deal will entail in detail, there are three flagship initiatives for the Environment Commissioner under Frans Timmermans' authority: the EU Biodiversity

Strategy, the new Circular Economy Action Plan and the Zero-Pollution Ambition. A first communication announcement on the Green Deal should be published by mid-December. With the pressure of the upcoming COP15 meeting in 2020 and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in China, one of the biggest and most urgent priorities for Ms Ursula von der Leyen's cabinet is the completion on the Biodiversity Strategy 2030. A first proposal should be presented by February 2020. The strategy would include the effects on climate change, but also other environmental aspects that weakens the balance of our ecosystem. The new Circular Economy Action Plan 2.0 will be led under the authority of the Commissioner for Environment and his Directorate-General, and not be part of the Internal Market portfolio as initially foreseen (which will focus on the new industrial strategy plan). If you need more information or would like to attend the next Water and Environment Task Force meeting, please contact Policy Officer Henriette Gleau (henriette.gleau@ceep.eu)



PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

Council and Commission progress on the future budget prospects of the EU
This week marked significant progress towards ensuring a proper funding of the main policy tools of the EU in the near future. On 18 November, EU Member States' ministers [endorsed](#) the agreement reached with the European Parliament through the so-called [Conciliation Committee procedure](#) regarding the EU's budget

for the year 2020. The general structure of next year's budget compared to its 2019 predecessor features an overall budget increase by 1,5% in commitments and 3,4% in payments (to respectively 168,7 and 153,6 billion euros; additional details are available [here](#)). CEEP strongly welcomes this important step that enables all EU instruments to continue working at full speed next year and increases EU spending on climate-related actions across varied policy areas (R&I, transport, energy infrastructures...). Next steps are a formal approval of this agreement by both sides; the Council is expected to do this on 25 November whilst a corresponding vote in the European Parliament is scheduled for 27 November. In parallel, this decision establishes a constructive context for [ongoing negotiations over the next Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\) 2021-2027](#), which need to speed up. CEEP welcomes the fact that EU heads of state and government [discussed the issue on 19 November](#) and fully supports the Finnish Presidency's ambition to provide a fully operational Negotiating Box (including detailed figures) by end of this month. Speedy agreement of both co-legislators is more than needed in view of pressing challenges that lie ahead – most of which concern the whole world, in which Europe perhaps is the only player with both the capacity and the will to lead global efforts, by showing the best example.

PROJECTS & EVENTS

CEEP-CSR Label 2020 - Few months to go before the launch: discover the 2020 CEEP priorities

The 2020 edition of the CEEP-CSR Label is about to start, with brand new benchmark questions and priorities to be integrated in the evaluation process, and a free-of-charge online self-assessment tool that will allow you to evaluate your own compliance with Corporate Social Responsibility (online from 3 February 2020!) The methodologies will soon be uploaded on the CEEP-CSR Label website in multiple languages, to allow the maximum number of applicants to go through the guidelines in their preferred language.

What's new?

For this edition, CEEP reviewed its 2020 priorities, that will evolve around the 4 following topics:

- Reduce inequalities
- Sustainable access to public services
- Quality jobs
- Recycling, clean water and affordable energy

Are you ready to test your compliance with CSR and UN SDGs in these fields? The new CEEP CSR Label will be online soon!

To apply for the CEEP-CSR Label:

From 3 February 2020, you will be able to test your enterprise with a brand new – and completely free of charge – self-assessment tool that will be available on the Assessment Centre page of the new CEEP CSR Label [website](#). After a successful self-assessment (score 70% or higher), you are invited to apply and send your file for evaluation. Your documents will then be evaluated by external experts and every applying enterprise will receive a tailor-made report. The 3 most outstanding CSR practices will then be selected out of the enterprises that will be awarded with the Label by an independent Awarding Committee and will be awarded “with merit” during a ceremony with peers from all over Europe, that will be held in December 2020. Should you wish to know more, do not hesitate to contact CEEP Project Manager, [Carlotta Astori](#).

LOOKING AHEAD...

- 11 December 2019: CEEP statutory meetings
- 12 December 2019: Public Services Summit 2019