



Comité européen des associations d'intérêt général
European Council for non-profit organisations

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ANSWER TO THE EU CONSULTATION ON THE POST-LISBON STRATEGY

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CEDAG - The European Council for Non-profit Organisations (Comité européen des associations d'intérêt général), was created in Brussels in 1989 (incorporated in 1996) as a network aiming at voicing the concerns of the non-profit sector at the European level on specific issues which are common to all non-profit organizations and associations. In particular, it aims at enhancing the capacity of the non-profit sector as a key actor of civil dialogue and advocacy, with a view to promoting European citizenship, and as provider of services of general interest.

CEDAG welcomes the consultation process launched by the European Commission on EU's strategy for the next decade. However, it regrets that the consultation is organised according to a timeframe which makes it difficult to have a real impact on the final decision.

Moreover, it regrets that the consultation document is a very poor one and constantly mixes the debate on the 10 years strategy with that on the crisis' exit strategies. A predominant focus on the economic and financial crisis is insufficient for developing a European vision for 2020.

CEDAG once again recalls that the social dimension of Europe is not a luxury good, but a key feature of the European social model without which there can be no economic prosperity.

Social inclusion policies, and in particular active inclusion, should also be more clearly mentioned as a key element of the 2020 strategy, with an "autonomous but interdependent" status ensuring that the requirement to "feed in" the "growth and jobs" strategy is complemented with a proper "feeding out" of the latter.

Social economy should also be given a much higher status than it had with the previous Commission, not the least through taking into consideration the "Toia" report adopted by the European Parliament on 19th February 2009.

In the same vein, environment-friendly policies should not be considered as options, but as productive long-term investments to the benefit of the current and future generations. Therefore, CEDAG has undersigned the "Spring alliance manifesto" which makes a series of concrete proposals in this direction.

Finally, CEDAG calls for the final decision on the EU's strategy for the next decade to be taken after the European Parliament has had the opportunity to express its views on the results of the present consultation.

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