

**European civil society organisations  
and networks Liaison Group**



European Economic and Social Committee  
"Various Interests" Group

**INVITATION**

**CONFERENCE**

**A STRUCTURED CIVIL DIALOGUE**

**FOR A CITIZEN-FRIENDLY EUROPEAN UNION**

**22 March 2010**

**By making participatory democracy a major instrument of good governance, the Lisbon Treaty opens up new prospects for public participation in EU policy-shaping and decision-making processes.**

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)  
99, rue Belliard, B - 1040 Brussels  
Room JDE 62

This conference follows on from a collective mobilisation of European civil society organisations and networks around a "Manifesto for a genuine European civil dialogue". This manifesto was made public on 14 April 2009 within the framework of a similar event that gathered together at the EESC about 200 representatives of civil society organizations at European and national level and of the main political groups in the European Parliament to debate on the place and the role of civil society organizations in a more participatory democracy.

Now the objective is to put forward to the EU institutions concrete recommendations for the setting up of a structured framework for European civil dialogue. A background document enclosing those recommendations has been drawn up by the European civil society organisations signatory, which will serve as a basis for the discussions.

The European civil society organisations and networks Liaison Group and the "Various Interests" Group of the European Economic and Social Committee have the pleasure to invite you to this conference and very much hope that you will be able to accept the invitation.

Please find attached to this invitation :

*The draft programme*  
*The conference document*  
*The Manifesto "For a genuine European civil dialogue"*  
*A registration form*  
*The venue for the conference*