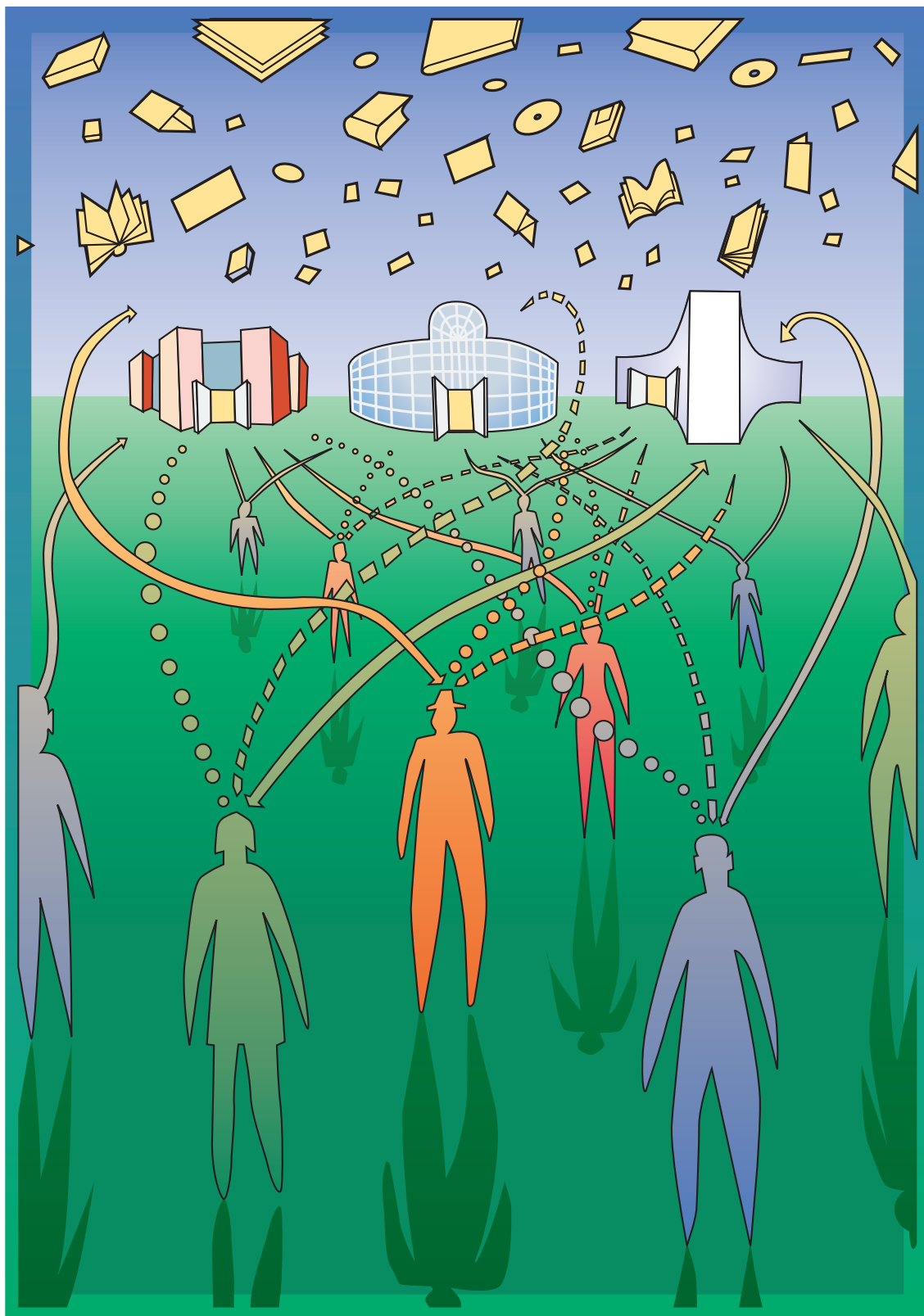


# Making your voice heard in the EU: A guide for NGOs



Civil Society Contact Group

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Education and Culture

**European Active Citizenship**



CHARLES STEWART  
MOTT FOUNDATION

***Making your voice heard in the EU:  
A guide for NGOs***

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## Introduction

Some 50 years after the signature of the Treaty of Rome in 1957, the impact of the European project on our daily lives has grown hugely and it is estimated that, today, more than 50 % of national legislation directly stems from the European Union. Debates and controversies such as those on migration, the Service Directive or the anti-smoking legislation illustrate well enough that, whether we like it or not, the EU has become an unavoidable decision-making arena.

Taking stock of this evolution and of the EU's increasing impact on their daily work, a high number of NGOs re-shaped their own strategies to better integrate European concerns, be it by creating specific European departments in their home country or by setting up European "umbrellas" with sister organizations from all over the EU. NGOs have turned out to be unavoidable actors in the European debate and contributed hugely to bringing citizens closer to the complex EU machinery, becoming crucial and critical partners in policy making.

However, there remain huge gaps to be filled to really make active European citizenship a reality. At national level, an important number of organizations meet problems to really take stock of the EU's impact on their daily work. Only a minority managed to turn the EU dimension into a natural extension of national strategies, which is partly linked to a lack of human and financial resources. Yet the EU does matter and we need to find new and innovative ways to bridge the gap between "Brussels" and the "grassroots".

This training handbook was specifically designed for those "newcomer" NGOs and activists that are in the process of establishing a European strategy. It does so by providing tailored-made information on EU institutions, the way European NGOs work, as well as lobbying "tips", illustrated by examples of EU level campaigns.

It does not aim at being comprehensive but rather at giving you a first insight in the EU labyrinth and how to find your way. To prepare the next stages of your strategy, it also provides more specific links and contacts depending on your area of activity. We hope you will find it useful.

Elodie FAZI  
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## Part I: Finding your way in the EU machinery

*Who exactly takes EU decisions on my behalf?  
Isn't there a way to make my voice better heard?  
Which role can NGOs play in this complex machinery?*

Before going more into the details of lobbying and advocacy strategies in the EU (part II), this first section is intended to give you an overview of the complex EU "machinery" and its impact on NGOs, by presenting you the main European Union (EU) institutions and their remit, but also how NGOs have become major actors in "Brussels".

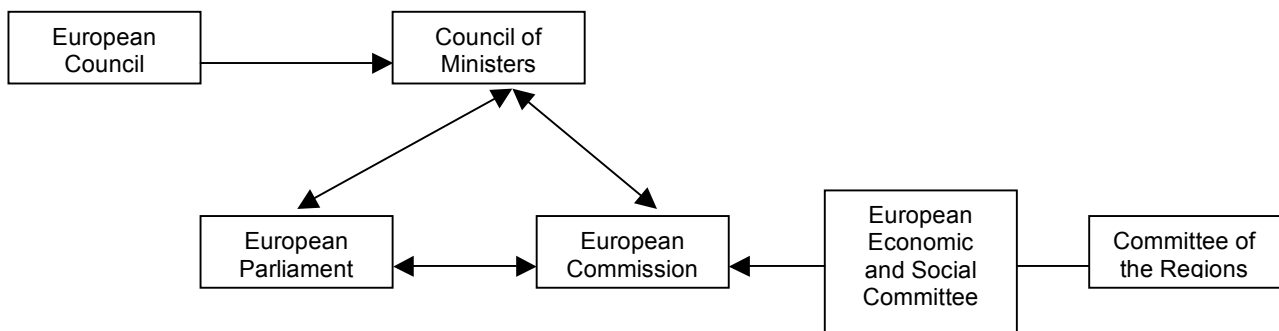
### 1. The EU, a complex political system

The EU is a unique political system without any intention of replacing existing states, but having more powers than any other international organisation. Its Member States have set up common institutions to which they delegate some of their sovereignty so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at EU level.

According to the treaties, there are currently five EU institutions:

- European Parliament
- Council of the EU
- European Commission
- Court of Justice
- Court of Auditors

These institutions are flanked by five main other bodies: European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, European Central Bank, European Ombudsman and European Investment Bank.



EU DECISION MAKING PROCESS: AROUND THE "INSTITUTIONAL TRIANGLE"

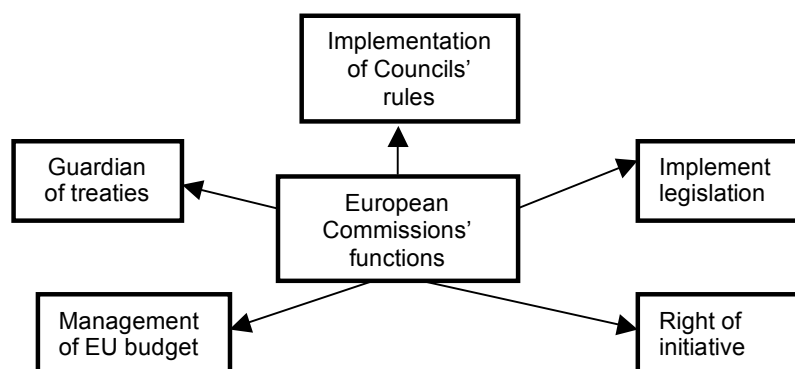
#### 1.1. European Commission, driving force of the system

([http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/basicfacts/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/basicfacts/index_en.htm))

**Five key functions** - The European Commission is the driving force of the institutional system, having the sole right of initiative and the responsibility to implement and supervise legislation. More specifically, the Commission:

- Makes **legislative proposals** to the Council and the Parliament.
- Is responsible for the **implementation** of legislation, based on a mandate by the Council.
- Is the **guardian of the treaties**, having the right to launch proceedings before the Court of Justice and to impose fines in case of the failure by a Member State to fulfill its obligations.

- Is also in charge of **managing the EU's resources**, the Community budget and the specific funds which are attached to it.
- Represents the Union on the **international stage**, being among others in charge of trade, association and accession negotiations.



FUNCTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**How does it work?** The President and Members of the Commission are appointed by the Member States after they have been approved by the European Parliament. The so-called College of Commissioners, made of the 25 Commissioners ([http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/index_en.htm)) constitutes the decision-making body, while the 26 Directorates-General ([http://ec.europa.eu/dgs\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs_en.htm)) and the administrative services prepare and execute. A typical Cabinet of a Commissioner consists of a Head of Cabinet and 5 or 6 members. The European Commission has also representations in Member States. You can find them at [http://ec.europa.eu/represent\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/represent_en.htm).

## 1.2. European Parliament (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>)

**Only directly elected body of the EU** - The EU derives one strand of its legitimacy from this directly elected body. MEPs have been elected through direct universal suffrage since 1979 by varying electoral procedures depending on the Member States. Thus, the European elections are organised in national circumscriptions, under each national electoral laws and mainly under a national electoral campaign. The duration of a mandate is five years. The latest round of European elections took place in 2004 and therefore the next round is 2009.

**An increasing influence**– The European Parliament has been increasingly transformed from a purely consultative assembly into a legislative parliament, exercising powers similar to those of national parliaments. Its key functions include:

- **Legislative power:** in particular thanks to the co-decision procedure, the Parliament has increasingly shared with the Council the legislative power (i.e. power to adopt directives, decision, regulations), conferring increasing democratic legitimacy to the decisions taken. You can find more details about the above-mentioned procedures at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/public/staticDisplay.do;jsessionid=2D8D3B673EAAAC52D9B99F8C8D8626C1.node2?language=EN&id=46>.
- **Budgetary power:** together with the Council, it is one the two heads of the EU budget authority, which decides each year on its expenditure and revenue. It has the final say on a considerable amount of EU spending
- **Supervisory powers:** the EP exercises major supervisory powers, which include in particular democratic control over the European Commission (approval, censorship), but also the nomination of the European Ombudsman, financial control and the right to receive petitions from citizens.

**How does it work, and from where?** Rather than by nationality, the 732 MEPs sit in seven political groups ([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/groups/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/groups/default_en.htm)) and are members of 24 parliamentary committees, dealing with different issues such as environment, employment, gender equality, external relations, human rights (a list of committees can be found on <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/expert/committees.do?language=EN>). The European Parliament works in France, Belgium and Luxembourg. While its official seat is in Strasbourg, where 12 plenary sessions take place each year, parliamentary committee meetings and any additional plenary sessions are held in Brussels. Besides, its General Secretariat is based in Luxembourg. You can find the European Parliament's calendar at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/expert/staticDisplay.do?language=EN&id=118>.

### 1.3. Council (<http://ue.eu.int/>)

**The EU's intergovernmental arena** – The Council represents the second strand of legitimacy, as it is made of representatives that are directly elected at national level. It is composed of ministers of the governments of each of the EU member states: depending on the subject matter, each country is represented by the government minister responsible for that area, as for example economics, agriculture, and foreign affairs.

#### Nine Council configurations

The Council takes one of the nine following configurations:

General Affairs and External Relations  
 Economic and Financial Affairs (Ecofin)  
 Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA)  
 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)  
 Environment  
 Transport, telecommunication and energy  
 Agriculture and fisheries  
 Competitiveness  
 Education, Youth and Culture

**The main EU decision-making body** – Main decision-making body, the Council has a number of key responsibilities, which vary according to the policy area at stake. In particular, it:

- Is the **Union's legislative body**. On the basis of proposals by the Commission, the Council adopts Community legislation in the form of regulations and directives, either jointly with the European Parliament or alone after consultation of the European Parliament;
- Coordinates the broad **economic policies** of the Member States;
- Concludes the Community's **international agreements**;
- Shares the **budgetary authority** with the European Parliament;
- Takes the decisions necessary for framing and implementing the **common foreign and security policy**;
- Coordinates the activities of Member States and adopts measures in the field of **police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters**.

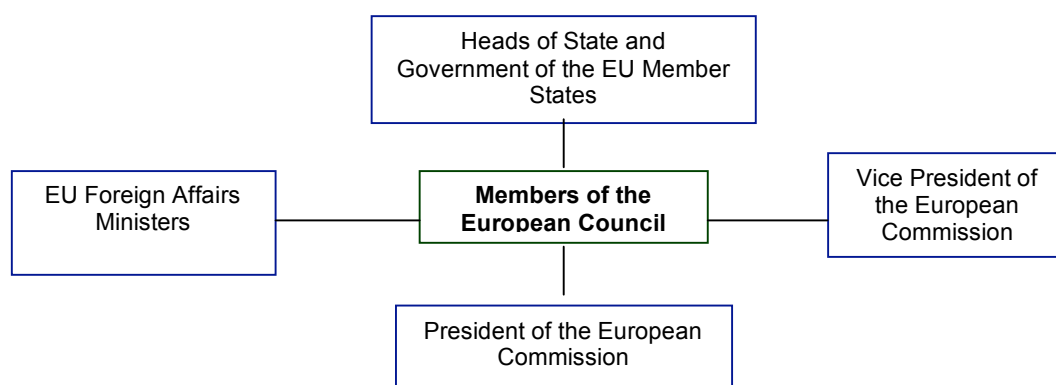
**Rotating presidency and permanent General Secretariat** – The presidency of the Council is held for six months by each Member State on a rotating basis and plays an essential role in organizing the work of the institution, particularly in promoting legislative and political decisions. In January 2007, Germany will take over the rotating EU presidency from Finland. You can find the list of upcoming presidencies at [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3\\_fo/showPage.asp?id=242&lang=EN&mode=g](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=242&lang=EN&mode=g).

The Presidency is also assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, which prepares and ensures the smooth functioning of the Council's work, at all levels. Since 18 October 1999, Mr

Javier Solana has been the Secretary-General/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

**Working “behind the stage”: COREPER and working groups** – Council meetings represent only the visible tip of the iceberg: an important amount of work is prepared at a more technical level. Each Member State has a Permanent Representation in Brussels, which is staffed by civil servants from the national services. The heads of these Permanent representations are the Member States’ ambassadors to the EU, called Permanent Representatives. They sit on the Committee of Permanent Representatives – COREPER, responsible for preparing the work of the different Councils of Ministers.

**The European Council, source of political guidance** - The work of the Council is given broader guidance by the European Council (informally called “European summit”), where heads of state or government of the EU meet in Brussels several times a year (however, informal summits are now held in the country holding the presidency). Even if closely related, the European council should be distinguished from the Council of the EU, as they are two separate political bodies: the European Council plays a more political role and provides the impetus for major issues relating to European integration, such as amendments to the Treaties and changes to the institutions, declarations on external relations in the context of the common foreign and security policy. It also serves as a forum for top-level political discussion in crisis situations and it endeavours to resolve disagreements between Member States.



COMPOSITION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

#### 1.4. European Court of Justice (<http://curia.europa.eu/>)

**Ensuring compliance with community law** – Made up of 25 Judges and 8 Advocates General, the European Court of Justice ensures that the law is observed in the interpretation and application of the treaties throughout the Community. Its remit covers various areas: disputes between Member States, between the EU and Member States, between the EU institutions, between individuals or corporate bodies and the Community. It also gives opinions on international agreements and preliminary rulings on cases referred by national courts. A Court of First instance was recently created, to support the work of the overloaded ECJ.

#### 1.5. Consultative bodies

**European Economic and Social Committee, one representation channel of “organized civil society”** (<http://eesc.europa.eu/>) - The EESC takes part in the EU decision-making process as a consultative body, issuing opinions without binding character. It has to be consulted on matters regarding in particular economic and social policy, including free movement of workers, environment, vocational training, research, but can also issue reports on its own initiative. The EESC consists of “representatives of the various economic and social components of organized civil society”. Its 317 members are divided into 3 groups: Employers,



Employees and Various interests. All members of the EESC are nominated by national governments and not by civil society itself.

Claiming to represent a bridge between institutions and organized civil society, the EESC set up in 2004 a Liaison Group between the EESC and the "representatives of the main sectors of European organised civil society". Composed of representatives of the EESC and 14 members of civil society, it regularly organizes hearings and seminars, seeks to provide expertise on issues linked to participatory democracy and trans-sectoral issues such as financial regulation, the Lisbon strategy and funding. The role of the EESC as a "bridge" between civil society and the institutions is currently subject to debate. A number of NGOs have, thus, decided not to get involved in the Liaison Group as it now stands. These include, in particular, human rights organizations gathered in the large Human Rights and Democracy Network and environmental organizations that are members of the Green 10.

***The EESC Liaison Group, seen by the European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning***

*Jean-Marc Roirant, president of the **European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning** considers that, as a consultation tool, the Liaison Group has a political and symbolical importance, being a supplementary "door" for NGOs' voice to be heard and a step towards a more balanced representation of civil society. Civil society organisations members of the Liaison Group expect from their participation in the Liaison Group a stronger acknowledgement of their expertise by European institutions and EESC. On the other side, the Liaison Group appears as a setting to promote European institutions' accountability and transparency. The Liaison Group also works as a collaborative tool between civil society organisations, their regular contact allowing a mutual and constructive enrichment. Hence, the Liaison Group represents one "door" to dialogue with European Institutions and the EESC but not the sole one, sectoral dialogue remains a priority for most of civil society organisations member of the Liaison Group.*

**Committee of the Regions, representation of local and regional authorities to the EU -**

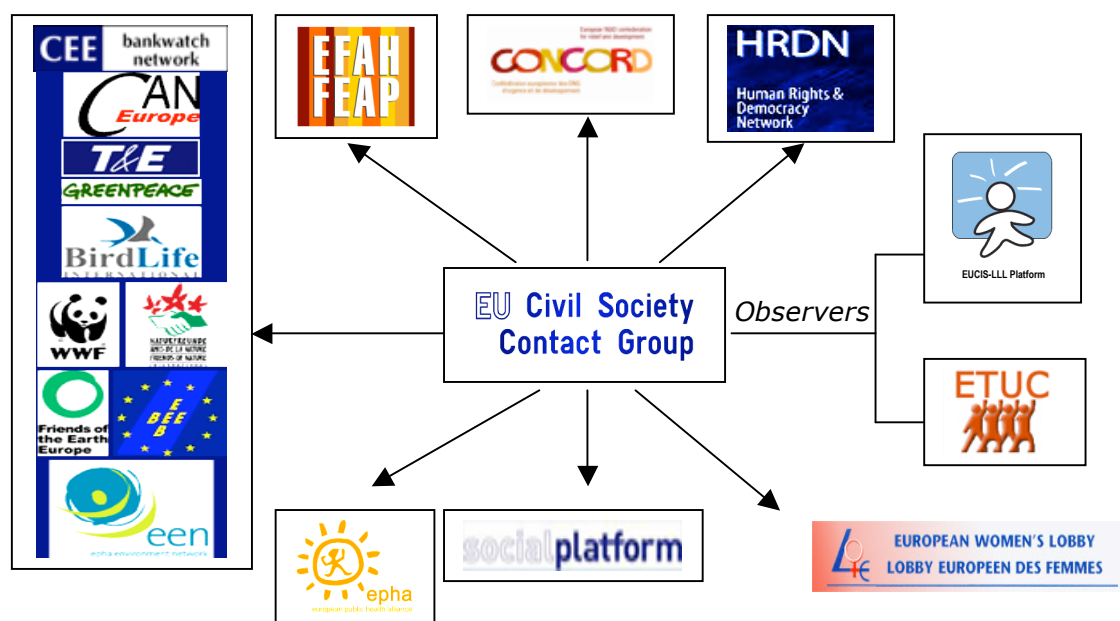
The CoR is consulted on subjects such as education, culture, public health, regional development fund, implementation of the trans-European networks, framework agreements for the Structural Funds and transport, environment, social policy and employment. Despite its attempts to promote subsidiarity and proximity principles, its influence in the EU decision-making process is still discrete. <http://www.cor.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

## 1.2. NGOs and the EU: structures, coalitions and joint work

There are hundreds of thousands of NGOs across Europe. In order to maximise their effectiveness, many have organised themselves at a European level, have established joint platforms. But what do NGOs exactly do in the EU?

**NGOs organise themselves at EU level** - Taking stock of the growing impact of the EU on their daily work, most NGOs that are active today on EU matters started working at EU level in order to bring added value to the local, regional, national or international level and organised themselves in the last 15 to 20 years. This was achieved through a wide range of channels:

- Increasing focus on EU integration by national organisations, some of the largest appointing specialised EU officers and/or setting up a Brussels-based office<sup>1</sup>;
- Setting up of a representation in Brussels of global INGOs (international NGOs), e.g. Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Oxfam;
- Setting up of **umbrella organisations** bringing together NGOs from all over the EU, working on similar policy issues (e.g. European Environmental Bureau, European Anti-Poverty Network);
- In a second step, some umbrella organisations and European branches of INGOs chose to partner with other NGOs active in their **specific sector of activity** to pool knowledge and expertise on issues of common concerns, which led for example to the setting up of the Social Platform in 1995, of the Human Rights and Democracy Network in 2001, but also the Green 10, bringing together environmental organisations;
- European NGOs can also constitute different **transversal groups** in order to express their positions on horizontal issues. For example the EU Civil Society Contact Group brings together seven of the largest European NGO platforms and it is committed to the advancement of the principles of participatory democracy.



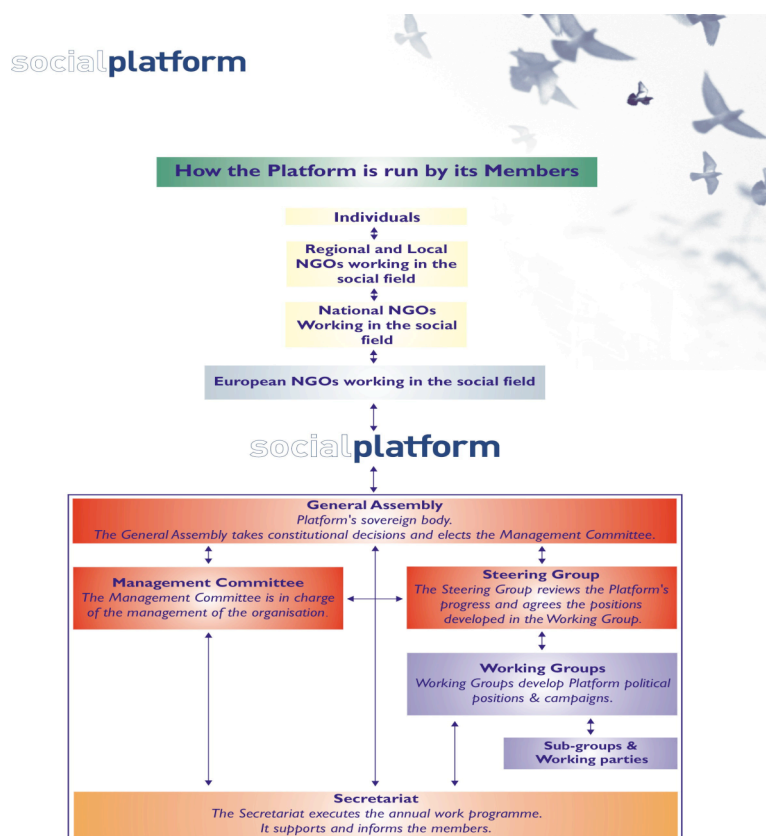
CIVIL SOCIETY CONTACT GROUP'S MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

<sup>1</sup> Such as the Italian environmental organisation Legambiente, which opened a Brussels office in 1999

However, NGOs are not the only “interest groups” active on EU matters. Recent studies mentioned 1500 interest groups being active in Brussels<sup>2</sup>. Interest groups include businesses, consultancies, regional and local authorities, and NGOs are estimated to represent between one fifth and one third of those groups. Besides, we should also keep in mind that a large number of NGOs active on European Matters are not based in Brussels.

**EU NGOs: what do they do exactly?** European NGO networks represent their members and constituencies on a political level by lobbying political actors on specific issues (for instance drafting policy, position papers and press releases), by collecting information and channelling it between the national and EU levels, and by building their network’s ability to participate in the European process (e.g. training of national organisations on EU issues).

**Accountability and links to the “grassroots”** - European NGOs’ work is often coordinated by a secretariat, most often based in Brussels and composed of up to 15 staff members for the biggest networks. All European NGO structures are based on serving their members and they depend fundamentally on the information, trust, and political work of national NGOs, which is to be ensured through regular scrutiny. Decision-making within European NGOs has a democratic character, members having the possibility of being regularly involved in this process and receiving up-dated information on relevant EU developments. Yet a number of national NGOs face considerable obstacles to relay the work of their EU NGO networks in their home country, and further efforts need to be made to “link Brussels to the grassroots”.



#### SOCIAL PLATFORM'S DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES

- For more information on how national NGOs can directly engage in the European project, please see the project “National NGOs and the EU: the missing link”, put in place by CEDAG: [www.ngo.at/missinglink](http://www.ngo.at/missinglink), [www.cedag-eu.org/missinglink](http://www.cedag-eu.org/missinglink)

<sup>2</sup> Friends of the Earth, “Transparency in EU decision-making: reality or myth?”, May 2006, [http://www.foeeurope.org/publications/2006/Transparency\\_in\\_EU\\_decision\\_making\\_May2006.pdf](http://www.foeeurope.org/publications/2006/Transparency_in_EU_decision_making_May2006.pdf)

### 1.3. Civil dialogue: an opportunity for NGOs to make their voice heard in the EU

The role and contribution of NGOs has been increasingly acknowledged by European institutions throughout the 90s, which resulted in a shift from the concept of "government" to that of "governance", involving a wide range of actors in the policy process. Over the last 15 years, fairly structured practices of dialogue between European institutions and NGOs were developed, which are commonly referred to as "civil dialogue". The development of civil dialogue as a concept has seen important advances in recent years:

- The Commission's White Paper on Governance<sup>3</sup>;
- Minimum Standards on Consultation<sup>4</sup>;
- The final inclusion of Article 47 on participatory democracy in the European Constitutional Treaty.

**From informal lobbying to civil dialogue: the EU approach** – The relation between NGOs and EU institutions range from informal lobby (e.g. grassroots campaigns) to more formal, structured relations. Yet contrary to international organisations, the EU has so far adopted a rather "soft" approach to dialogue with NGOs, characterized by the following features:

- **No treaty basis but some "Minimum Standards"**: until the Constitutional Treaty comes into force, civil dialogue has no legal basis in the EU Treaty. However, some Minimum Standards on Consultation were defined, which the Commission has to respect when it consults with civil society. They cover amongst others timing, publicity and feedback issues;
- **Commission-focused**: the current framework targets mostly Commission practices and no general framework exists for the other two institutions;
- **Reject of accreditation system**: the Commission made several attempts to define the representativity of NGOs in the 1990s<sup>5</sup>. However, it did not lead to the establishment of a list of organizations meeting the criteria, or to any accreditation like that existing for the United Nations or the Council of Europe;
- **Ambiguous definition of civil society**: EU institutions' definition of civil society often includes economic actors, which raises a number of issues regarding imbalance of power and inequality of access between business and public interest organisations.

Although some see perceive a threat that NGOs engaged in civil dialogue might be "stuck" in the institutions' agenda, civil dialogue is directly linked with the acknowledgement or participatory democracy, i.e. that there exist other forms of citizens' participation than going to the polls, and can play a key role in strengthening EU citizenship.

**Civil dialogue in practice** – Civil dialogue covers a very wide range of practices, which vary in terms of impact and openness to the wider public. Among them, we can quote the following:

- **Biannual meetings** with the Commission are organised for instance by the Platform of European Social NGOs since 1995, but also by CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. Based on a mutually agreed agenda, such meetings allow discussion and debates between the platforms' members and/or secretariat and either the European Commissioner him/herself or high-level officials.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2001) 428. to be found on: [http://ec.europa.eu/governance/white\\_paper/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/governance/white_paper/index_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> COM(2002) 704, to be found on: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2002/com2002\\_0704en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2002/com2002_0704en01.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> European Commission "An open and structured dialogue between the Commission and Special Interest Groups", SEC (92) 2272 final, European Commission "Communication on promoting the role of voluntary organisations and foundations in Europe", COM (97) 241, European Commission (200b) Discussion Paper "The Commission and Non Governmental Organisations: building a stronger partnership".

- **Open electronic consultations** organised through the “Your voice in Europe” website<sup>6</sup> are held on most major policy initiatives. For example, the consultation on REACH<sup>7</sup> received more than 6.400 contributions.
- **Citizens’ panels** bring together a limited number of citizens from different Member States to discuss an issue of public interest.
- Informal cross-party groupings, **parliamentary intergroups** provide a space for MEPs to discuss shared interests which are not represented in standing committees. Their secretariat is often provided by NGOs: for instance, the disability intergroup, created in 1980, is coordinated by the European Disability Forum.
- **DG TRADE** has set up a very structured and regular “Civil Society dialogue” with interested parties of civil society: it facilitates regular meetings on trade issues with European Commissioners, senior officials and negotiators.
- The concept of a **Convention** was introduced to enhance the legitimacy of a future Constitution. NGOs were invited to contribute via the **Futurum website and through an official civil society hearing in June 2002**.
- **Hearings** are organised by the European Parliament on a number of major developments or issues that affect more specifically civil society organisations (e.g. Constitutional Treaty, Financial Regulation, Gender Institute).

***The European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless and its written parliamentary questions to the Council of Ministers***

*In March 2006, in response to increasing headlines on rough sleepers freezing to death all over Europe during the early winter months of 2006, FEANTSA started a lobbying campaign within the European Parliament, for a written question to be addressed to the Council of Ministers on "Ending street homelessness".*

*FEANTSA cooperated with 28 MEPs to ask the Council of Ministers the question: “Can the Council outline what actions have been taken to follow through on the commitment by European Social Affairs Ministers to treat homelessness as a priority and set a European objective to end street homelessness by 2010?”. In its response, on 11 July 2006, the Council of Ministers confirmed the need for the Member States to develop integrated and coordinated responses to multiple disadvantages and the needs of groups at particular risk, such as the homeless.*

**Some challenges ahead** - The development of civil dialogue throughout the years has undoubtedly contributed to strengthen citizens’ participation in the European project. However, a number of challenges remain to be tackled, which include a difficulty to actively involve EU NGOs’ membership in the European debate, inequality of access with private sector actors. Besides, civil dialogue appears to be unevenly developed through policy areas and is constantly facing tensions between requests for expertise and efficiency on the one hand, for participation and openness on the other. A key challenge thus remains to open up the process and ensure at the same time that it has a real impact and goes beyond a mere public relation exercise.

- More information on civil dialogue can be found in the study “Civil Dialogue, making it work better”, published by the Civil Society Contact Group. You can find it on: <http://act4europe.horus.be/module/FileLib/Civil%20dialogue,%20making%20it%20work%20better.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> [www.europa.eu.int/yourvoice/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/yourvoice/index_en.htm)

<sup>7</sup> REACH stands for Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of CHemicals. This proposal has been designed to establish a more uniform, more transparent and safer management of chemicals in the European Union.

## Part II: Getting involved and « lobbying »: when, how and with whom?

*How does the EU impact on my daily work?  
Are my concerns better tackled at EU or national level?  
How and with whom to get involved?*

Based on practical tips and illustrated by examples of NGO campaigns, this section intends to answer step by step some key questions around campaigning and lobbying on EU matters. It does not aim to be comprehensive, but rather to give you a first insight into EU lobbying. If you decide to get further engaged, we advise you to look for more specific information, focusing on your main field of interest, and to contact like-minded organisations that can help you setting up your campaign.

### **1. Define your interests: is your area of concern a national or EU competence?**

A first step is to determine the exact impact of the European Union on your concerns. Potential impact is particularly high in issues that are under “exclusive” competence of the EU (for instance the Common Agricultural Policy). Yet it is increasingly growing in areas of so-called shared competence (e.g. social issues, development) and even in areas that are more traditionally under the responsibility of Member States (e.g. migration, culture). In any case, do not forget that, after fifty years of European integration, areas in which EU has no impact have become almost non-existent!

- The more important EU competences are in your field of concerns, the more you should seek to establish a EU strategy. To better assess this impact, you can find more information on European Union competences on the Europa website: [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu), but also the Treaty on the European Union directly, to be found on: [http://ec.europa.eu/comm/nice\\_treaty/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/nice_treaty/index_en.htm).

### **2. Keep yourself regularly informed and collect specific information (but spare time!)**

Once you’ve defined your interest, you can start collecting more information, which will support you in establishing a more detailed strategy. Do not forget that knowledge is the key that will aid you to set up a convincing lobbying strategy. Yet before going into the details of original texts, we advise you to regularly go through NGO and EU media websites and briefings, that will offer you first hand (and - hopefully - easy to read) information:

- Regularly read newsletters from EU NGO network and European electronic media, so you are in the picture as to what might be coming up that is of importance to you.
- Do not hesitate to contact relevant European NGO networks. A phone call to a knowledgeable contact can be more helpful than hours of research on the web!
- Sometimes it is worthwhile reading the original legal texts of the institutions. If you find their web sites too complicated, ask European NGOs for support. They might also have produced specific briefings that will help you.



### 3. Design a strategy

#### 3.1. Define your target and goals

The first step to campaign successfully is to find the right focus. This is particularly true if you have limited resources: more is not necessarily better if you really want to make a difference. In this view, you should first try to answer the following questions:

- What is the issue at stake?
- Why is it relevant for us?
- What do we want to achieve? What should be concrete outcomes?
- Where do we stand with the decision-making procedure? Is it still time to make a decisive impact<sup>8</sup>? Do we wish to establish a one-off campaign or a long-term strategy?
- Who will make the decision? What is the political weight and role of the different institutions?
- Do we have specific allies on this issue?
- How will the results of the campaign be evaluated? How will we know we have reached our aim?

#### 3.2. Identify the institution in charge

According to the stage of the policy process and the type of EU competence, the institution which you should target in priority vary enormously. Identifying the key institutions and targeting them the right way is thus crucial.

**MEPs: hold them accountable!** MEPs are accountable to their constituency and thus particularly looking for contacts with civil society organisations from their home country. They represent a particularly relevant target for national, regional and local NGOs and can provide considerable support, for instance by tabling amendments proposed by your organisation.

#### *The European Council for Non-Profit Organisations – CEDAG and its lobbying campaign for the creation of a Social Economy Intergroup*

*A **Social Economy Intergroup** had been created in 1989 but remained inactive for the following years. In 2003 CEDAG started a lobbying campaign targeting the European Parliament and encouraging MEPs to re-establish the group cross all parties to support social non-profit organisations in their economic activities. CEDAG is a founding member of the CEP-CMAF, the European Standing Conference of Co-operatives, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations, who had first brought up the request for the re-establishment of the intergroup. The Intergroup meets regularly following the parliamentary sessions and the CEP-CMAF is a privileged partner to the Intergroup. **Christiana Weidel** explains that the methods used to lobby the European Parliament ranged from **letters to MEPs** explaining the necessity of developing social economy in general and the advantages of an intergroup, to **phone calls to CEDAG members** who were working closely with MEPs in order to push the information on the national level and to co-operation with the other “families” of the CEP-CMAF, the co-operatives, mutuals and foundations. Personal contacts were vital to make sure the message would reach MEPs, but also the clear significance why an intergroup is important for the citizens in the EU was a key element in the campaign. As there was not much time to prepare a sophisticated campaign, direct contacts were addressed to key people. The necessary number of MEPs for the constitution of an intergroup was reached – providing the sector with a platform of exchange for social economy within the European Parliament again.*

- Check more information about your MEPs, their background and fields of concerns on the European Parliament’s Website:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/public.do?language=en>.

<sup>8</sup> To assess where you stand in the process, you can have a look, amongst others at the Commission’s annual work programme, the Council annual work programme, the legislative observatory.

- In particular, check which MEPs are involved in parliamentary committees of concern to you.
- Try to fix a meeting with national MEPs sharing your concerns, for instance with the assistance of EU NGO networks.

**European Commission: use technical rather than political arguments** - Due to its right of initiative, the European Commission is particularly looking for input from “stakeholders”, including NGOs, as way to involve citizens more directly, but also to “test” policy proposals and build upon their expertise. The impact of lobbying the Commission is also quite high, as it is active in the early stage of the process.

- The more you wait, the fewer chances you have to make a significant impact on the process.
- Yet contrary to MEPs, Commission officials tend to favour technical over political arguments, and you should adopt your strategy in this view. The European Commission’s directory will indicate you the person in charge of your issues: [http://ec.europa.eu/staffdir/plsql/gsys\\_page.display\\_index?pLang=EN](http://ec.europa.eu/staffdir/plsql/gsys_page.display_index?pLang=EN).
- Do not forget that the European Commission has a representation in your Member State, who can give you more information on EU development, but also provide logistical support to your work. You can find the list on: [http://ec.europa.eu/represent\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/represent_en.htm).

**Council: build upon the national added value** - Because the Council of Ministers is the direct link with the national level, it makes it an easier point of access for many national-based NGOs, who indeed have the responsibility to hold their government ministers to account for decisions they take while in Brussels. This is particularly important in areas such as Foreign and Security Policy or Migration, but also increasingly in other issues at the heart of NGO work, such as the environment, human rights, poverty eradication, fair trade and development, where the Council remains the key decision-making body.

- National NGO offices are particularly well placed to target the Council by lobbying nationally. A list of Member States’ representation in Brussels can be found on: <http://europa.eu/whoiswho/public/index.cfm?fuseaction=idea.hierarchy&nodeID=3780&lang=en>
- Do not forget that you can often achieve results in areas where the Brussels offices have been unsuccessful and the information you can find might be essential to NGOs in 24 other States.
- Yet try to act in close cooperation with Brussels based NGO offices to have a stronger impact and avoid overlaps.

### 3.3 Build alliances

Acting in cooperation with others, you will multiply your chances of achieving your goal by having a stronger visibility and impact... But while sharing information, know-how (and workload!) will make your life easier, be prepared for compromises, as your partners’ views might not 100% reflect yours.

- **Establish a list of NGOs sharing your concerns:** for this, please look at the list of contact to EU NGOs at the end of this handbook.



- **Do not forget that alliances can also go beyond the NGO world** (e.g. local authorities, trade unions) and beyond your own policy sector: build trans-sectoral alliances with NGOs from other sectors.
- **Agree on key demands** you can all agree upon and focus on them.
- **Set up a common strategy** that will support your own, but clearly define responsibilities between different coalition partners.
- **Do not forget to incorporate horizontal issues** such as participatory democracy, transparency or funding, in your request

#### 4. Campaign! Some tips

Below you will find a list of lobbying “tips” which have proved to make our life easier. Yet do not forget that there is not one single road to a successful campaign, and strategies need to be adapted to the political context, nature of the policy field, target. We thus advise you to complete this by contacting EU NGO networks active in your policy field, for more information.

- **Start at an early stage and “do the work” yourself** - The earlier you get in the process, the higher your chances are to make your voice heard. For example, if you arrive early enough during the drafting of a legislative text/proposal, you can even try to submit your own proposals. There is of course no guarantee that they will be taken into account, but some parts might be!

#### ***Drafting of a shadow document: work by the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) on the European Roadmap for equality between women and men (2006-2010)***

*From 2001 to 2005, the EU action on gender equality was guided by a «Community Framework Strategy on Gender Equality». As the European Commission had not announced such new strategy by 2004, EWL decided to launch a strong lobbying for the adoption of a new guiding document for European gender equality policies. The main target was the European Commission, notably the DG on employment and Social Affairs, but also the European Parliament. The **methods used were the drafting by EWL of a shadow document to serve as a model for the future official text and wide dissemination at European and national level through all means** (phone calls, letters, meetings etc).*

##### **Timing**

- ✓ Oct. 2004 – EWL General Assembly decision to lobby for a new Framework Strategy
- ✓ Spring 2005: EC announced that it would adopt a “Roadmap for gender equality”
- ✓ March-May 2005 – consultation of EWL member organisations on content of the EWL Roadmap
- ✓ June 2005 – submitted first text to EWL member organisations inviting amendments
- ✓ October 2005 – amendments discussed at EWL General Assembly – final text adopted
- ✓ October 2005 – EWL Roadmap presented as a model for the official text of the Commission
- ✓ During this whole period, EWL was constantly in touch with decision-makers, highlighting the need for a new Roadmap and making suggestions for its content.

*As a result, the European Commission’s Communication - **A Roadmap for Equality between Women and Men** was adopted in March 2006. It covers approximately the same areas as the EWL Roadmap and contains some of the same vision and strategies for gender equality, although the official measures foreseen are not as strong, far reaching, and precise as the ones suggested by the EWL text.*

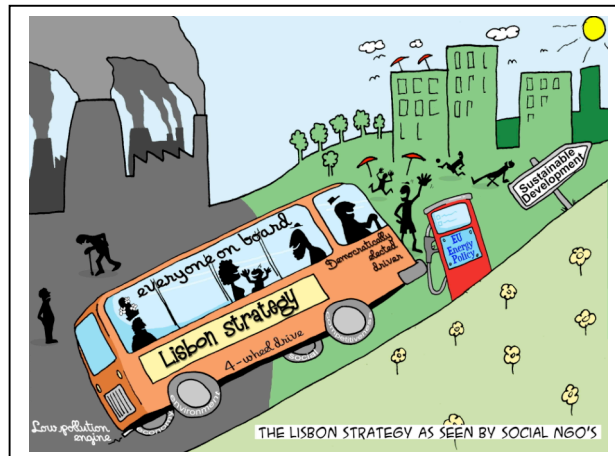
- **Always suggest an alternative:** blank criticism appears little constructive. Always try to present your own alternative.
- **Target the right person:** mass e-mails are rather unlikely to get anyone’s attention. Try to find the relevant person, in charge of your dossier or sharing your concerns.

### **Finding support from like-minded MEPs: ERIO and Roma rights in the EU**

**ERIO** has had a considerable success in the policy-making arena by encouraging the European Parliament's adoption of the Resolution on Roma in Europe in April 2005. The resolution notes a range of concerns related to the ability of Roma in the EU to promote human and fundamental rights, calling on European institutions and members states to act without delay to correct the ongoing Roma rights crisis.

The objective of this lobby campaign was to achieve that the European Parliament pass a resolution addressing the racism, discrimination and social exclusion faced by Roma in the member, accession and candidate states. The draft of the resolution was prepared by ERIO in cooperation with the Hungarian members of the European Parliament Victoria Mohacs and Livia Jaroka. ERIO was advised by the Open Society Institute (OSI) - Brussels. The resolution proposed by the Liberals and supported by the Socialists and the European People's Party, was adopted by a large majority.

- **Target advisors and staff as well:** keep in mind that decision-makers will look first to their staff for help, and that political advisors, parliamentary assistants will play a key (though less visible) role in the final decision. Besides, do not always target the "top": a meeting at a more technical level can have as much positive and constructive outcomes.
- **Find the right mixture of political/emotional and technical arguments:** although technical and well-researched arguments will be the key to a successful campaign, always support them with reference to the social and political choices context of the decision being made.
- **Be creative and innovative:** do not forget that decision-makers tend to be overwhelmed by requests and amounts of information... Bringing some new ideas and presenting them in a innovative way will be help distinguish you.



*Social Platform's view of the Lisbon Strategy<sup>9</sup>  
Showing the way forward through a catchy message*

- **Keep message short and targeted:** focus on the priorities you want to achieve and present them in a targeted (rather than standard) way, according to the person you are addressing.

<sup>9</sup> Picture presented during the conference "Does the Lisbon Process produce Sustainable Development?" organised by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Platform of European Social NGOs (Social Platform), on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006

- **Grassroots campaign or “insider lobbying”?** There are thousands of ways of lobbying. While pressure on decision-makers (through for instance tabling amendments to legislations and policies) and having a voice in civil dialogue structures will allow you to have a direct say in the process, pressure from “the bottom” (e.g. through demonstration, grassroots campaigns, petitions) is another way to make your voice heard by mobilising citizens throughout Europe and not only in “Brussels”. However, keep in mind that grassroot campaigns need to be supported by a strong mobilisation capacity, and be based on a more limited number of key messages.

#### **EFAH: the “70 cents for culture” campaign**

*Following President Barroso’s strong endorsement of culture as the binding element of an expanding EU (Berlin, 26-27.11.2004), the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH) and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) launched in March 2005 a campaign to increase the EU’s budget for culture from roughly 7 cents per citizen per year to 70 cents.*

*The proposal received large support across the political groupings of the European Parliament and attracted **much media attention (printed press, radio, TV, internet publishing)** across Europe. Information on the 70 cents campaign together with a link to signing the 70 cents manifesto was relayed in newsletters, via the websites and at the conferences of many cultural organisations.*

*The budget deliberations at EU level were concluded in April 2006 and the final result is close to the Commission’s initial proposal, coming in at 400mE for the 7-year financial perspectives period. This corresponds to about 13 cents per citizen per year. Even if this final result falls short of the demands of the 70 cents for Culture campaign, the campaign and the mobilization of MEPs in which it resulted had a strong impact on the EU cultural policy debate.*

- **Find the right balance between EU and national level: mobilise the network!** Never forget that the work of European NGOs (and in particular their secretariat) and national NGOs complement rather than replace each other. While national networks support work of EU networks by providing information about their own situation and experience taken from the ground, European networks can provide them with information, briefings, training tools and technical support. The right repartition of work is not easy to find, but think of it as an interaction.

## **5. More information about lobbying**

If you wish to further engage in EU lobbying, we advise you try and look for more specific information, tailored to your area of concern.

### **5.1. Contacting NGOs**

EU NGOs can be useful contact points for national-based NGOs who can receive up-to-date information on the state of play in their policy field. Their work is based on serving their members, but also supporting the NGO community: they depend fundamentally on the information, trust, and political work of national NGOs. If you want to know more on specific issues of interest, we advise you to contact EU NGO networks specialised in your field of activity.

- You will find a list of contacts to NGO networks at the end of this publication

### **5.2. Further reading about lobbying and campaigning on EU issues**

An impressive number of lobbying guides have been published in recent years, by different types of organizations, ranging from NGOs to public affairs firms. While guides produced by NGOs might provide you with more targeted tips, others can also give useful advice and inform

you about lobbying strategies used in other fields. In any case, be aware of where the information comes from, as it can never be 100% neutral.

## **NGOs**

Amnesty International, "Campaigning manual", 2001,  
<http://web.amnesty.org/pages/campaigning-manual-eng>

Civil Society Contact Group, Training Handbook, 2004,  
<http://act4europe.horus.be/module/FileLib/Slovenia20September2004-Handbook.pdf>

CLONG, NGO Handbook 1999, Practical information for Development and Emergency Aid NGOs in the European Union,; PUB/9901/ET

European Public Health Alliance, "Creating national health alliances in new EU member states" (report by Geof Rayner), 2004, <http://www.epha.org/a/2082>

Schlaffer, Peter and Sierck, Gabriela, "Handbook for Human Rights Work", edited for the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the FORUM MENSCHENRECHTE  
<http://www.fes.de/handbuchmensenrechte/me-rect.htm>

European Anti-Poverty Network, Manual on the management of European Union structural funds, (written by Brian Harvey), 2006,  
[http://eapn.horus.be/module/module\\_page/images/pdf/pdf\\_publication/EAPN%20Publications/reports/StructFunds/manual\\_en.pdf#search=%22EAPN%2C%20structural%20funds%20manual%22](http://eapn.horus.be/module/module_page/images/pdf/pdf_publication/EAPN%20Publications/reports/StructFunds/manual_en.pdf#search=%22EAPN%2C%20structural%20funds%20manual%22)

## **Public Affairs**

Burson and Marsteller, "The Definitive Guide to Lobbying the European Institutions", 2005,  
[www.lobbying-europe.com](http://www.lobbying-europe.com)

Daniel Gueguen, "The New Practical Guide to the EU Labyrinth", 7<sup>th</sup> edition, EIS Publishing, 2005

## **Others**

The Democracy Center, "Lobbying – the Basics",  
<http://www.democracyctr.org/resources/lobbying.html>

Corporate Europe Observatory, "Lobby Planet- Guide to Brussels", 2004  
[www.corporateeurope.org/docs/lobbycracy/lobbyplanet.pdf](http://www.corporateeurope.org/docs/lobbycracy/lobbyplanet.pdf)

BBC Action Network Team, "How to lobby political representatives",  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/actionnetwork/A2109764>

## PART III: Where to find more information?

Using the internet to find updated information about EU developments can be difficult and time-consuming. However, the relevant documents are usually readily available<sup>10</sup>. The following section provides you with a number of valuable website links that will:

- Help you keep up to date with what is happening in Brussels on a day to day basis;
- Enable you to find out the stage of the legislation process that a specific proposal has reached;
- Allow you to identify more precisely the people you need to contact.

### 1. General information

#### Overview of EU policies and access to documents

<http://www.europa.eu>

Europa is the general website of the EU, and entails links to all the institutions, as well as policy areas.

<http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/cig/q4000.htm>

The EU Glossary offers useful information on EU institutions, policies, as well as a useful translation of "eurojargon".

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/facts/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/facts/default_en.htm)

The European Parliament fact sheets aim to provide an overview of European integration (including institutions, policy, decision-making) in a summarised way, with a focus on the European Parliament's contribution.

[http://ue.eu.int/cms3\\_fo/showPage.asp?id=254&lang=en&mode=q](http://ue.eu.int/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=254&lang=en&mode=q)

The Council is still the least transparent of the European institutions. Nevertheless, access to documents has improved in recent years: the Public register of Council documents contains references to Council documents as from 1 January 1999.

#### Monitoring the decision-making process

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>

Eur-Lex aims to publish the whole body of European Union law, and in particular the legislation and the case law, as well as the decisional procedures between the Commission and the other institutions.

<http://europa.eu.int/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en>

PreLex, the database on inter-institutional procedures, follows the major stages of the decision-making process between the Commission and the other institutions. It also monitors the work of the various institutions involved.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oel/index.jsp?language=en>

The Legislative Observatory of the European Parliament aims to provide a brief overview of interinstitutional legislative procedures and the European Parliament's input into those procedures. It is completed by specific factsheets.

#### Local information relays

[http://europa.eu.int/europedirect/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/europedirect/index_en.htm)

<sup>10</sup> Information taken in this section comes to a large extent from the Social Platform's Briefing: An Internet guide to the EU decision-making process, available on: <http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/Briefingn05-InternetguidetotheEUdecisionmakingprocess-EN.doc>, and from the Civil Society Contact Group's 2004 training handbook, op.cit

Europe Direct, the EU's information relay, intends to act as an interface between citizens and the Union at local level. It aims to enable citizens to obtain information, advice, assistance and answers to their questions about the European Union.

## 2. EU institutions

### Contact details

<http://europa.eu/whoiswho/public/index.cfm?lang=en>

The EU whoiswho is the official directory of the EU and presents the organisation charts of the EU institutions, bodies and agencies, providing addresses, email and telephone contact details.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/staffdir/html/legal\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/staffdir/html/legal_en.htm)

A pilot project, the Commission Directory aims to enable users to identify appropriate contact persons, based on an existing reference tool, widely used by staff within the institution.

### News and reports from the institutions

<http://europa.eu/geninfo/whatsnew.htm>

*What's new on Europa?* provides a daily update of development within all EU institutions, based on the content of the EU institutions' portal Europa.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/ebs/reception\\_internet\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/ebs/reception_internet_en.html)

Europe by Satellite (EbS), the European Union's TV news agency, provides EU-related information for professionals working in television and radio and for other European institutions.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/showInformation.do?pageName=middayExpress&guiLang>

The European Commission's midday press briefing provides day-to-day information about the Commission's activities.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default\\_en.htm?redirection](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default_en.htm?redirection)

The EP's homepage now provides regular, easy-to-read information on key activities.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sce/server/internet/home\\_page/sce\\_home\\_page\\_01.jsp](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sce/server/internet/home_page/sce_home_page_01.jsp)

There you will be able to watch the Parliament's plenary sessions live.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/tous\\_les\\_briefing/default/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/tous_les_briefing/default/default_en.htm)

These press briefings provide reports of major developments within the European Parliament, in particular following parliamentary sessions.

<http://ue.eu.int/en/sum.htm>

The Council's website also provides regular updates on its activities.

## 3. European Media

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/>

Euractiv provides links to official documents, press releases and relevant articles, split by policy area. It can give you a good insight on major policy debates and their actors. Free access.

<http://euobserver.com/>

Euobserver is a portal to current EU events and developments, updated daily. There you will get up-to date information, classified by policy area. Free access to most articles.

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/>

This is the website of weekly newspaper European Voice, published by The Economist Group since 1995. Free access to some articles.

#### 4. Think tanks

<http://www.theepc.be>

The European Policy Centre regularly organises policy briefings, seminars and conferences, whose reports can be found on their website.

<http://www.ceps.be/>

Founded in 1983, the Centre for European Policy Studies is dedicated to “producing sound policy research leading to constructive solutions to the challenges facing Europe today”.

[www.friendsofeurope.org](http://www.friendsofeurope.org)

Brussels-based think-tank for EU policy analysis, Friends of Europe aims to “stimulate new thinking on the future of Europe and widen the EU debate by making it more controversial and lively”.

## **ANNEX. Contact List for ENGO Networks<sup>1</sup>**

**In the following section you will find information about each of the ENGO networks that are members of the Civil Society Contact Group and a list of their members.**

### **CONCORD**

CONCORD is the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development. Its 21 national associations and 19 international networks represent over 1,600 NGOs, which are in turn supported by millions of people across Europe. CONCORD coordinates analysis and debate, organizes political action campaigns, and regularly engages in dialogue with the European Institutions and civil society organizations. Find out more about CONCORD on [www.concordeurope.org](http://www.concordeurope.org)

#### **CONCORD Office**

Olivier CONSOLO  
[oconsolo@concordeurope.org](mailto:oconsolo@concordeurope.org)  
T: +32 2 743 87 81  
F: +32 2 732 19 34  
[www.concordeurope.org](http://www.concordeurope.org)

#### **CONCORD MEMBERS – NATIONAL PLATFORMS**

##### **AUSTRIA**

##### **Südwind Agentur - Österreichische EU Plattform**

Stefan KERL  
[stefan.kerl@oneworld.at](mailto:stefan.kerl@oneworld.at)  
T: +43 1 405 55 15 – 311  
F: +43 1 405 55 19  
[www.eu-plattform.at](http://www.eu-plattform.at)

##### **BELGIUM**

##### **CNCD-Centre National de Coopération au Développement**

Gérard KARLSHAUSEN  
[gerard.karlshausen@cncd.be](mailto:gerard.karlshausen@cncd.be)  
T : +32 2 250 12 41  
F : +32 2 250 12 63  
[www.cncd.be](http://www.cncd.be)

##### **11.11.11.**

Rein ANTONISSEN  
[Rein.Antonissen@11.be](mailto:Rein.Antonissen@11.be)  
T : +32 2 536 19 60  
F : +32 2 536 19 06  
[www.11.be](http://www.11.be)

##### **ACODEV**

Etienne Van PARIJS  
[evp@acodev.be](mailto:evp@acodev.be)  
T : +32 2 219 88 55  
F : +32 2 217 99 63  
[www.acodev.be](http://www.acodev.be)

##### **COPROGRAM**

[info@coprogram.be](mailto:info@coprogram.be)  
T: +32 2 536 19 20  
F: +32 2 534 14 38  
[www.coprogram.be](http://www.coprogram.be)

##### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

##### **Czech Forum for Development Co-operation FoRS**

Veronika DIVISOVA  
[veronika.divisova@peopleinneed.cz](mailto:veronika.divisova@peopleinneed.cz)  
T: +420 226 200 406  
F: +420 226 200 401  
[www.fors.cz](http://www.fors.cz) , [www.pinf.cz](http://www.pinf.cz)

##### **DENMARK**

##### **Danish EU-NGO Platform**

Per Bo  
[pb@eu-ngo.dk](mailto:pb@eu-ngo.dk)  
T: +45 33 73 74 46  
F: +45 33 73 74 65

##### **FINLAND**

##### **Finnish NGDO platform to the EU (Kehys)**

Rilli Lappalainen  
[rilli.lappalainen@kehys.fi](mailto:rilli.lappalainen@kehys.fi)  
T: +358 9 2315 0560  
F: +358 9 2315 0520  
[www.kehys.fi](http://www.kehys.fi)

<sup>1</sup> It should be stressed that this list entails contacts to national and European members of the Civil Society Contact Group network. However, it does not aim to give a comprehensive picture of the EU NGO landscape.



## FRANCE

### Coordination Sud

Régis Mabilais  
europe@coordinationsud.org  
T: +33 1 44 72 87 13  
F: +33 1 44 72 93 73  
[www.coordinationsud.org](http://www.coordinationsud.org)

## GERMANY

### VENRO (Verband Entwicklungspolitik Deutscher Nicht-Regierungs- Organisationen)

Anke Kurat  
kurat@venro.org  
T: +49 2 28 9 46 77 12  
F: +49 2 28 9 46 77 99  
[www.venro.org](http://www.venro.org)

## GREECE

### Hellenic Committee of Non Governmental Organisations

Pantelis SKLIAS  
sklias@europers.gr;  
greekplatform@europers.gr  
T : +30 210 275 4050  
F : +30 210 271 0960

## HUNGARY

### Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND)

Zsófia FARKAS  
ngdosplatform@demnet.org.hu  
T : +36 1 318 55 40  
F : +36 1 318 51 52  
[www.hand.org.hu](http://www.hand.org.hu)

## IRELAND

### Dóchas

Hans Zomer  
[hans@dochas.ie](mailto:hans@dochas.ie)  
T: +353 1 405 3801  
F: +353 1 405 3802  
[www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie)

## ITALY

### Associazione ONG italiane

Guido BARBERA  
delegazione.europea@ong.it  
T : +39 06 6601 9202  
F : +39 06 6603 2774  
[www.ong.it](http://www.ong.it)

## LATVIA

### Latvian NGDO Platform, LAPAS

Ingrida SKUJA  
ingrida@lapas.lv  
T : +371 846469  
F : +371 7039242  
[www.lapas.lv](http://www.lapas.lv)

## LUXEMBURG

### Cercle de Coopération des ONGD de Luxembourg

Mike MATHIAS  
info@cercle.lu  
T: +352 26 02 09 11  
F: +352 26 02 09 26  
[www.cercle.lu](http://www.cercle.lu)

## MALTA

### Kopin - Koperazzjoni Internazzjonli- Malta

Vince Caruana  
shanti@mail.global.net.mt  
T: +356 21 491373  
F: +356 21 315562  
[www.kopin.org](http://www.kopin.org)

## THE NETHERLANDS

### c/o ICCO

Ad Ooms  
ad.ooms@icco.nl  
T: + 31 30 692 7986  
F: +31(0)30 692 56 14  
[www.icco.nl](http://www.icco.nl)

## POLAND

### Zagranica Group

Justinja JANISZEWSKA  
jusjani@zagranica.org.pl  
T: +48 22 536 02 16  
F: +48 22 536 02 20  
[www.zagranica.org.pl](http://www.zagranica.org.pl)

## PORTUGAL

### Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD

Rodolfo GALLEGO  
concord@plataformaongd.pt  
T: +351 21 887 22 39  
F: +351 21 887 21 41  
[www.plataformaongd.pt](http://www.plataformaongd.pt)

## **SLOVAKIA**

### **Plataforma MVRO**

Marian CAUCIK  
maros@erko.sk  
T: +421 2 5729 7294  
F: +421 2 5443 3097  
[www.mvro.sk](http://www.mvro.sk)

## **SPAIN**

### **CONGDE - Coordinadora de ONGD para el Desarrollo España**

Teresa Tejero Amoedo  
direccion@congde.org  
T: +34 914291661  
F: +34 914291593  
[www.congde.org](http://www.congde.org)

## **SWEDEN**

### **CONCORD Sverige**

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## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY NETWORK**

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The Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) is an informal grouping of NGOs operating at EU level in the broader areas of human rights, democracy and conflict prevention.

The vision of the HRDN is that human rights and democracy are placed at the heart of the European Union's internal and external policy agenda. This vision should manifest itself in a European Union that effectively protects human rights at home and is a force for positive change in the world.

In pursuit of this vision, the network aims to influence EU and member state human rights policies and the programming of their funding instruments to promote democracy, human rights and sustainable peace.

Participation in the network is open to non-governmental organizations which engage at EU level in the promotion of human rights, democracy and conflict prevention in and outside the EU. Applicants will be admitted to the network if none of the current members object.

For further information on the work of the HRDN and for membership requests, please contact Russell Pickard at the Open Society Institute-Brussels:

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## EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

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Founded in 1990, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) brings together over 4000 women's organisations working to achieve equality of women and men and to ensure that gender equality and women's human rights are taken into consideration in all European Union policies. EWL is a democratic organisation with transparent procedures of communication, decision-making and accountability. EWL recognises the diversity of women's lives and experiences and aims to include the interests of the many women who face multiple discrimination.

Membership: The EWL membership is made up of national coordinations in existing Members States of the European Union and countries in accession as well as European/international women's NGOs.

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## **SOCIAL PLATFORM**

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The Platform of European Social NGOs (the Social Platform) is the alliance of representative European federations and networks of non-governmental organisations active in the social sector, promoting social justice and participatory democracy by voicing the concerns of its member organisations.

The Social Platform and its members (more than 40) are committed to the advancement of the principles of equality, solidarity, non discrimination and the promotion and respect of fundamental rights for all, within Europe and in particular the European Union.

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## **The GREEN 10**

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The informal platform of environmental NGOs, called the Green-10, is composed of the European Environmental Bureau, Birdlife International (European Community Office), Climate Network Europe, European Federation for Transport and Environment, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace Europe, International Friends of Nature, WWF (European Policy Office), European Public Health Alliance – Environment Network, CEE Bankwatch Network.

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**EFAH – The European Forum of the Arts and Heritage**

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EFAH aims to build a cross-disciplinary coalition of civil actors in the cultural field and to strengthen representation of the cultural sector towards the EU on areas of common interest.

We believe that the cultural NGO sector has a vital role to play in the development of a democratic Europe. A part of EFAH's mandate is to assess the ways in which culture should find expression in other policy fields; based on the belief that cultural policy has to be an integrated part of other policy formation. Issues of cultural policy intersect with values (e.g. freedom of expression) and issues (e.g. women's access to active participation in the field of art) of the other NGO sectors in the Civil Society Contact Group.

EFAH currently counts over 75 member organisations. Members are independent organisations, either pan European in constitution, or working on European issues relevant to the cultural sector. EFAH does not represent individual members' views, but aims to pool members' expertise in order to build a stronger advocacy platform for the cultural sector.

In that sense, EFAH seeks to strengthen its members through information and dialogue, and contribute as a facilitator for the members' own representation at EU level as necessary. By joining EFAH, a member subscribes to the overall aims of the association, whilst continuing to represent the specific needs of its own organisation

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**EPHA – The European Public Health Alliance**

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The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) represents over 100 non-governmental and other not-for-profit organisations working in support of health in Europe.

EPHA aims to promote and protect the health interests of all people living in Europe and to strengthen the dialogue between the EU institutions, citizens and NGOs in support of healthy public policies.

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**EUCIS LLL –European Civil Society  
Platform on Lifelong Learning  
(Observer)**

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EUCIS-LLL provides an opportunity for exchanges, meetings, debates and a proposed task force. The platform is also a structure aiming to further a popular and civic commitment to the concept of lifelong learning.

The Platform is a partner and a voice for the Commission, especially for the DG education, training, culture and multilingualism. EUCIS-LLL believes that the objectives of education shouldn't only be described in terms of employability or economic growth but also as a framework for personal development and considers education to be a tool for intellectual and civic emancipation for all the Europeans.

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