

Brussels, 16 February 2017

New economy models and social innovation: an opportunity for a better Europe

According to ABI Research, the number of internet-connected devices will go up from over 10,000 in 2015 to 30,000 million in 2020. The digital revolution is changing the way we live, buy and even work, with 15% of independent workers in the US and UE-15 countries having earned income through P2P digital platforms (Source: McKinsey Global Institute). In the meantime, Europe continues to be at the forefront of the fight against climate change, with cities such as Paris and Madrid taking substantial action to reduce CO² emissions and countries committing to minimising their -and their key industries'- environmental impact. Can these two trends – the digital revolution and the climate change fight - be made to converge? Can Europe harness their combined potential and make the most of it?

In order to answer these questions, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the New Economy and Social Innovation (NESI) Global Forum and the Global Hub for the Common Good have met today in Brussels with representatives from the communities directly involved in the collaborative, circular and functional economies in Europe. Themed ***New Economy Models and Social Innovation: an opportunity for a better Europe***, the event aimed to contribute towards the dialogue between the European Commission and civil society and to the shaping of EU legislation in these areas.

A follow-up event will subsequently take place in Malaga, Spain, on 19-22 April, with these players pooling resources to lay the foundations of a fairer and more sustainable, collaborative and people-oriented economy.

In opening the event, EESC President Georges Dassis said: *"It is imperative for the EU to effectively manage Europe's transition from a throw-away culture to a new model that is conducive to sustainable economic growth – the only growth still possible on our over-exploited planet. The EESC will use its strong connection with its civil society base to ensure that this paradigm shift takes place as smoothly and successfully as possible."*

As the voice of European civil society, the EESC has recognised both the potential of the new economy models and the uncharted social and legal challenges they bring with them. The event in Brussels analysed the implications of these changes, introducing a practical dimension by inviting small and medium enterprises and other stakeholders to share their experiences and exchange best practices.

“The new economy models are not just concepts, they are real people, real entrepreneurs transforming the economy from the bottom-up. We call European institutions, from EESC, the European Commission and the EU Parliament, to join and support this emerging movement, not seeing the new economies as silos, but as the new economic system Europe needs,” said Diego Isabel La Moneda, co-founder of the Global Hub for the Common Good and director of NESI Forum. He proposed the creation of a platform, a specific working group, where all these key actors meet *“to co-create a better economy, a better Europe, a better world”*.

Amongst the speakers were members of the EESC, including its president, **Georges Dassis**, as well as representatives of new economy organisations, such as **Diego Isabel La Moneda**, founder of the Global Hub for the Common Good and director of NESI; **Albert Cañigüeral**, Connector at OuisShare, who talked about the collaborative economy; **Christian du Tertre**, President of the European Institute on the Functional Economy and Cooperation; **Nicolas Usuwiel**, from UNIC-3D, who dealt with the Circular Economy model; and **Marcos Eguiguren**, from the Global Alliance for Banking on Values.

The main outcome of this event will feed into NESI Global Forum’s discussions in Malaga, with a view to co-creating guidelines for governments, public institutions and businesses and to work towards a new paradigm based on values and guaranteeing people’s well-being.

For further information about the event: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-new-economy-models>

About the EESC

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) represents the various economic and social components of organised civil society. It is an institutional consultative body established by the 1957 Treaty of Rome. Its consultative role enables its members, and hence the organisations they represent, to participate in the EU decision-making process. The Committee has 350 members from across Europe, who are appointed by the Council of the European Union.

About NESI Forum & Global Hub for the Common Good

NESI Forum is the only Global Forum on New Economy and Social Innovation, which brings together the main actors of change and opinion leaders to think, talk and lay the foundations of a new economy, more sustainable, social, based on values and aimed at the common good. It will gather 900 speakers, opinion leaders and change makers from all over the world in Malaga, Spain, on 19th-22th April, 2016.

www.neweconomyforum.org

NESI is supported by the Global Hub for the Common Good Foundation a think-tank with international experts, created in 2015 with the vision of boosting a new social, economic and political model geared towards a common good.

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Photographs and visual materials are available upon request.