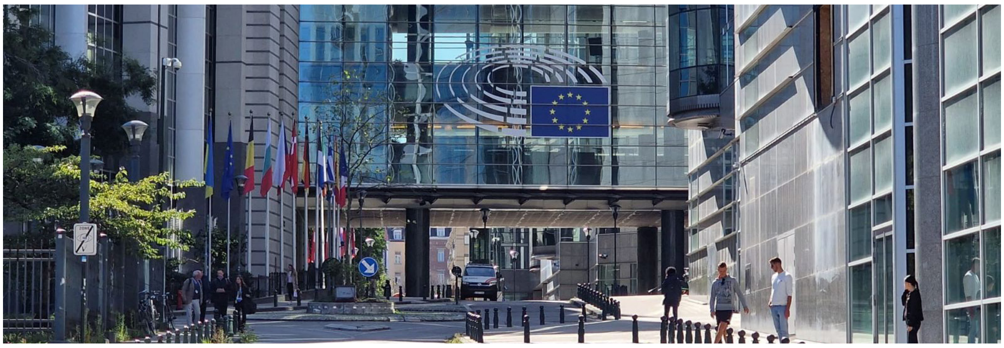
Edited by Luigi Ulgiati, UGL Deputy Secretary, member of the EESC N. 151 21st of November 2025

THE EESC AND THE SINGLE MARKET IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

During the meeting of the Single Market, Production and Consumption Section of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) held in Brussels last week, a highly interesting Opinion (INT/1094) was adopted on the strategy for a European Single Market capable of competing fully on the complex global stage. The EESC emphasises the importance of the Single Market, both as a factor of stability and resilience and because it provides the "minimum significant size" that is essential in the current global context, characterised by strong geopolitical and trade tensions. These challenges require a consistent response at European level in a changed and uncertain environment. The EESC calls for a simplified and more competitive Single Market, in line with the recommendations of the Draghi and Letta Reports, while insisting on the need to maintain a strong and effective cohesion policy capable of ensuring the full inclusion of all territories in the Single Market and remedying existing asymmetries, as well as supporting the green and social transition. In planning the future of the Single Market, the financial, energy and electronic communications sectors should be considered priorities, as they have now taken on a strategic and supranational dimension that goes beyond the initial process of building the Single Market. Furthermore, with regard to the prospect of creating a more competitive and resilient Single Market, the EESC stresses the fundamental importance of effectively applying competitiveness monitoring and impact assessment tools to regulations, without, however, these simplification measures compromising the high fundamental, social and labour rights enshrined in national regulations, EU law and collective agreements. In fact, according to Councillor Ulgiati, «efficient and sustainable integration of the Single Market requires the active involvement of the social Partners and full compliance with the principles of fair competition, in order to protect labour rights and standards and ensure a level playing field».



EU, MILITARY MOBILITY PACKAGE

The Military Mobility Package was presented in Brussels a few days ago. Together with the Industrial Transformation Plan, it forms part of the Defence Package proposed by the European Commission, completing an autumn season marked by European security and defence strategy. The Military Mobility Package is the latest in a series of plans announced by the EU Executive since the beginning of the year to substantially strengthen the European Union's defence before the end of the decade when, according to some intelligence agencies, Russia could have the means to attack another European Country. «Today, it unfortunately takes months to move military equipment and troops from west to east», said Apostolos Tsitsikostas, EU Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism. «What we want to achieve is for this to happen within a few days. You cannot defend a Continent if you cannot move across it», he said at a press conference. This explains the creation of a sort of "military Schengen" to significantly improve military mobility within the bloc. The Plan provides for a new enhanced response system for European military mobility, modelled on the EU's civil protection mechanism, which allows Member States to obtain rapid assistance in the event of natural or man-made disasters. Currently, the rules among the 27 Member States are not harmonised, and some take weeks to respond to a request from another EU Country to move troops and equipment onto their territory. One of the key criteria of the 2025 Military Mobility Package will therefore be to speed up authorisations for cross-border military mobility, whereby EU Member States will have only three days in peacetime and six hours in an emergency to allow other European troops and military equipment to cross their borders. An estimated €100 billion is needed to achieve this European mobilisation, but the EU has so far allocated only €1.7 billion in the current multiannual budget ending in 2027, while the proposed new budget for 2028-2034 allocates €17.7 billion to military mobility, a tenfold increase, but still far from the target.