



EESC: COUNCILLOR ULGIATI AT THE MARCH PLENARY SESSION

A wide range of topics of great interest were discussed during the two-day meeting, which has just concluded in Brussels (18–19 March), at which the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) convened in Plenary Session: ranging from the presentation of the results of Civil Society Week, which highlighted the need for European Union support for the third sector, to the issues of housing, disability and the mental health of young people, as well as the highly topical issue of military mobility and defence in Europe. It was precisely on this last issue that the relevant Opinion (TEN/869) was adopted, in which the EESC welcomes the initiative aimed at significantly facilitating military mobility within and between Member States, in order to achieve a deterrent effect and ensure defence more rapidly and efficiently. Military mobility refers to the ability of Member States' armed forces to rapidly move troops and equipment within the Union and across its external borders for military purposes. In the EESC's view, military mobility is not a technical or administrative issue, but a central element of defence readiness and collective security, requiring measures to simplify and harmonise logistics and transport regulations, given that a significant part of military mobility is carried out using ordinary civilian resources and personnel, without this, however, being at the expense of workers' rights, working conditions or safety standards. In this regard, Councillor Ulgiati emphasised the importance of effectively involving the Social Partners and other civil society actors through social and civil dialogue. «Military mobility - he stated - will be more efficient and better organised if civilian and civil society actors are involved. The Social Partners - added Ulgiati - should therefore be adequately involved from the outset in planning, training, exercises, stress tests and evaluation».



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EU: EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS

The meeting of European Heads of State and Government, held in Brussels a few days ago (19–20 March), concluded with mixed results that highlighted how difficult it is to speak with one voice in response to existential challenges concerning the very role of the European Union both internally and on the international stage. The lack of unanimity among the 27 Member States has, in fact, once again blocked the loan granted to Ukraine to prevent rapid bankruptcy and allow for the supply of arms and ammunition to support the war effort. In addition to Hungary, Slovakia also opposed the move. The unanimity rule therefore seems to be blocking everything. The veto comes, moreover, at a particularly delicate moment for Europe: the United States, under the Presidency of Donald Trump, has cut off aid to Kyiv, leaving the Europeans to bear the main burden of financial support. The European

Summit did, however, achieve a success with the approval of the “One Europe, One Single Market” Agenda. This is an ambitious action Plan, with clearly defined deadlines, which must be fully implemented by the end of 2027, and the majority by the end of 2026. Among the measures outlined are: the completion of the Single Market, the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and the development of the Capital Markets Union and the Savings and Investment Union. Furthermore, on the issue of immigration, Italy made a significant contribution that led the EU Summit to focus even more attention on the crisis

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