

EU Civil Society Contact Group

CSCG 2007 work program

21.12.06

This documents aims to complete the CSCG 2007-2009 strategic plan, setting out a number of actions to be implemented throughout 2007 by area of priority. The priorities and highlights of the year will be the following:

- Reflection on participatory democracy (1st semester)
- Campaign on 50th anniversary (January-April)
- Input in Germany's state of play on the Constitution (May)
- New communication tools (summer)
- Follow-up Communication White Paper (whole year)
- Participation in Commission consultation on transparency and terrorist financing (whole year)

1. Further reflecting and debating to strengthen participatory democracy

Civil Dialogue

Dialogue structure

- Development of specific page on website (January-March + regular update)
- Meeting to discuss study outcomes, discuss challenges, common concerns around civil dialogue, role of the EESC in civil dialogue and set up lobbying strategy (January)
- Meetings with key actors to disseminate the results of the study (first semester)

Role of the EESC

- Monitoring and "watchdog function" (ongoing)

Communication White paper

- Participation in the follow-up of the Communication White Paper (agenda to be defined)

Standards for NGOs

Transparency

- Participation in stakeholder forum put in place by Commission to discuss Code of Conduct (first semester)
- Follow-up 2006 position with key actors (European Parliament, Council)
- Development of a common transparency charter for CSCG members (second semester)

NGOs and fight against terrorism

- Participation in contact group with civil society put in place by the European Commission (first semester)
- Participation in conference organised by DG JLS "transparent NGO governance" (only if basic requirements fulfilled – May)
- Monitoring debate beyond EU institutions, exchange of information

Representativity

- Monitoring follow-up of EESC consultation (ongoing)

NGO funding

- Development of a internal electronic database (intranet) with documents from members about challenges around NGO funding issues (first half)
- Exchange of views and development of a common position on NGO funding (second half – ahead of 2008 financial reform)

Access to institutions

- Exchange of views on implementation of June 2006 decision on Council transparency (first semester)
- Organise a meeting to exchange experiences on access to documents
- Action on Council transparency if needed (first semester)

2. Debating and developing a common vision of “the EU we want” to increase participation and influence major debates on the future of Europe

Financial perspectives

- Organise a meeting to exchange views on priorities across sectors and plan 2008 - 2009 strategy (second semester)

Constitutional process

1st semester: German presidency (will put forward proposals on how to proceed)

- Development of specific page on website
- Monitoring and watchdog function (openness of the reflection period, safeguarding acquis)
- Organisation of one meeting on common strategy and concerns (February)
- Common position to German Presidency on key concerns, if needed (April)

2nd semester: Portuguese presidency

- Monitoring and watchdog function (openness of the reflection period, safeguarding acquis)

50th anniversary of the EU

- Drafting of a common NGO statement
- See specific activity plan

June 2009 EP elections

- Meeting with CSCG representatives and other members from the network to plan election campaign (second semester)

3. Network development

Communication tools

- Follow-up changes to website, setting up intranet with key documents (January-February)
- Organisation of a meeting to discuss networking and communication tools (June)
- Development of a new CSCG mailing list (July)
- Setting up new communication tools – bulletin and mailing (July)

Strengthening the network

- Strengthening cooperation between sectors at national level
- Promote participation of national organisations in advocacy activities (presidencies)

Intelligence-sharing

Sharing intelligence on strategic issues

- Regular update during CSCG meetings (every meeting)
- Meetings on identified priorities and upcoming events at director’s level (every second CSCG meeting)
- Definition of topics **every sixth month.**

Exchange on key policy issues, open to the wider network

- Informal networking or “awareness-raising” lunch briefings/debates, open beyond director’s level (**every second month**)
- Definition of topics **every sixth month.**