

# EU Civil Society Contact Group

## 2008 work program

19 November 2007

*This document aims to complement the CSCG 2007-2009 strategic plan by setting out a number of actions to be implemented throughout 2008. The priorities of the year will be the following:*

- *Participatory Democracy: discuss the concept further and prepare a position on the new Art II-8b (ex Art.I-47)*
- *EU budget reform: participate in consultation and follow-up of the reform process*
- *EP election: development and dissemination of a common manifesto, development of toolkit project*

<b>1. Participatory Democracy</b>				
<i>While building upon achievements and expertise on participatory democracy the CSCG wants to further reflect and debate the concept.</i>				
<b>1.1 EU driven policy initiatives</b>				
<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Follow the development and launch of the register for interest representatives and code of conduct and evaluation after six month of running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ input in discussion</li> <li>➤ discuss feedback to be given to Secretariat General</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ monitoring</li> <li>➤ prepare feedback to Secretariat General (format to be decided)</li> </ul>	whole year	core budget
Input in the work of the EP working party on parliamentary reform, which looks at relations with stakeholders	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ send study and letter (+chair)</li> </ul>	January	core budget
Art II-8b of the Reform treaty ➤ Develop a common understanding on the concepts of participatory democracy, civil dialogue, civil society and citizenship ('real citizens' vs. 'usual suspects')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss the questions to be addressed in the paper</li> <li>➤ active participation in meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ commission a short background paper outlining key concepts (+chair)</li> <li>➤ organise a half-day CSCG meeting including an external input</li> </ul>	first semester	to be secured
➤ Develop a common narrative about the role of NGOs and the value of civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss in regular meeting</li> <li>➤ discuss elements of paragraph in a subgroup if necessary</li> <li>➤ comment the drafted paragraph and list</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ draft paragraph and list of arguments</li> </ul>	After meeting on particip. democracy	Core budget

<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Develop a position on the implementation of the new article on participatory democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss in regular meeting</li> <li>➤ participate in subgroup meeting if necessary</li> <li>➤ comment the draft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ draft a position paper</li> </ul>	second semester	core budget
Ask the EU institutions to engage in a debate with civil society organisations on the implementation of the new article and play a key role in the debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ raise the issue in their contacts with EU institutions representatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop proposal how to pursue the issue</li> </ul>	second semester	core budget
<b>1.2 CSCG driven debates and activities</b>				
<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Develop further the contacts with the Secretariat General and explore possibility of intervening in training sessions for Commission officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ participate in meeting</li> <li>➤ discuss follow-up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ arrange meeting</li> <li>➤ organise follow-up</li> </ul>	whole year	core budget
Collect experiences with the sectorial Councils and show the differences in access in a short document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ fill in questionnaire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop short questionnaire</li> <li>➤ present answers in short document</li> </ul>	early June June July-August	core budget - core budget

## 2. Future of Europe

*The CSCG aims to further develop its political dimension by elaborating a common vision of the EU we want. This includes taking the time to build consensus about how we see the EU at a certain moment in time.*

### 2.1 EU driven policy initiatives

<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Participate in the consultation on the EU budget review, looking also at the issue of NGO funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ contribute to the organisation of a meeting beyond director level to open up the discussion by bringing in experts</li> <li>➤ comment draft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ coordinate the organisation</li> <li>➤ coordinate drafting of a common response</li> </ul>	early 2008  until April	to be secured for bringing in experts core budget

<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Follow the ratification of the Reform treaty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ contribute to dissemination of briefing</li> <li>-</li> <li>➤ discuss the current state of the EU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ prepare a briefing on new treaty</li> <li>➤ monitoring</li> <li>➤ prepare the discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>early 2008</li> <li>whole year</li> <li>before summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>core budget</li> <li>core budget</li> <li>core budget</li> <li>core budget</li> </ul>
<b>2.2 CSCG driven debates and activities</b>				
<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Develop and disseminate (with special attention to the new member states) a common manifesto in view of the European Parliament election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss in regular meetings</li> <li>➤ draft sectorial contributions for manifesto</li> <li>➤ comment draft</li> <li>➤ participate in the dissemination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ coordinate the drafting and dissemination of the manifesto</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>early 2008</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>core budget</li> </ul>
Explore possibility of developing a European elections toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss the project plan</li> <li>➤ share contacts in new member states with coordinator</li> <li>➤ discuss the toolkit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop a detailed project plan</li> <li>➤ explore possibilities of cooperation on the development, translation and dissemination of a toolkit with partners in the new member states</li> <li>➤ start the development of kit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July-August</li> <li>September-November</li> <li>Oct.-Dec.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>core budget</li> <li>core budget</li> <li>to be secured</li> </ul>
Discuss activity around new Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ brainstorm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ensure follow up of brainstorming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>second semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>core budget</li> </ul>

### 3. Network development

*The CSCG's added value is not only its common "outcomes" but also the network it provides and the possibility to develop more exchanges on members' priorities and intelligence-sharing on common challenges. This aspect of the CSCG shall be ensured and strengthened true the activities listed below.*

#### 3.1 Funding

<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Ensure financial sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ define funding strategy (funding committee)</li> <li>➤ participate in the implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ coordinate implementation of the funding strategy</li> <li>➤ report back to funders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>whole year</li> <li>end of year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>core budget</li> </ul>

<b>3.2 Intelligence-sharing</b>				
<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Informal networking and awareness-raising lunch briefings/debates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss content of meetings</li> <li>➤ inform members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2-4 meetings open beyond director's level</li> </ul>	whole year	core budget
Improve mailing system for bulletin	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss options with IT specialist</li> <li>➤ implement solution</li> </ul>	first semester	to be secured
Improve dissemination of information to civil society organisation in the new member states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss strategy</li> <li>➤ share contacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ propose strategy</li> <li>➤ implement strategy</li> </ul>	whole year	core budget
<b>3.3 Improve transparency</b>				
<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Review the mission statement of the role of the CSCG on the basis of discussions on participatory democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ contribute to the discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ prepare the discussion</li> <li>➤ update website if necessary</li> </ul>	second semester	core budget
Reconsider the name of the CSCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ brainstorm for more adequate names</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ change the logo, update documents and the website (if change of name decided)</li> </ul>	second semester	core budget
Keep improving the website	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ improve information available</li> </ul>	whole year	core budget
<b>3.4 Membership assessment</b>				
<i>issue</i>	<i>Actions expected from members</i>	<i>Actions expected from coordinator (+chair)</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Assess the membership of the CSCG and identify potential new members and partners on the basis of the work program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss assessment method</li> <li>➤ discuss assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ propose method for assessment</li> <li>➤ prepare assessment</li> <li>➤ follow-up the assessment</li> </ul>	second semester	core budget
Improve cooperation with non-members with a special focus of contact with civil society organisation in the new member states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss options with IT specialist to set up issue related mailing lists</li> </ul>	to be defined	core budget

A couple of ongoing activities are not mentioned in the work program: mainly communication and information through a short weekly mailing to the members and a bimonthly bulletin to interested subscribers as well as the maintenance of the website

Core budget = Salary coordinator, rent and running cost office