



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the European Economic and Social Committee and the International
Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions

The European Economic and Social Committee and the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions,

Preamble

Whereas the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), established by the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community of 25 March 1957, is the official advisory body of the European Union (EU) representing civil society.

Whereas the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS), established on 1st July 1999 by Economic and social councils and similar institutions from across the world, operates as an advisory board of organized civil society institutions to achieve social justice and the well-being of the population through cooperation in resolving economic, social and environmental challenges.

Whereas both parties share the idea of organised civil society as a legitimate and crucial contributor to decision-making and public discussion, among other in order to pursue the following goals:

- ensuring that public policies are well informed and take all societal interests into consideration;
- empowering citizens for a better democratic governance;
- addressing global challenges together, e.g. migration, climate change, peace and security, economic shocks, health issues and trade rules;
- encouraging trans-regional and continental responses to emerging problems.

Whereas the challenges that are currently on the global agenda can have a significant influence on citizens' lives, on the work of social partners and on the general well-being of our societies.

Whereas an increasing number of social, economic, technological and environmental issues have now a global dimension and need to be tackled as such.

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1: Objectives

- 1) By means of this Memorandum of Understanding, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) are establishing a non-legally binding formal framework for cooperation, the aim of which will be to enhance cooperation and promote synergies between the two bodies. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any kind of association between the signatories and does not provide for any exclusivity in cooperation and it is not intended to create legal rights or obligations.
- 2) The EESC and the AICESIS intend by means of this cooperation to enhance economic and social stakeholder involvement in the relations between the European Union and the other countries of the world.

Article 2: Areas of cooperation

The EESC and the AICESIS agree:

- 1) to join forces with a view to stepping up the involvement of economic and social stakeholders from the EU and the rest of the world in global decision-making, inter alia within international forums, and towards a better-functioning and more open and horizontal world governance;
- 2) to foster their mutual cooperation in areas relevant for both parties with a view among other to contribute to peace and stability in the world, to the promotion of multilateralism, to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to the resolution of pressing environmental, technological and health-related issues.

Article 3: Working method of cooperation

- 1) The parties agree to regularly meet and ensure the exchange of information on their respective work programmes in relevant fields and to involve each other in projects and activities where cooperation between the EESC and the AICESIS is advantageous, such as:
 - involvement of the AICESIS in relevant EESC activities, including relevant study group meetings, conferences and other events;
 - involvement of the EESC in relevant AICESIS activities;
- 2) Both parties may also organise joint events of mutual interest involving civil society stakeholders, including social partners, notably in view of elaborating joint contributions to relevant multilateral summits/meetings.

- 3) Both parties should consult each other on the organisations to be invited to joint activities.
- 4) Each party supports the other party in the establishment of contacts with its members.
- 5) On demand, each party can facilitate the holding of meetings of the other party by providing meeting rooms at its headquarters, when available.

Article 4: Financing

The cooperation between the EESC and the AICESIS will not imply the allocation of any additional funds or financial resources to support and implement activities arising from the present memorandum. Each party shall cover the full costs of its participation in any aspect of the above cooperation in accordance with its own policies, rules and regulations.

Article 5: Entry into force, amendment and termination

- 1) This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of the signature by the parties.
- 2) Any proposal for amendment of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be submitted to the competent authorities of both parties for approval.
- 3) Either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving no less than three months' written notice to the other party. Any such termination will be without prejudice to the orderly completion of any ongoing activity pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding as of the time of such notice.

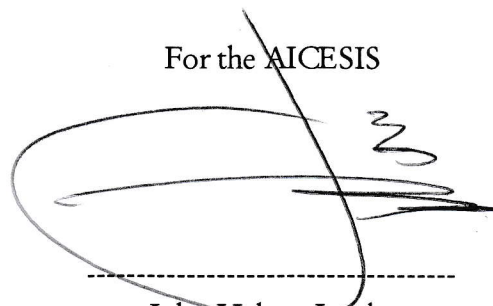
Signed in duplicate in Brussels, on 25/03/2025

For the EESC



Oliver Röpke
President

For the AICESIS



John Hubert Jacobs
President