



**Strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the European Semester
Civil Society proposals for smart, sustainable and inclusive recovery
Public Hearing
European Parliament 14 May, 2013: 09.00 – 12.30 Room P5B001**

Co-hosted by : Marije Cornelissen, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance; **Veronica Lope Fontagné**, European People’s Party; **Marian Harkin**, ALDE; **Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto**, S&D and Civil Society ad-hoc coalition: EAPN, EWL, Green Budget Europe, Eurodiaconia, EASPD, Eurochild, Caritas Europa

Europe 2020 and the European Semester are now in the third year, and continue to have an increasing role in shaping socio-economic and environmental policies at national level. Driven by economic governance to keep public deficits at bay, the Europe 2020 goals and targets for a smart, sustainable and inclusive recovery urgently require transparent processes to give a voice to Civil Society organisations (CSO)¹. It is legitimate to ask how far Member States are engaging national stakeholders in the National Reform Programmes (NRPs) and responding to the country-specific-recommendations (CSRs). Civil society’s assessment of participation and their proposals for CSRs are a crucial part of this process in order to strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the European Semester and delivery on the Europe 2020 goals, particularly those relating to: lifting at least 20 million people out of **poverty**, achieving a 75% **employment** rate for women and men, 10% **school dropout** and 20% increase in **energy efficiency**.



Registration: by 7 May: Terry@womenlobby.org (name, first name, DOB, nationality, ID)





Strengthening Democratic Legitimacy of the European Semester: Civil Society proposals for smart, sustainable and inclusive recovery

Draft Programme

May 14th 2013: 9.00 to 12.30 Room P5B001

9.00-9.10: Opening remarks by **Marije Cornelissen** MEP Greens/European Free Alliance

Chair: **Marian Harkin**, MEP - ALDE

9.10 – 10.15: Presentation of Civil Society (CSO) proposals of **Alternative Recommendations (CSRs)**

- Social CSO: Caritas Europa - Peter Verhaeghe, Eurochild - Jana Hainsworth on behalf of the social sector
- Green CSO: Green Budget Europe - Constanze Adolf
- Gender equality CSO: European Women's Lobby - Mary Collins

Reaction by **Tom Dominique**, Chair of the Social Protection Committee (Council of the European Union)

Debate with the floor

Chair: **Veronica Lope Fontagné**, MEP - EPP

10.15 – 11.10: Civil society engagement to strengthen EU2020 and European Semester

- ETUC: Sarah King - Advisor
- NGO Ad-hoc Coalition: EAPN - Sian Jones
- Good practice of social/civil engagement: Belgian Platform Against Poverty - Elke Vandermeerschen

11.10-11.50: Responses by the EU institutions

-Commission: **Dr Lieve Franssen**, Director "Europe 2020: Social Policies", DG EMPL

-Representatives of the Council

-MEPs: Marije Cornelissen, Marian Harkin, Veronica Lope Fontagné, Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto

11.50 -12.20: Debate with the Floor

12.20 – 12.30: Closing remarks by **Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto**, MEP, S&D

Translation in Spanish will be available. All participants can collect their entrance badges at the ASP entrance on the Place Luxembourg side. Entrance from 8:15-8:45.

