



OIKONOMIKH KAI KOINONIKH EΠITΡΟΠΗ  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF GREECE  
COMITÉ ÉCONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL DE GRÈCE

***"Social Dialogue, industrial relations and civil dialogue:  
what solutions and role for the ESC-SIs in changing societies?"***

**International Conference**

**Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 October 2014  
Athens - Greece**

**P R O G R A M M E - F I R S T D R A F T**

**W E D N E S D A Y 8 O C T O B E R**

- 9.15     **Welcome – Registration**
- 10.00     **Opening speech:**
- **Christos Polyzogopoulos**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece
  - **Evgeny Velikhov**, President of the Civic Chamber of Russia and President of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS)
  - **Member of the Hellenic government** (to be determined)
- 10.45     **Presentation:** Social dialogue in different countries and role of ESC-SIs
- 11.00     **First Round Table: "Development of industrial relations in the current crisis: changes in progress"**

The objectives of this first round table are twofold:

- First, *to make an inventory* of measures that have been taken recently by governments and companies in different countries in order to change social regulations, the labour market and collective bargaining systems, but also to revive employment and competitiveness.
- Second, *to answer the questions:* (a) For what kind of collective

bargaining model are the different governments and social partners striving and what are the results on the effectiveness of the social dialogue (role of the State, the companies, the trade unions)? (b) Are we heading towards a single model of industrial relations and what can be the benefits for the workers and the economy?

*Moderator: tbd*

*Introductory speech: Expert 1*

*Intervention from ESC-SIS*

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### **Discussion**

13.00     **Lunch**

14.30     **Second Round Table: "What are the main changes in progress in work organisation systems, business management and training?"**

In the current globalization phase, where emerging countries have already developed and will continue to develop their technological and research capacities and the quality of their labour force, competition is growing keener on high-tech products, as well as for all kind of products and services all over the world. This requires companies to rethink their ways of organizing work, business management and employee training so as to remain viable in the face of world competition in these fields.

- What new ways of organizing work should be considered in industry and services?
- In what jobs and what types of training is it necessary to invest in order to anticipate the changes underway in modes of production in the face of global competition?
- What management methods are needed so that relations between management, supervisors, employees and trade unions can make companies more efficient so as to overcome the crisis and generate new growth?
- Is generalizing the participation employee representatives in the management bodies of companies an efficient means to enable workers to weigh in on strategic decisions?
- What are the necessary new company-territory links to facilitate the social dialogue and to improve the decision-making process taking greater account of stakeholders and the reality in the field?

*Moderator: tbd*

*Introductory speech: Expert 2*

**Working languages: tbd**

*Intervention from ESC-SIS*

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**Discussion**

16.30     **End of the first day of the Conference**

20.30     **Gala Dinner**

**T H U R S D A Y   9 O C T O B E R**

9.30     **Welcome - Registration**

10.15     **Presentation of the results of the Conference held in Madrid**

10.30     **Third Round Table: “How ESC-SIs can be involved in the search for economic, social, industrial and financial solutions in the current situation?”**

*“To what extent and how can discussions be efficiently broadened to civil dialogue and therefore to the inclusion of other civil society representative organizations. What can be the role of ESCs-SIs in this regard?”*

In the modern world, strategies for development require a broad national consensus involving specific resources of society for readjusting production models, in a changing word environment.

ESC-SISs play a central role in the creation of trust to institutional systems and to democracy. They can contribute to identify dysfunctions and weaknesses, prepare a long-term perspective view and make suggestions for public policy, by their recommendations and opinions.

Moreover, societies are changing fast, and the demand for more inclusive societies is increasing. Different stakeholders want to have their own say. Thanks to their compositions and members, ESC-SIs can provide public policy with a unique expert view, as they represent the essence and common ground of social partners and other components of organized civil society. By so doing, they are key players of modern participatory democracy, and contribute to a more inclusive society by enlarging dialogue to other representative spheres and organizations of civil society. They are active parts of modern governance.

*Moderator:* tbd

*Introductory speech:* **Expert 3**

*Intervention from ESC-SIS*

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**Discussion**

12.30    **Synthesis of the Round Tables**

**Closing speech:**

- **Christos Polyzogopoulos**, President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece
- **Evgeny Velikhov**, President of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS)

13.30    **Lunch**

14.30.    **End of the Conference**

Evening    **Spectacle and Gala Dinner**

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**Working languages:** tbd