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**COVER NOTE**

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From: Mr Oliver RÖPKE, President of the European Economic and Social Committee

date of receipt: 11 February 2025

To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Subject: European Economic and Social Committee  
- Letter from the President

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Delegations will find in the Annex a letter dated 11 February 2025, from Mr Oliver RÖPKE, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, addressed to Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union.

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Encl.: IM 1506 2025

E-MAIL

European Economic  
and Social Committee

The President

IM 01506 2025  
11-02-2025Brussels, 11 February 2025  
(PRES.CAB)(2025) D/391Ms Thérèse Blanchet  
Secretary-General  
General Secretariat of the Council of the  
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Dear Secretary-General,

In view of the upcoming renewal of the members of the European Economic and Social Committee for the 2025-2030 term of office, I would like to refer to the letter of 13 November 2024 sent by the General Secretariat of the Council in which the Member States were invited to submit their nomination proposals to the General Secretariat of the Council by 30 April 2024.

As part of its strong commitment to more equitable representation in all its structures and activities, the Bureau of the European Economic and Social Committee is pleased that the letter inviting Member States to submit their proposals makes explicit reference to the Council Conclusions adopted on [7 December 2015 on equality between women and men in decision-making](#) and on [12 June 2023 on gender mainstreaming in policies, programmes and budgets](#).

This reference, a sign of the Council's ongoing commitment to mainstreaming gender equality criteria in every policy, is perfectly aligned with the commitments already made by the Committee during its current term of office to promote inclusion and gender balance. This is reflected in the work plan of the EESC body tasked with promoting a cross-cutting culture of equality within the EESC submitted to the Bureau in September 2024.

It is my hope, and the hope of the EESC Bureau, that this commitment will also be reflected in the composition of the delegations in the future Committee. This indeed was the reason why, on 21 January 2025, the EESC Bureau mandated me to contact the Council to ask it to take into account, in addition to the relevant eligibility criteria under Article 300(2) TFEU, the objective of promoting gender balance when adopting the decision determining the Committee's composition (Articles 301 and 302 TFEU).

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I would therefore ask that the consideration of proposals submitted to the Council should also take into account the overall gender balance of the EESC membership. The EESC Bureau would also like to underline that the Committee would be in favour of other dimensions of equality to be considered, including the representation of different ages (e.g. young members between 18 and 35 years) and the inclusion of vulnerable social groups. Both of the above are issues on which the Committee is very actively involved through its work.

Yours sincerely,



Oliver RÖPKE