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# Reindustrialization of Europe: Engineers to Play a Role, Says the EESC

One year ago, on the 17th February 2015, the European Economic and Social Committee, acting under Rule 29(2) of its Rules of Procedure, decided to prepare an own-initiative opinion on 'The Role of Engineers in the Reindustrialization of Europe'. The Opinion in question was adopted by the EESC Plenary at the end of the same year, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2015. The President of CEPLIS, Rudolph Kolbe, in his capacity as EESC member, has actively participated, in the works of the 'Study Group on The Role of Engineers in Reindustrialization' set up in order to prepare the final text and several of his ideas were included in the now officially adopted opinion.



Among other things the text in question recommends to the European Commission to establish a **European Liberal Profession Forum** and calls for the creation of a Code of Good Practice for engineering professionals.

Both the above points are a source of rejoicing for us in CEPLIS, who have plead, as you know, for such a forum within DG Grow's Working Group and have actively encourage our members to adopt codes of conduct practice at the EU level.

Below is the official statement of the EESC on the said opinion:

*"There is an urgent need to reindustrialise Europe. In order to achieve this, the engineering and technical professions should be focused. These professions are indispensable in developing innovative production methods and products. However, without appropriate human resources and their potential, experience and knowledge, this goal is not to be achieved.*



*Industry and companies should introduce communication policy to emphasise the attractiveness of the industrial sector; the crucial role belongs to industry associations. Better dialogue between companies and organisations in charge of vocational training*

*might be an important step in facing the employment creation issue. What is more it could reduce differences between demand and supply.*

*The core of engineering skills in Europe is found in the engineering industry, which consists of some 130 000 companies employing more than 10 million people with high qualification and skill levels, generating an annual output of around EUR 1 840 bn and one third of all EU exports . Moreover, engineers and technicians play an important role in all sectors of the economy. European engineering industry plays key role in realising the goal of increasing the industrial production value above 20% GDP by 2020. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to develop a coordinated policy that will be clearly directed at European industrial competitiveness.*

*Engineering experience and knowledge must be continuously upgraded in order to appropriately meet the challenges of the 4th wave of industrialisation. New forms of learning and training are needed to optimally use the social and human capital of the sector. Also new forms of work should be organised.*



*This opinion is to motivate the European Commission to put a stronger focus on a coherent application of existing rules among all Member States, harmonising and strengthening the Market Surveillance. These kinds of political strategies should focus on global value chain, innovations and development.*

*Stakeholders must be brought together to promote these professions: business, trade unions and education institutions. A particular role should be given to national and European engineering associations."*

*The full text of the opinion can be found [here](#).*

# TTIP Negotiations Face Difficulties

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A new round of negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will take place in February. Despite Commissioner Malmstrom's ambitions and optimistic remarks analysts agree that the round in question is very unlikely to deliver the conclusion of the negotiations in the course of 2016. Furthermore, German judges have objected to a new court system, proposed in the agreement and allowing investors to sue governments, which would be set up as part of an EU-US trade deal.

On this latest evolution we would like to share with you an article from BBC.com:

*"The German Association of Judges (DRB) said there was "neither a legal basis, nor an actual need for such a court".*

*But in response the European Commission said the Investment Court System (ICS) would not affect national or EU law.*

*The role of commercial courts is one of the thorniest issues in the EU-US trade negotiations, known as TTIP.*



*There are fears that big firms could put excessive legal pressure on states.*

*The Commission abandoned the idea of using existing arbitration courts, called Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), because of the accusation that powerful multinationals use them to force changes in public policy.*

*Rejecting the German judges' criticisms, a Commission trade spokesman told the BBC that the new ICS plan was based on input from parliaments in the EU and other stakeholders.*

*"The ICS only rules on matters of international law, contained in the agreement. It does not rule on member state law or EU law, and hence the ICS in no way alters the established court system within the EU," spokesman Joseph Waldstein said. He said ICS proceedings would be transparent, with fully qualified judges and a right to appeal. National and EU laws offer more protections for investors, he said, so they would be "unlikely to need to go to the ICS system"."*

*Link of the article: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35503885>*

# Multi-speed Europe? – The Original 6 Look for New Momentum

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Economic & refugee Crisis, Brexit & polarization of politics, are all recent developments that shook the foundations of Eurozone, the Schengen Area and the European Union itself. Amidst these unprecedeted challenges that the European Union has to face, challenges that put in danger its own existence, politicians from the six founding Member-States attempt to assume the role of guardian angels and safeguard what has been achieved in more than five decades, at least for some..

Paul Dallison wrote the following on politico.eu:

*The six founding members of the European Union are “concerned about the state of the European project” but committed to ever closer union, they said Tuesday.*

*The foreign ministers of the six countries — Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands — held a dinner in Rome to discuss setting up a very informal group of*



*“core” states prepared to push the EU forward, as revealed by POLITICO on Monday.*

*In a statement, they said the EU “appears to be facing very challenging times. It is in these critical times that we, as founding members, feel particularly called upon.”*

*Although the statement*

*contained no policy proposals, it did say Europe “is successful when we overcome narrow self-interest in the spirit of solidarity,” and backed “an ever closer union among the people of Europe” as Europe faces challenges such as the migration crisis and terrorism.*

*Britain, which was not mentioned by name in the ministers’ statement, wants to make sure it is exempted from “ever closer union” as a condition for staying a member of the bloc.*

*But the six founders signalled their opposition to that idea, saying “We firmly believe that the European Union remains the best answer we have for today’s challenges and allows for different paths of integration.”*

*All 28 members of the EU will meet in Brussels on February 18 to try to hash out a deal on the U.K.’s demands for reform.*

# News in Brief and Upcoming Events

## Key Data on liberal professions in France

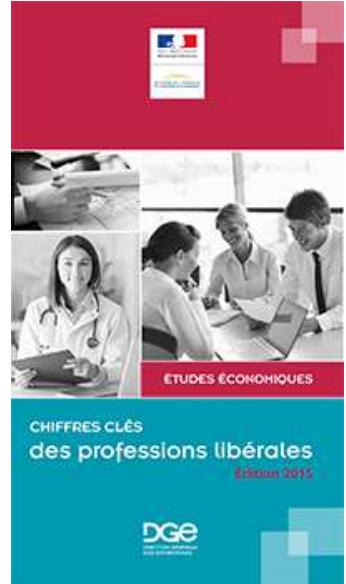
The French Ministry of Industry and Digital Economy has recently published a small leaflet entitled *Les Chiffres Clés des Professions Libérales* (The key data of Liberal Professions).

The publication presents a synthesis of the latest statistical data available on the country's liberal professions, including some detailed data for some specific professions from the health, the legal and on the technical fields.

A digital version of the leaflet in question can be consulted on:

[http://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/files/files/directions\\_services/etudes-et-statistiques/Chiffres\\_cles/Professions\\_liberales/2015-12-Chiffres-Cles-professions-liberales.pdf](http://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/files/files/directions_services/etudes-et-statistiques/Chiffres_cles/Professions_liberales/2015-12-Chiffres-Cles-professions-liberales.pdf)

N.B: It would be very interesting for us to know if any other country's ministry has issued a similar leaflet. The European Institutions are often knocking on our door for such data. Our lobbying can also, obviously highly benefit from reliable evidence of our socioeconomic importance.



## New Programmes and Tools to Boost EU Entrepreneurship – EUROPA Newsroom

**Four new agreements** in Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and France are expected to mobilise investment of more than €200 million for promising start-ups, SMEs and mid-cap companies.

These four agreements will enable fund managers to invest equity in promising start-ups, SMEs and mid-caps needing early-stage to growth-stage capital investments. By mobilising other investors, including funds from the private sector, this is expected to result in eventual overall investments of more than €200 million.

European Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said:

"Today's announcement of EU venture capital investment in innovation and growth of European SMEs is very good news. EU-funding will help to give a boost to high-potential companies active in different sectors, such as clean technology, improving medical devices, diagnostics and healthcare IT, and the digital economy. Together with private sector

partners and the EIF, we are making a difference to our citizens, reinforcing investor confidence throughout Europe and creating growth and jobs."

### More information

**Furthermore**, to support the Business Planet series, Euronews has created an online toolkit for entrepreneurs. The toolkit features handy tips and expert advice from entrepreneurs and industry specialists.

It can help you:

- run a successful business including making a business plan, finding clients and understanding your finances
- expand abroad including finding the right countries to do business in
- get access to finance through EU programs, going public or a business angel
- take your business digital by choosing the right tools and preparing for the transformation

Learn more: [Toolkit for entrepreneurs](#)

## The European Commission takes a dangerous path on Professional Qualifications

The 26 of this January, the **European Commission** has responded to a letter from **the President of the Initiative of Medical Nurses and Technicians of Croatia, Ms. Gordana Miskulin**.

The letter in question was a complaint on behalf of the Croatian nurses who have completed high school before the references dates mentioned in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC. The Commission informs the nurses who have complained that it has decided to open an EU Pilot investigation to enquire with the Croatian authorities about the professional status of general care nurses trained at vocational level to Croatia's accession to the EU.



COMMISSIONER Elżbieta Bieńkowska

We feel that this evolution concerns all of us.

The first reason is of course the fact that the letter does not mention the Croatian Regulatory Body for Nursing as a natural interlocutor and information source, limiting the

Commission's talks to the sole State agents. This can of course be easily overturned by the lobbying of our colleagues.

The second reason is that the demand of these nurses, if it is realized, it could ruin the entire work of ENC and CEPLIS, aiming at creating a unique and clear status of nursing, with a clear description of its minimal required standards of qualification (12 years of general education, and a number of specialization years on a faculty). Considering professionals outside of these standards, the Commission risk to reinforce the view that there are two categories with the same name: nurses, with obvious results for patient safety and public health.

*Please come back to us with your views and valuable input on this, and feel free to contact our Secretariat.*

## EFPA Elections Result



The **European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA)**, an active member of CEPLIS, has elected a new Executive Council with a mandate expiring on 2019. **Mr. Telmo Mourinho Baptista**, from the Portuguese Order of Psychologists, was elected President of EFPA.

He is going to be seconded by **Mr. Robertas Povilaitis** who was elected as Vice-President. (And who was already served a first term in the Executive Council) and by **Mr. Christoph Steinebach** who took the position of Treasurer.

CEPLIS congratulates the newly elected team and wishing them good luck for the tasks they need to carry out. We look forward to working with them for the benefit of all the liberal professional family very soon.

*Mr. Telmo Mourinho Baptista, the new president of the Executive Council of EFPA*

