

THE ECONOMY FOR THE COMMON GOOD (ECG) GOES BRUSSELS

Opinion Initiative on the ECG at the European Economic and Social Committee

June 17, 2015 was a very important day for the international Economy for the Common Good (ECG) movement. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) held a [public meeting](#) in Brussels called „**Economy for the Common Good: a sustainable economic model geared towards social cohesion**“.

The EESC is a consultative body for the European Union with 353 members representing workers, employers and civil society. It sees itself as a bridge between EU institutions and citizens. It advises the EU Commission, the EU Parliament and the Council of the EU. The EESC can present the European Commission with so-called opinions, which can be used to advance new legislative measures.

Diego Isabel La Moneda from the Spanish ECG movement and a member of the ECG's International Coordination Team were able to encourage [Carlos Trias Pintó](#), a Spanish committee member, consumer advocate and head of an EESC subcommittee, to push for an opinion initiative on the ECG.

A new opinion has to go through a three-phased process before it can be voted upon in a plenary session. First, a working group within a section of the committee is set up and must meet twice. The second of these meetings took place in the form of a public hearing on June 17 between 10am and 1pm. The committee invited Christian Felber, initiator of the ECG movement, Antje von Dewitz, pioneer entrepreneur and CEO of VAUDE, the Green MEP Molly Scott and [many more](#).

The working group will present its opinion to the Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion (ECO) section of the EESC in July (<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.eco-section>). You can find the current draft opinion here: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.eco-opinions.34923>. The ECO section will work on the draft opinion and present it for a vote at the plenary session on September 17. A simple majority will suffice for passage. The sponsor of the opinion, Carlos Trias Pintó, has won passage of all 11 opinions he has previously sponsored. After the first two meetings of the working group he is optimistic that this opinion will also be successful.

An opinion like this can be helpful for the ECG movement in a number of ways:

- For public events in EU member states (for example with MEPs)
- For an event within the European Parliament (Diego and Christian are working on this)
- For future work with the EU Commission on a legislative measure

After the activities around the EU directive on non-financial reporting, this is the second concrete activity of the ECG movement within the EU. Wish us luck for the further work and let's hope that more is to come.



