



EUROPEAN CIVIC FORUM  
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PRESS RELEASE

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## THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIVE NETWORKS ACTIVELY WORK TOGETHER FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Some 200 stakeholders of the European civil society gathered together on 14 April in Brussels within the European Economic and Social Committee on the initiative of the European Civic Forum. United for the first time beyond the diversity of their respective fields of activity, about twenty important European networks<sup>1</sup> stand up for a common “Manifesto for a genuine European civil dialogue” and called on the European political parties on the place and the role of civil society organizations within a more participatory democracy.

The debates held with the members of the European Parliament on the new democratic instruments provided within the Treaty of Lisbon and the means to put them into practice highlighted the need to devise a structured, efficient and sustainable overall framework for European civil dialogue.

The issue of adopting a statute for the European association has been, to a large extent, positively tackled during the discussions.

The representatives of the European political parties, Richard Corbett, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Jo Leinen, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Jean Lambert, Gabriele Zimmer and Andrew Duff welcomed this joint initiative and suggested it should be carried forward so that the recommendations find an echo within the next parliamentary term.

The European Civic Forum is particularly satisfied with this collective movement and recalls the need to encourage citizens to vote in the forthcoming European elections.

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<sup>1</sup> **European Civic Forum**, **COFACE** (Confederation of family organisations in the EU), **AEDH** (European Association for the defense of Human rights), **Youth Forum Jeunesse**, **Eurochild**, the **Platform of European social NGOs**, **ILGA** (International Lesbian and Gay Association), **EUCIS-LLL** (the European platform of civil society for education and lifelong learning), **European movement**, **EDF** (European Disability Forum), **EFC** (European foundation center), **RED** (Rurality, Environment, Development), Grouping of NGOs social services providers (**Solidar**, **EASPD** – European association of service providers for persons with disabilities), **CEDAG** – European council of associations of general interest), **BEUC** (the European consumers’ organisation), **EWL** (European women’s lobby) ...