

# Joint EU – UN Press Statement

The United Nations Secretary-General, the President of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission, met in New York for their annual meeting in the margins of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Today, they expressed their determination to further strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union. At a time of unprecedented and pressing global challenges, the United Nations and the European Union continue to engage together as positive forces for change to promote and renew full commitment to multilateralism and a rules-based global order, in line with their respective mandates, and to work closely for stability and prosperity to promote a safer and better world for all.

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the two organisations to stand up for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all across the world. It is also the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping, an institution that for seven decades has helped protect the vulnerable and promote peace and security across the globe.

In a rapidly evolving global landscape, the implementation of the reform of the United Nations system is crucial. The European Union is committed to strengthen and further promote the multilateral system, with a reformed UN at its core.

Partnerships with regional organisations are central to the United Nations' preventive action, and the European Union is an indispensable partner of the United Nations, contributing to regional and global peace and security, as well as to sustainable development and human rights. The United Nations and the European Union will also continue to cooperate with other regional organisations such as the African Union, and with sub-regional organisations, including through the United Nations regional offices, cognizant that a closer cooperation among regions is an important pillar of a stronger multilateral architecture.

The Leaders further reiterated their determination to seek innovative and forward-looking solutions to global challenges which require collective action, drawing on all parts of society to maintain the global efforts to tackle climate change, including the Paris agreement, and mobilising private sector investments for sustainable development, with women and youth at the centre of all action. Together, the United Nations and the European Union will continue to reinforce efforts to prevent conflict. Not least, the United Nations and the European Union will also continue to leverage their respective strengths to support the implementation of the landmark 2030 Agenda and its ambitious goals.

The strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and the European

Union will continue, notably in areas including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, addressing global challenges, in conflict prevention and in the promotion of peace and security.

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## **#JubelFestival – EESC members discuss new ideas for the future of Europe**

An amazing opportunity to exchange views and a wonderful learning experience. The Jubel Festival, the very first festival on European democracy in Belgium, took place on Saturday 22 September 2018 in Park Leopold in Brussels. EESC members **Pierre Jean Coulon**, **Ronny Lannoo**, **Thierry Libaert** and **Daniel Mareels** contributed to a fruitful meeting on the future of Europe, one that was particularly relevant in view of the upcoming European elections.

Hundreds of participants gathered to discuss the state of play of the European Union and put forward their ideas for the Europe they want. People of all ages, from all background and nationalities, tapped into the potential of the European democracy festival to talk and listen to each other, get inspired, and exchange opinions with European political leaders, civil society organisations and experts.

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) was represented by a delegation of members: **Thierry Libaert** (Diversity Europe Group) moderated the morning debate, while **Pierre Jean Coulon** (Workers' Group), **Ronny Lannoo** (Diversity Europe Group) and **Daniel Mareels** (Employers' Group) manned the EESC information stand and ran the afternoon workshop in the EESC tent.

The EESC members unanimously underlined that, on the eve of the European elections, there was no time to waste in delivering on promises, and focused on three key points based on the commitment to:

- building a **sustainable and inclusive Europe** (Digital Single Market, Banking Union, Social Pillar, Energy Union, etc.);
- discussing **migration**, bearing in mind the principles of solidarity and the rule of law, which are at the core of any lasting compromise;
- making the EU once more **people-centred**, enabling its citizens to achieve a better quality of life.

A closer and more regular dialogue with citizens is vital. EESC members are representatives of civil society organisations in their respective Member States and face the same everyday challenges as any other European citizen. The EESC has played an active role in this regard over the past 60 years. The EU Institutions and European civil society need to work together to find new ways of consulting people and encouraging them to engage in a genuine civil dialogue and participate in the public debate.

The festival was organised in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee and, among other partners, the European Commission, the European Committee of the Regions, the French Republic (citizens' consultations on Europe), the King Baudouin Foundation, Stand Up for Europe and Democratic Society.

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## [Statement by President Donald Tusk on the Brexit negotiations](#)

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# Main topics and media events 24 September – 7 October 2018

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