



Semester Alliance Capacity Building Tuesday, 20 September 14.00-17.00

Hosted by the European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI)
Avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée 1-5 (2nd floor), 1040 Brussels

DRAFT AGENDA

- 14:00 **Welcome & introduction** – Hendrik Meerkamp, CESI
- 14:10 **Introduction into the European Semester:** The historical background, legal standing, recent evolution of procedures, governance and main actors involved in the European Semester process – Constanze Adolf (Green Budget Europe)
- 14:30 **Questions & answers**
- 14:45 **Engagement and advocacy strategies of European interest groups in the European Semester cycle:** Good (and bad!) experiences of how to involve (national) members, which decision makers to contact at which point of time and which type of publications/output to produce
“Honest” presentations of case studies and best & worst practices; max. 10 minutes each
 - Mary Collins, European Women’s Lobby (EWL)
 - Stephan Burger (Eurodiaconia)
 - Emma Grindulis (Eurochild)
 - Constanze Adolf (Green Budget Europe)
 - Sian Jones (EAPN)
- 15:30 **Exchange of views**
 - Which are the challenges most frequently occurring in European Semester advocacy and how to overcome them? What best practices can we share?
 - When to engage and who to approach?
 - How could the European Commission better support stakeholder engagement in the European Semester?
- 16:50 **Wrap-up & take-home messages** – Hendrik Meerkamp, CESI

The Alliance for a Democratic, Social and Sustainable European Semester (*Semester Alliance*) is a broad coalition bringing together major European civil-society organisations and trade unions, representing thousands of member organisations on the ground at European, national and local levels in the European Union.

It aims to support progress towards a more democratic, social and sustainable Europe 2020 Strategy, through strengthening civil dialogue engagement in the European Semester at national and EU levels.

ENABLING CIVIL-SOCIETY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SHAPING OF EU POLICIES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS ON THE TARGETS OF THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY CONCERNS US ALL!

