



European Economic and Social Committee



EJSF European Justice Stakeholders Forum

PROGRAMME

4th European Justice Stakeholders Forum annual plenary

' Rights under threat – how can the EU Fundamental Rights Charter work better for citizens?'*

Kindly co-hosted by Mr Arno METZLER, President Group III, EESC and

the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

Tuesday 19 November 2019, 08.30 – 11.00, Room JDE 63,

European Economic & Social Committee (EESC), Brussels

[Rue Belliard 99-101, B-1040 Brussels](#)

[REGISTRATIONS: please contact: chiara@passerelle-pa.com](#)

Introduction

The EU's values - enshrined in [Article 2](#) of the Lisbon Treaty and in the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) – are under threat. Respect for basic rights, democracy and the rule of law are being undermined by a wide range of issues from populism and protectionism to cybersecurity threats.

Legal practitioners, as those closest to citizens where law and justice are in question, play a vital role in ensuring that EU laws and values and the rights of citizens are protected and that emerging threats are brought to the fore, addressed and reflected in EU law and policymaking.

This 4th annual EJSF plenary marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and coincides with the election of a new EU leadership with a set of rights and values-focused political [priorities](#) for the incoming European Commission 2019 – 24.

Programme

08.30 Registration of participants, welcome coffee/tea & croissants

Screening of **European Fundamental Rights Agency** video on **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**

09.00 Opening and welcome speech: **Arno METZLER, President Group III (Diversity Europe), EESC, Member of the German Bar**

09.05 Keynote speech: **Gabriel TOGGENBURG, Policy Coordinator - EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Vienna**

09.20 Keynote speech: **Johanna SUURPÄÄ**, Director-General, Department for Democracy and Public Law, Finland (representing Finland's EU Presidency - 2nd half 2019)

09.35 Panel discussion moderated and introduced by **Jacquelyn MACLENNAN**, Partner, White & Case

Impulse statements (5 minutes each) on **3 key topics** around rights issues linked to the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights:

- harassment/cyber bullying and/or racism, including hate speech
- protecting the rule of law and ensuring the application of the UN sustainable development goals to relevant EU policies
- privacy/confidentiality of data

Panel members:

- **Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD**, MEP, Green/EFA (France) Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, European Parliament
- **Mirna ROMIC**, Legal Secretary, Court of Justice of the European Union
- **Alec BURNSIDE**, Dechert LLP
- **Raul RADOI**, Secretary-General, Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE)
- **Anna BUCHTA**, Head of Unit – Policy and Consultation, European Data Protection Supervisor
- **Gabriel TOGGENBURG**, Fundamental Rights Agency
- **Johanna SUURPÄÄ**, Department for Democracy and Public Law, Finland

10.45 Closing keynote: **Zeta GEORGIADOU**, Deputy Head of Unit, Fundamental rights policy, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission

11.00 Closing of the meeting: **Arno METZLER**, President, Group III (Diversity Europe), EESC

*** EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**

The Charter of Fundamental Rights consolidates all the fundamental rights applicable at EU level. Broader than the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, it establishes ethical principles and rights for EU citizens and residents that relate to dignity, liberty, equality, solidarity, citizenship and justice. In addition to protecting civil and political rights, it covers workers' social rights, data protection, bioethics and the right to good administration.

About the EJSF:

The European Justice Stakeholders Forum (EJSF) is a high-level forum for discussion and engagement between legal practitioners (lawyers, notaries, legal counsel)- and EU law and policymakers (mainly EU institutions) on major challenges facing EU citizens, the justice sector, legal profession and the rule of law. The EJSF is funded by the private sector on the basis of an annual 'Partner' fee.

The forum was launched at a high-level event – the [1st annual EJSF plenary](#) – in February 2016 in the EESC. High-level participants included the European Commissioner for Justice, Vera Jourova and the Chair of the European Parliament's legal affairs committee, Pavel Svoboda.

The overall goal of the EJSF is **effective law and justice for Europe in a global context**. With this in mind, we facilitate engagement and relationship building between Europe's legal practitioners (as those closest to citizens), and the EU institutions and related bodies, to explore issues, raise awareness of new challenges, identify possible solutions in ways that enhance law and policy making, protect citizens and uphold the rule of law in Europe.