

Events

6 December 2016

Preserving SGI values in time of change : Greek example, with, among others, current Minister of Finances Euclide Tsakalotos

19 January 2017

Achieving the Circular Economy (with Working Groups “Commons Goods”), with, among others, Simona Bonafé (EP rapporteur on the waste package)

20 June 2017

Employment services & public services

September 2017

Alumnia Package

Calendar and minutes from previous meetings available on the website.

Contact

Chair of the Working Group Public Services:

Jean-Paul Denanot
European Parliament
Bât. Altiero Spinelli 14G169
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Bruxelles

Telephone: +32(0)2 28 45213

Email: jean-paul.denanot@europarl.europa.eu

Website: <http://ep-publicservices.eu/en>

Partners

CEEP



CEEP, the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest, represents employers and enterprises providing services of general interest since 1961. As such, CEEP members account for 30% of EU GDP and employ 26% of the EU workforce.

Website: <http://www.ceep.eu>



NGO EUROPA

EUROPA is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) with a participatory status at the COUNCIL of EUROPE, benefiting from the support of the Region of “Nouvelle Aquitaine” as well as a number of institutional and scientific partners.

Its themes are among others reinforcement of local democracy, recognition and reorganisation of public services, modernisation of public administrations and social protection of Europe’s citizens.

Website: <http://www.europaong.org/>

Expert: Pierre Bauby

Pierre Bauby is doctor, researcher and professor in political science; director of the Observatory of public action – Foundation Jean-Jaurès, he chairs the association ‘Reconstruire l’action publique’. The objective is to contribute to the reorganisation and the promotion of public action that guarantees the general interest, in particular at the European Level.



Part of the Intergroup on Common Goods & Public Services created on February 12, 2015, the working group on Public Services has for main objectives to:

- facilitate the discussions on public services at European level, including all Member States, at national, regional and local levels;
- bring forward an analytical approach on specific themes, such as the services of general interest, the social economy, investment and infrastructures, trade agreements,...;
- promote the exchange of views between decision-makers, experts and providers of public services.





Services of General Interest in Europe

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and its Protocol 26, defines services of general interest (SGI) as services that public authorities of Member States classify as being of general interest. Consequently, they are subject to specific public service obligations, and be provided either by the state or by private operators.

Examples of services of general interest include: central & local administrations, housing, healthcare, education, waste management, energy, environment, transport, water, communications and postal services.

“Services of General Interest (SGI) were recognised quite late -in 2009 with the Lisbon Treaty- and are sometimes not taken into account or considered properly. However, in this period of economic crisis, SGIs are a supporting pillar of our European social model and allow to maintain solidarity among territories and generations.”

Jean-Paul Denanot,
Chair of the working group

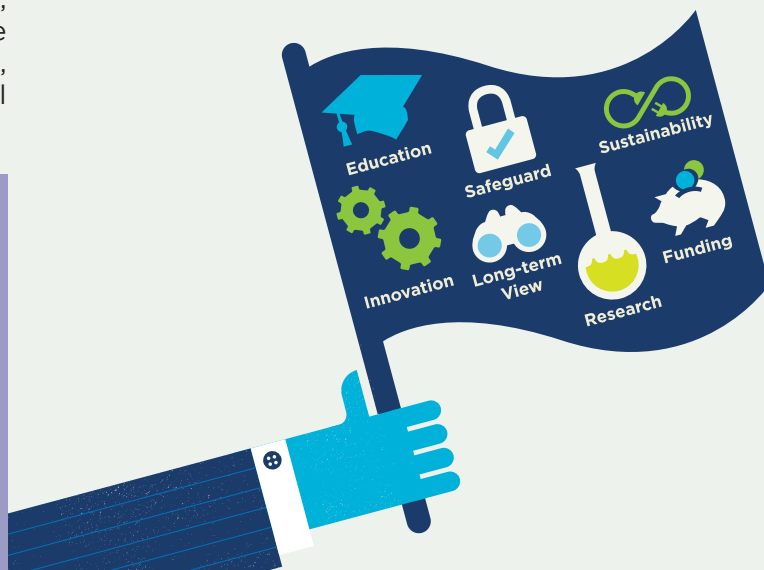
Current Challenges

The European Union classified those SGI in three categories:

- Economic: Subject to European internal market and competition rules. However, there are some derogations in order to protect citizens' access to basic services.
- Non-economic: Only subject to the Member state rules.
- Social: They can be both of an economic or non-economic nature.

Based on this classification, a number of debates were raised especially with sectorial topics such as are also discussed, such as energy, postal services, railway...

However, SGI in Europe are also impacted by a large number of key cross-cutting issues, at the heart of the societal transformation of the 21st century. In this context, the Working Group organized a significant numbers of debates on issues such as the digital transformation, trade agreements, rural areas, gender equality, education, and environment.



Working Group Public Services

The working group on Public Services wishes not only to contribute to the debate and to clarify the legal framework for services of general economic interest (SGEI), but also to offer concrete solutions and to carry weight in the legislative procedure. For now, more than 20 conferences and debates were organised on a large range of topics.

Our Actions

- Monthly conferences to raise awareness on those specific topics and exchange views with providers of public services.
- Provide ongoing training tools for Members of Parliament
- Request for analysis on specifics topics such as the definition of SMEs.
- Conduct stakeholder consultations to identify barriers and good practices

