

SGIEU.23/AC.23-GA.23  
15 December 2023

**SGI EUROPE STATUTORY MEETINGS**  
**6 DECEMBER 2023,**  
**14.30-17.30**

**EESC**  
**99 Rue Belliard – 1040 Brussels**

In person ONLY meeting

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOGETHER  
WITH THE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS AND GENERAL RAPORTEURS OF THE BOARDS AND  
TASK FORCES**

<b>PRESIDENTIAL TEAM</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>President</b>	Pascal BOLO	
<b>Vice President</b>	Milena ANGELOVA	
<b>Vice President</b>	Filippo BRANDOLINI	
<b>Vice President</b>	Ingbert LIEBING	
<b>Vice President</b>		Jacek CIEPLAK

**ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL**

<b>National Sections/ Sectoral members</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED + proxy</b>	<b>EXCUSED No Proxy</b>	<b>NO ANSWER</b>
AUSTRIA				Virginia HAGN
BENELUX	Michael de GOLS	Arjen FRENTZ Proxy to Michael de GOLS		
BULGARIA	Kiril JELIAZKOV	Stefan CHAYKOV Proxy to Kiril JELIAZKOV		
DENMARK	Marianne BRINCH- FISCHER	Pernille CHRISTENSEN Proxy to Marianne BRINCH- FISCHER		
FINLAND	Henrika NYBONDAS- KANGAS	Markku JALONEN Proxy to Henrika NYBONDAS- KANGAS		

FRANCE		Benjamin GALLEPE Proxy to Manca POCIVAVSEK Jeremie PÉLERIN Proxy to Luigi DEL GIACCO		
GERMANY	Manca POCIVAVSEK	Sven-Joachim OTTO Proxy to Manca POCIVAVSEK		
GREECE	Loukia SARANTIS Mr STAVROU			
ITALY	Luigi Joseph DEL GIACCO	Silvia RINVERSI Proxy to Luigi Joseph DEL GIACCO		
MALTA		Joseph FARRUGIA Proxy to Tomas BJÖRCK		
NORWAY	Bjarte RORMARK	Marianne HAUGLAND Proxy to Bjarte RORMARK		
POLAND	Janusz PIETKIEWICZ	Mr DUTKIEWICZ Proxy to Janusz PIETKIEWICZ		
PORTUGAL	Duarte VEIGA da CUNHA			
SPAIN		Juan Pedro MARIN ARRESE Proxy to Duarte VEIGA da CUNHA ESCOLAR POLO Proxy to Duarte VEIGA da CUNHA		
SWEDEN	Tomas BJÖRCK Per NORDENSTAM			
TURKEY		Caner TOPKARA		
RUBES TRIVA			Giuseppe MULAZZI	
EBU	Wouter GEKIERE			
HOSPEEM		Marta BRANCA Proxy to Wouter GEKIERE		
EFEE			Daniel WISNIEWSKI	
<b>General Secretariat</b>				
General Secretary	Valeria RONZITTI			
Office Manager	Rachel de WOUTERS			
<b>External</b>				
Accountant	François Xavier THIMUS			

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>National Sections/ Sectoral members</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED + proxy</b>	<b>EXCUSED No Proxy</b>	<b>NO ANSWER</b>
AUSTRIA			Virginia HAGN	
BENELUX	Michael de GOLS	Arjen FRENTZ Proxy to Michael de GOLS		
BULGARIA	Kiril JELIAZKOV	Stefan Georgiev CHAYKOV Proxy to Kiril JELIAZKOV		
DENMARK	Marianne BRINCH-FISCHER	Pernille CHRISTENSEN Proxy to Marianne BRINCH-FISCHER Cecilie MARK DALHØJ Proxy to Marianne BRINCH-FISCHER		
FINLAND	Henrika NYBONDAS-KANGAS	Markku JALONEN Proxy to Henrika NYBONDAS-KANGAS Anna KUKKA Proxy to Henrika NYBONDAS-KANGAS		
FRANCE	Sylvain RENOUEVEL	Jeremie PÉLERIN Proxy to Sylvain RENOUEVEL Laurent GHEKIERE Proxy to Sylvain RENOUEVEL Sebastien DARRIGRAND Proxy to Sylvain RENOUEVEL Benjamin GALLEPE Proxy to Sylvain RENOUEVEL		
GERMANY	Nadine FISCHER Manca POCIVAVSEK	Frederike REICHHOLD Proxy to Manca POCIVAVSEK Denise HAIN Proxy to Nadine FISCHER Sven-Joachim OTTO Proxy to Manca POCIVAVSEK		
GREECE	Loukia SARANTIS Yanis STAVROU			
ITALY	Luigi DEL GIACCO	Antonio NADDEO Proxy to Luigi DEL GIACCO Silvia RINVERSI Proxy to Luigi Joseph DEL GIACCO	Cristiano COCCIARFICO	
MALTA		Joseph FARRUGIA Proxy to TOMAS BJÖRCK		
NORWAY	Oivind BREVIK Bjarte RORMARKE	Marianne HAUGLAND Proxy to Bjarte RORMARKE		
POLAND	Janusz PIETKIEWICZ Maciej LEGUTKO	Mr DUTKIEWICZ Proxy to Maciej LEGUTKO		
PORTUGAL	Duarte VEIGA da CUNHA			

SPAIN		Jaime CASTINEIRA DE LA TORRE Proxy to Duarte VEIGA da CUNHA Rosario ESCOLAR POLO Proxy to Duarte VEIGA da CUNHA		
SWEDEN	Tomas BJÖRCK LARS ANDREN Per NORDENSTAM			
TURKEY				Caner TOPKARA
RUBES TRIVA			Giuseppe MULAZZI	
EBU	Wouter GEKIERE			
HOSPEEM		Marta BRANCA Proxy to Wouter GEKIERE		
EFEE			Daniel WISNIEWSKI	
<b>General Secretariat</b>				
General Secretary	Valeria RONZITTI			
Office Manager	Rachel de WOUTERS			
Senior Communications Manager	Maxime STAELENS			
<b>External</b>				
Accountant	François Xavier THIMUS			

### CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS AND GENERAL RAPPORTEURS

<b>Chairs, Vice Chairs &amp; General Rapporteurs</b>	
Public Services Board	Nadine Fischer (Chair) Luigi Joseph Del Giacco (Vice Chair)
Sustainability Board	Alain Taccoen (Chair)
Energy Task Force	Elmar Thyen (Chair)
Environment Task Force	Bernardo Piccioli (Chair)
Communications Task Force	Wouter Gekiere (General Rapporteur)
Social Affairs Board	Jeanette Grenfors (Chair) Michael de Gols (Vice Chair)
Macro-economics Task Force	Tor Hatlevoll (Chair) Cosimo Pacciani (Vice Chair)

### APOLOGIES

<b>Chairs, Vice Chairs &amp; General Rapporteurs</b>	
Sustainability Board	Stefan Chaykov (Vice Chair) Lina Furch (Vice chair)
Energy Task Force	Eleonora Capaccioli (Vice Chair)
Transport Task Force	Monica Unterholzner (Chair)

Environment Task Force	Janusz Karwot (Vice Chair)
Sustainability Board	Sebastien Gonet (Vice chair)
Communications Task Force	Dariusz Prosiecki (Vice Chair)
Water Task Force	Hans de Groene (Chair)
Health & Safety Task Force	Lankowski Pawel (Chair)
Social Protection Task Force	Klaus Stürmer (Chair)
Public Services Board	Jaime Castineira de la Torres (Vice chair) Benjamin Gallepe (Vice chair)

ITEM	DOCUMENT	ACTION
<b>ITEMS FOR APPROVAL</b>		
<b>1. Approval of the Agenda</b>	SGIEU.23/AC.11-GA.11	The President, Pascal Bolo, opened the meeting and welcomed all the newcomers. The agenda was approved
<b>2. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of 23 June 2023</b>	SGIEU.23/AC.10 SGIEU.23/GA.09 SGIEU.23/GA.10	The minutes of the meetings of 23 June were approved
<b>3. 2024 – 2029 Strategy</b>	Explanatory Note SGIEU.23/AC.12-GA.12  Draft Opinion “SGI Europe’s Strategic Priorities for 2024-2029” SGIEU.23/AC.21-GA.21  Draft SGI Europe’s Manifesto for the EU elections 2024 SGIEU.23/AC.22-GA.22	The General Secretary Valeria Ronzitti presented the draft opinion on SGI Europe’s Strategy 2024-2029 based on the Explanatory note and with the support of the attached PPT. The aim of the strategy is to reinforce the image of SGIs in Europe. The result of this collective work is a guiding document for the next five years. It will be a living document, the basis of which will remain, but which can be adapted on an annual basis. The President thanked the members of the group that drafted

		<p>the strategy, in particular Alain Taccoen, for his work as co-chair of this group. Vice President Liebing acknowledged that the document is an excellent framework for the next years. He added that once it is adopted, we should see how we implement it and represent this before the Institutions. Moreover, the strategy should be under regular scrutiny to make sure the objectives are reached. Several other interventions were made, either from representatives of National Sections such as Bjarte Rørmark, from the Norwegian section, or from sectoral members such as Wouter Gekiere from EBU who asked for the addition of a reference to media. The President recognised the importance of media.</p> <p><b>Following the debate, the Opinion was unanimously adopted. It was agreed that its shorter version, namely the Manifesto, will be finalised by the General Secretariat.</b></p>
<p><b>4. Draft SGI Europe Work Programme 2024</b></p>	<p>Draft SGI Europe work programme 2024</p>	<p>The General Secretary presented</p>

<p>- <b>Report from the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the boards and task forces</b></p>	<p>will be sent out on 29 November, since the chairs and vice chairs are still working on the draft</p>	<p>the Draft Work Programme with the support of the attached PPT. The President insisted on the Cross-sectoral as opposed to multisectoral nature of SGI Europe. Reinforcing that remark the General Secretary added that less is more, and thus it is important to prioritise. Progress in that regard was made compared to previous years. However, since the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the task forces are willing to work on a wide variety of topics, it was not possible to present an even slimmer work programme. It is however important to continue in the direction of reinforcing the contribution of task forces to the cross-sectoral priorities and phase out purely sectoral issues. Following the presentation of the corporate priorities, the floor was given to the chairs of the boards and their task forces as follows:</p> <p><b><u>Social Affairs board:</u></b> Jeanette Grenfors, Chair presented the priorities as set in the Work</p>
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		<p>programme for 2024.  The main topics will include the participation to the Val Duchesse II summit with social partners, the monitoring of the implementation of the minimum wage directive and the pay transparency directive (through Commission expert groups) and any relevant new initiatives within the social affairs field. Jeanette Grenfors mentioned potential future legislative proposal in the field of working conditions of traineeships, European works Councils and psychosocial risks at work. potentially related initiatives, including social partners consultations. SAB will also follow-up to the work of the European Labour Authority and the Eurofound.</p> <p><b><u>Macro Economics Task Force:</u></b>  Tor Hatlevoll presented the priorities as set in the Work programme for 2024.  He put an emphasis on the work of the taskforce in contribute to the preparation of SGI Europe's input to the involvement of social</p>
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		<p>partners in the EU macroeconomic coordination, including the EU Semester (Annual sustainable growth strategy, Country reports and country-specific recommendations, the macroeconomic dialogue (at technical and political level) and the review of the EU economic governance framework, a priority file for next year.</p> <p><b><u>Sustainability board:</u></b> Alain Taccoen, Chair presented the priorities as set in the Work programme for 2024. The main topics will include deployment of decarbonised and renewable energy, with a technology-neutral approach and preserving the security of supply, actively work on the Climate 2040 targets recommendations, develop a Water Resilience paper addressing the cross-cutting importance of water to all critical infrastructures and lastly being active in the clean transition dialogue.</p> <p><b><u>Environment task force:</u></b> Bernardo Piccioli, Chair presented the priorities as set in</p>
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		<p>the Work programme for 2024, focusing on the promotion (through EPR) of the placing on the market of recyclable products and minimum recycled content requirements in new products, Safeguard the central role of enterprises concessionaires of public services in the municipal waste management and promote EU legislation that sets general guidelines and waste management targets with a technology-neutral approach.</p> <p><b><u>Energy Task Force:</u></b> Elmar Thyen, Chair presented the priorities as set in the Work programme for 2024, which will be based on the principles of the “Emission Efficiency first”, calling for ensuring investment for deploying decarbonised, low-carbon and renewable energy technologies and ensure SGI-friendly reviews of the Electricity Market Design and of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive for a green and technology-neutral green reindustrialisation.</p>
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		<p><b><u>Public services board:</u></b> Nadine Fischer, Chair presented the priorities as set in the Work programme for 2024 and asked to the General Assembly to approve a new name for the Board, namely Internal Market Board, to make the scope of its work clearer to existing and future members. The proposal was unanimously approved.</p> <p><b>Following the presentations, the work programme was unanimously approved</b></p>
5. <b>Guest Speaker</b> , Jaume Duch Guillot, Director-General for Communication of the European Parliament and its Spokesperson.		Intervention on “The EU elections 2024 (6-9 June 2024): What is at stake?” See attached PPT
6. <b>2024 – 2029 Growth and Development Plan</b>	Explanatory Note SGIEU.23/AC.13-GA.13 Annex 1 : Blue scenario Annex 2 : Green scenario	The President gave the floor to the General Secretary who presented the Growth and Development Plan based on the explanatory note and with the support of the attached PPT. She explained that it was important that this plan was drafted in parallel to the Strategic priorities, since it gives SGI Europe the means to implement those priorities. The President underlined the importance of the

		<p>decision, which will enable us to concentrate on the policy work for the next 5 years.</p> <p>He also explained that there must be a distinction between sections experiencing real difficulties and those who make a political decision not to follow the agreed decisions on fees.</p> <p>He added that at different stages the German, French and Italian sections had agreed to make an extra financial effort by 2025, but all the members, at their level, should also make an effort if SGI Europe is to maintain the quality of its work.</p> <p>Vice President Liebing recalled that this is not a new issue, but that until now it had not mattered whether members acted according to our rules, and this must change. We need to reach a common consensus to give SGI Europe the financial means to carry out its work efficiently. In Nantes he had called for a coalition of the willing. Since then, this coalition slowly came to life, with Italy, France and Germany agreeing to reach a higher fee. He thanked the other colleagues such as the Nordic</p>
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		<p>countries who had also agreed to raise their fee.</p> <p>However, he stressed that all these efforts are not enough to solve our financial issues and have the necessary capacity to do all the work that we just approved to do.</p> <p>He added that the Work Programme for 2024 that had just been adopted must now be implemented but that we do not have the human capacity to do so for the moment.</p> <p>Balancing the 2024 budget is only possible by having a reduced staff.</p> <p>Therefore, although alone, the German section had agreed to move up to the new amount for its category already in 2024.</p> <p>However, this will only be for 1 year and in 2025 others must follow.</p> <p>The aim is to have a powerful organisation, but if things do not improve, we will become a weak organisation with less influence and then the risk is that the German members no longer agree to give their money to a weak organisation.</p> <p>Vice President Liebing concluded that we all need to increase our contributions if we</p>
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		<p>want a strong SGI Europe.</p> <p>Luigi Del Giacco, representing the Italian section stated that we need more energy and capacity for a strong SGI Europe, but energy implies increased staff. He added that the proposed plan is the only possible one.</p> <p>Although it is difficult for Italy, they are trying to get new members, and to modify their Articles of Association to try to differentiate fees based on some criteria. They are trying to find innovative solutions. He addressed the other sections saying that they can also try to introduce new rules.</p> <p>Duarte Veiga da Cunha explained that the Spanish and Portuguese sections will vote against the Plan and read the attached joint statement from both sections.</p> <p>Tomas Björck, representing the Swedish section said that this is indeed an important topic that has been thoroughly discussed and agreed that we need the resources to maintain efficient work.</p> <p>He added that the Nordic sections are trying hard to move</p>
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		<p>up as they value the organisation's work. He notes however that the value given to the work of SGI Europe seems to vary from one member to another.</p> <p>Michael de Gols, representing the Benelux section and also member of the ACGA, stated that Benelux will not vote against, but understands the point of view of Portugal and Spain as the Benelux section is still losing members and it is not easy to get an increase from its present members. They are doing their best to stay but cannot guarantee anything for the moment.</p> <p>Vice President Ingbert Liebing said that we all know how difficult it is to convince the sections' members to pay for SGI Europe's work. He calls for being in line with the rules, and the rules include the possibility to give discounts to members that are unable to pay, if there is a perspective to improve things. What is not acceptable is that some sections do not have difficulties, but just refuse to pay, and therefore we need to apply the</p>
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		<p>rules. There must be a clear distinction between those unable to pay and those refusing to pay.</p> <p>The General Secretary explained the repartition of votes depending on the blue or green scenario (see tables at the end of the attached note on the methodology).</p> <p>She added that nobody had expressed the appetite to go up to the 115 000 euros category.</p> <p>The basis behind the calculation is scientific, and based on GDP per capita and pop, as decided in 2015.</p> <p>Marianne Brinch-Fischer, representing the Danish section, asked for more transparency concerning the criteria used for each section.</p> <p>Yanis Stavrou representing the Greek section supported that demand since it is not clear to his section why, for instance, Benelux which regroups three rich countries should pay such a moderate fee compared to Greece alone.</p> <p>The General Secretary said that all these clarifications were duly given in 2015</p>
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		<p>when the criteria were adopted, however a new explanatory note on the criteria used will be attached to the minutes to facilitate the understanding of those who did not directly participate in the 2015 process. Following the debate, the Plan was adopted by the General Assembly based on the Administration Council's recommendation: With 1 abstention from Greece, and 2 votes against from Spain and Portugal (see attached statement). <b>Following that, the blue category scenario was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly based on the Administration Council's recommendation</b></p>
<p><b>7. Revision of the mandates that started in December 2022</b></p> <p><b>Vice President coopted</b></p>	<p>SGIEU.22/AC14-GA14 Explanatory note</p> <p>Jacek Cieplak</p>	<p>The President excused Vice President Jacek Cieplak who had to cancel his participant due to last minute important engagement (see attached letter) He then proposed to the General Assembly to prolong Mr Cieplak's mandate by one year, which was accepted by the</p>

<p><b>Chairs and Vice Chairs from sections/sectoral members not in line with the membership fee</b></p>		<p>General Assembly, as was the case last year, as an exception to the statutes in which a maximum of 3 Vice Presidents is foreseen. The President explained that, following a dense and intense discussion with the General Secretary, the Presidential team and the ACGA, it was decided to finally bring to life Art 31 of SGI Europe Rules of Procedures <i>“Candidate chairs or vice chairs from members not in line with SGI Europe statutory membership fees will be accepted. However, should any of those candidates be elected, their mandate will be reviewed after one year by the General Assembly who will decide if they will be given the possibility to continue to exercise their mandate until the end, depending on whether the National Section/Sectoral member that had proposed their candidature has since complied with SGI Europe statutory membership fees or at least presented a clear action plan to reach that goal within a reasonable timeframe. It was</i></p>
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		<p><i>additionally decided that the same rule will be applied for absenteeism which is just as problematic as noncompliance with financial obligations.”</i></p> <p>Several positions were therefore up for consideration, but a clear distinction was made between national sections having shown a clear recovery plan, such as Bulgaria, and those where such a plan was non-existent. Based on the latter, an additional difference was made between those who are presently in that situation originally due to financial difficulties, such as Spain, and those who took the political decision not to follow the democratic decision of the General Assembly back in 2015, such as Austria. <b>Based on that, the General Assembly unanimously decided that the mandate of Monica Unterholzner as Chair of the Transport Task Force needs to cease (see attached letter).</b></p> <p>The other concerned chairs and vice-chairs can continue their activity in 2024 but their mandate will again be under scrutiny in</p>
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		December should their section not comply with the due membership fees by then.
<b>8. Draft Budget 2024</b>	<p>SGIEU.23/AC.15-GA.15 Explanatory Note</p> <p>SGIEU.23/AC.16-GA.16 Draft budget</p> <p>Letter from the Turkish section</p> <p>Letter from Cyprus organisation</p>	<p>The President gave the floor to the General Secretary who presented the draft budget 2024 based on the explanatory note and with the support of the attached PPT. She explained that since we are in a transitional phase, because the plan had not yet been approved, and because we have been receiving figures from national sections until the last minute, we proceeded as follows:</p> <p>A first draft was sent out, prepared in the continuation of the previous plan, thus the amounts invoiced in 2023 + 5% (corresponding to the annual inflation/indexation), except for the German section who already committed to reach the new plan's amount for their category (165 000 euros).</p> <p>Based on further commitments we had received from then onwards, we were able to send out a revised draft budget on Monday 4 December.</p> <p>Amongst those last-minute commitments, there is the bad news that</p>

		<p>Denmark would not be able to follow the path of Sweden and Finland for 2024, and the good news concerning the request for affiliation of “Services of General Interest Cyprus Association”, Member of Cyprus Employers &amp; Industrialists Federation</p> <p>If the draft budget is accepted, we will have a balanced budget, although very tight.</p> <p>The General Secretary then stressed the importance of recruitment and retention (it took 2 years for Cyprus, and we are working on getting Ireland to join SGI Europe)</p> <p>The President asked if the balanced budget, although it does not reach the aim, could be approved.</p> <p>Duarte Veiga da Cunha made a statement on behalf of the Portuguese and Spanish sections (see attached statement)</p> <p>He added that if we narrow down the issues we focus on, we should not necessarily need the required number of staff.</p> <p>He then announced that against that background the Spanish section votes against the</p>
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		<p>draft budget, and Portugal abstains. The President noted that that comment was in contrast with the unanimous approval of the 2024-2029 Strategic Priorities and the 2024 Work Programme.</p> <p><b>The draft budget 2024 was adopted by the General Assembly based on the Administration Council's recommendation</b></p>
<b>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</b>		
<p><b>9. Stocktaking of SGI Europe's activities of the 2nd Semester</b></p> <p>- <b>Report from the President and General Secretary</b></p>	<p>SGIEU.23/AC.18-GA.18 Explanatory Note</p> <p>SGIEU.23/AC.19-GA.19 Financial Situation</p> <p>SGIEU.23/AC.20-GA.20 Note on Projects</p>	<p>The President gave the floor to the General Secretary who reported on the main activities and achievements of the second semester 2023 with the support of the attached PPT.</p> <p>She stressed that the financial situation as at 31 October 2023, as well as the projection as at 31 December 2023 foresee a positive balance, despite the foreseeable losses from Austria and Benelux.</p> <p>She expressed particular thanks to Elmar Thyen who accompanied the mission to Ukraine and gave the latest</p>

<p>- <b>Report from the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the boards and task forces</b></p>		<p>development on the social dialogue side. Indeed, the negotiations on the telework and right to disconnect were not concluding, which is an issue for everybody as it was supposed to be transposed into a directive as promised by Von der Leyen.</p> <p>It was especially disappointing since SGI Europe was the only employers' organisation ready to put this forward for approval and action will now have to be taken, in agreement with SGI Europe President, to ensure that our autonomy is never undermined again.</p> <p>She went on by presenting the various projects we are working on, based on the explanatory note, and concluded by enumerating the various documents approved and published since 23 June.</p> <p>The chairs of the boards and task forces present their achievements in the second semester 2023.</p> <p><b><u>Social Affairs board:</u></b> Jeanette Grenfors, Chair, added to what the General</p>
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		<p>Secretary had said regarding the negotiations on telework and right to disconnect by saying that the negotiators of SGI Europe would have recommended that it should be submitted for vote. Indeed, it was a concise text, with strong social partner chapters, in other words a slimmer better directive that usual directives nowadays.</p> <p>She then reported on the developments and major events of second semester 2023 (see attached PPT).</p> <p>She mentioned the follow-up to the Social dialogue initiatives including a new consultation before Commission Work Programme 2024, a consultation with the EMCO committee on labour shortages and various preparations for Val Duchesse II.</p> <p>She also explained that SGI Europe was represented in the Commission expert group on the implementation of the Minimum wage – and respond with four position papers to the Social Partners consultations on quality traineeships and European Works Council.</p>
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		<p><b><u>Macro Economics Task Force:</u></b>  Tor Hatlevoll, Chair, reported on the developments and major events of second semester 2023 (see attached PPT).  SGI Europe responded to the consultation on the Annual sustainable growth survey. He also explained the content of the discussions of the last round of the macroeconomic dialogue which addressed the issue of labour shortages and skills mismatches. He explained the position of the taskforce on the key issue of the review of the economic governance and that the working group had started to work on the digital euro and on a Capital markets Union.</p> <p><b><u>Sustainability Board:</u></b>  Alain Taccoen, Chair, reported on the developments and major events of second semester 2023 (see attached PPT), namely the promotion of the Climate Targets 2040 opinion paper during bilateral meetings with DG Grow and the recent Event at the EESC on 'The EU Green</p>
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		<p>Deal as a Growth Strategy’.</p> <p><b><u>Energy Task Force:</u></b>  Elmar Thyen, Chair, reported on the developments and major events of second semester 2023 (see attached PPT). The Task Force was mainly occupied with the promotion of its EPBD Trilogue recommendations namely in the bilateral meeting with SGI Europe experts for the EPBD and Katharina Weidenbach, Member of the Cabinet of Kadri Simson, European Commission</p> <p><b><u>Environment Task Force:</u></b>  Bernardo Piccioli, Chair, reported on the developments and major events of second semester 2023 (see attached PPT), and presented the approved statement on Bio-, biodegradable and organic plastics in the waste stream and held a meeting on the recent development on the Packaging Regulation and the newly adopted Waste Framework Directive.</p> <p><b><u>Public Services Board:</u></b>  Nadine Fischer, Chair</p>
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<p>- <b>Report from the National Sections</b></p>		<p>reported on the developments and major events of second semester 2023 (see attached PPT), namely the finalisation of SGI Europe's Position Paper "SGIs in the Single Market" and its contribution to the CoR Stakeholder Consultation on the "2022 Competition Policy Report ".</p> <p>The Benelux section announced that it is still losing members. Portugal and Spain are still having difficulties retaining and finding new members. Germany has recruited five new members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stadtreinigung Hamburg,</li> <li>• Stadtwerke Essen AG,</li> <li>• Stadtwerke Krefeld,</li> <li>• Hamburger Energiewerke,</li> <li>• Wuppertaler Stadtwerke,</li> <li>• Bundesverband der kommunalen Senioren- und Behinderteneinrichtungen e.V. (BKSB).</li> </ul> <p>Last but not least the request for affiliation by "Services of General Interest Cyprus Association" was unanimously approved, with the commitment to</p>
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		support them in recruiting new members in order for the Section to be able to pay their full fee already in 2025.
<b>OTHER BUSINESS AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b>		
<b>10. Miscellaneous</b>		
<b>11. Dates of future meetings</b>		24 June 2024 12 December 2024 tbc