



## Concept note for High-Level Conference on 'RebuildUkraine' & Civil Dialogue

On **29 November 2022**, Civil Society Europe (CSE) and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) will organise a **High-Level Conference on 'RebuildUkraine' and civil dialogue**. The event will take place in a hybrid format, with participation online and in-person in Brussels, at the EEB's headquarters.

### 'RebuildUkraine'

The first aim of the conference is to discuss Ukrainian and EU civil society's role in the 'RebuildUkraine' platform through an exchange between, on the one hand, EU and Ukrainian civil society organisations, and on the other, EU institutions. 'RebuildUkraine' is the reconstruction platform proposed by the European Commission in May 2022. The discussion will build on CSE and the EEB's [joint statement urging the European Commission to guarantee a meaningful role for civil society in 'RebuildUkraine'](#). So far, the statement — published on 5 July 2022, during the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Lugano, Switzerland — is signed and supported by 159 EU and Ukrainian civil society organisations and networks working on a diverse range of issues. These 159 civil society organisations have come together to stress that civil society must have a clear role in defining priorities, planning and programming regarding long-term reconstruction measures in Ukraine, as well as be part of implementation and monitoring efforts.

The European Commission needs to guarantee a clear role and function within the governance of 'RebuildUkraine', including meaningful consultations and an official observer status in all deliberations, for EU civil society organisations, networks and trade unions, as well as Ukrainian civil society organisations and municipalities. This is especially important since Ukrainian civil society organisations' expertise on the ground is fundamental to the success of reconstruction measures. Moreover, Ukrainian civil society has been calling for the reconstruction of its country to be based on the principles of sustainable development. Therefore, giving a role to Ukrainian and EU civil society organisations would help ensure that the support for the recovery of Ukraine's economy promotes a sustainable and inclusive economy contributing to the green transition of the country and its path towards good governance and the respect of the rule of law and human rights.

This first half of the conference will involve a high-level panel debate, followed by open discussions.



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## Civil Dialogue

The second aim of the conference is to develop a roadmap to strengthen civil dialogue at the EU level. The discussion will build on [CSE's previous work on civil dialogue](#), including a [letter sent to European Parliament President Roberta Metsola](#) in January 2022 which included several recommendations to strengthen civil dialogue and make it more structured, regular and inclusive.

The discussion will also build on CSE and the European Civic Forum's [recent call for an EU Civil Society Strategy in the Commission's 2023 work programme](#). The latter call, published on 21 June 2022, is signed and supported by 341 civil society organisations and networks across the EU and in non-EU countries, specifically Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. In the call, signatories urged the Commission to give substance to the mandate of the Vice-President of the Commission for values and transparency, and to give resources for carrying out a regular, open and transparent civil dialogue, in accordance with the [provisions of Article 11 of the Treaty on the EU](#).

This second half dedicated to civil dialogue will involve two workshops, each of which will be chaired and moderated by a representative of various EU institutions. The first workshop will be dedicated to fostering and structuring participation in civil dialogue, while the second one will focus on supporting civil society organisations' engagement in the design and monitoring of EU funds at the EU level.



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## Draft Agenda

29 November 2022

Meeting Room 'Earth'

European Environmental Bureau

9:00 *Welcome coffee and tea*

9:30 - 11:00 **Opening session**

*Opening remarks:* Jean Marc Roirant, President of Civil Society Europe

### **Rebuilding Ukraine: Enabling Civil Society Participation**

How can Ukrainian and EU civil society be supported in the process for peace building, reconciliation, reconstruction, and the rebuilding of democracy in Ukraine?

*High-level panel debate with:*

- Ukrainian civil society representatives
  - Natalia Gozak, Director of the Centre for Environmental Initiatives "Ecoaction", an environmental civil society organisation in Ukraine that has taken a leading role in coordinating Ukrainian environmental NGOs and wider civil society on the topic of reconstruction
  - Andriy Andrusevych, Senior Policy Expert at Resource & Analysis Center "Society and Environment", an environmental think tank organisation in Ukraine
- Antonella Valmorbidia, Secretary General of the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) and President of the European Partnership for Democracy
- Mathieu Briens, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Josep Borrell, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission
- Hubert Duhot, Policy Assistant to the Deputy-Director of DG NEAR & Head of Support Group for Ukraine (Katarína Mathernová), European Commission

*Moderated by:* Patrizia Heidegger, Deputy Secretary General and Director for Global Policies and Sustainability of the EEB (Green 10)

*Reactions from the audience:* Environmental People Law, CEE Bankwatch Network & others

Q&A

11:00 - 11:30 *Break*





11:30 - 13:00 *Second session*

### ***A Roadmap to Civil Dialogue***

*Introduction by:*

- Alva Finn, Secretary General of Social Platform

*Interactive workshops:*

1. Fostering and structuring civil dialogue:
  - Organising transversal dialogue with EU institutions
  - Participatory lists (experience of CoE and UN)
  - Guidelines on sectoral dialogue beyond consultation
  - Minimum benchmarks for participation

*Chaired and moderated by:* Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, MEP and Member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee

2. Supporting CSOs' engagement:
  - Analysing EU funding practices: good practices and challenges in enhancing participation
  - What is the place of civil society in the design and monitoring of EU funds?

*Chaired and moderated by:* Maria Teresa Fábregas, Director of the Recovery and Resilience Task Force II, Secretariat-General of the European Commission

13:00 - 13:15 *Summary and conclusions by Judit Lantai, Secretary General of the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe)*

***Sandwich lunch***



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