

## **Open session on the European Cross-Border Association (ECBA): What are the key challenges for associations in the single market?**

*19 June 2025, Mundo Madou, Artemisia room  
Avenue des Arts 7-8, 1210 Brussels (and online)*

### **Concept Note & Draft Agenda**

After years of mobilisation of civil society organisations (CSOs) and a report of the European Parliament (EP) calling for the creation of a European Statute for Associations, the European Commission proposed in September 2023 a Directive to establish European Cross-Border Associations (ECBAs). This Directive would introduce a new national legal form, with some common features at the EU level, which would allow non-profit organisations from different Member States to be recognised and operate in all EU Member States. If approved, the Directive would also be the first time the non-profit sector is recognised within EU legislation. With the proposed Directive approved in the EP and being discussed in the Council, this open session provides an opportunity to discuss the obstacles CSOs face regarding cross-border activities, and to explore the possibilities that the Directive would bring.

- 11:00-11:05** Welcome and introduction by Gabriella Civico, President of Civil Society Europe (CSE)
- 11:05-11:30** *What is the ECBA Directive and what can it bring to your organisation and your members at national level?* by Matteo Vespa/Carlotta Besozzi, CSE
- 11:30-11:40** *The ECBA Directive: A game changer for the Single Market*, by Amaryllis Verhoeven (TBC), DG GROW, European Commission
- 11:40-11:50** *The ECBA Directive as a stepping stone to create 'the Single Market of the Public Good'*, by Hanna Surmatz (TBC), Philanthropy Europe Association (Philea)

**11:50-12:35**

*Open discussion with participants.* Guiding questions:

- What activities do you think you or your members would do as part of an ECBA?
- Have you or your members run activities in another country - e.g. providing services or selling items (e.g. training, exchanges, visits, socio-cultural services, assistive technologies, toolkits, books, software, humanitarian or civil protection assistance, etc.), receiving funding or donations from abroad, conducting fundraising campaigns, etc.? If so, what obstacles have you encountered? What further elements, not tackled by the Directive, should be taken into consideration to ensure seamless operations for non-profit organisations across borders?
- What is your vision for a Single Market for the Public Good?

**12:35-12:45**

*Concluding remarks*

**We cordially invite all civil society organisations to participate in this open session.**

**Please register by June 13th via this form:**

**<https://forms.gle/YJ8fiJP7sJxCcAMY8>**

