

An European Strategy Against Over-indebtedness

What could be done at the EU level?

*draft program – SAVE THE DATE – registration will start in September
European Economic and Social Committee premises
Brussels, 12 December 2014*

- 08:30 – 09:00 **Registration and coffee**
- 09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome and the Aim of the Conference**, Ms M-C Mader (EESC) TBC
- 09:15 – 09:30 **Keynote speech**, Ms Paola Testori (European Commission, Director General of DG SANCO) TBC
- 09:30 – 10:00 **The Situation of Over-indebtedness in the EU** (DG-SANCO report), Olivier Micol, Head of unit, SANCO B4 TBC
- Measures to limit and cure over-indebtedness at early stage (4 panels):**
- 10:15 – 11:00 **EU indicators :**
The useful existing ones, the best one to build in a near future... to empower policy makers with relevant information to combat effective causes of O-I
- 11:00 – 11:45 **Cleaning the market from unfair practices and toxic products**
What strategy ?
Identify detrimental loans and credit practices which are often involved in over-indebtedness cases, AND define the conditions for granting fair credit including liability rules when not met; this may include also the products' design, and the business models' choice.
- 11:45 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 14:15 **Build effective tools to detect and cure debt issues at early stage?**
Ensure a professional hot-line with common EU standards at national level, to advise EU citizens when bad debt occurs at a first stage?
- 14:15 – 15:00 **From a “punishment model” to a “solution oriented” approach when occur arrears, defaults, financial products/services misuses.**
Negative life events, financial crises, limited/unstable income, unemployment and poor budget management skills tend to be the most important causes of over-indebtedness. Therefore, in order to limit or avoid the difficulties and to reach solutions in a shortest period of time, extra fees, penalties, bailiff costs should be redesigned and debt collection practices regulated.
- 15:00 – 16:00 **What can be best done by the EU institutions ?
What priorities, strategies and agenda for the following years?**
(Commission, MEPs – European Banking Authority representative) TBC
Conclusions and recommendations

ORGANISERS



European Economic and Social Committee



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