## European Economic and Social Committee

## Civil Society Influencing Public Policy

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## Content:

- The European Economic and Social Committee
- Overcoming the Babel of Sustainable Construction
- Breaking the language barrier:

A successful European Glossary

- A "European Sustainable Construction Glossary"


## The EESC - civil society representation at the heart of the EU



# EESC - the bridge between the EU and civil society 

DIRECTIVE 2002/91/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL<br>of 16 December 2002<br>on the energy performance of buildings

## THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ('),
Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social
Committee ( ${ }^{( }$),
(7) Council Directive 93/76/EEC of 13 Se limit carbon dioxide emissions by impr ciency (SAVE) ( ${ }^{5}$, which requires M develop, implement and report on pr field of energy efficiency in the buildis starting to show some important ben complementary legal instrument is net more concrete actions with a view to a unrealised potential for energy savings large differences between Member Stat

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ( ${ }^{2}$ ),

## EESC - the bridge between the EU and civil society

- Organised civil society participates in EU policy making
- Three Groups:


## 1. Employers

2. Employees
3. Various Interests incl. consumers, environmentalists self-employed, architects?!


## Overcoming the Babel of sustainable building

"What can be said at all can be said clearly, and what we cannot talk about we must pass over in silence."

The early Ludwig Wittgenstein
The ACE's and ECP's
Common Language for Sustainable Construction glossary permits to communicate clearly about the topic.

## Breaking the language Barrier

- The linguistic Babel persists
- Many actors and citizens in the Member states do not know the terms and concepts
- Many terms probably do not even exist in many languages
- Breaking the language barrier is vital to spreading sustainable construction:
- Wittgenstein's point applies to each language
- Words change thoughts and thoughts change reality
- From expert-sprech to layperson language


## Breaking the language Barrier

- The EESC can help to break this language barrier:
- We work in all official languages of the EU
- We can do a
"European Sustainable Construction Glossary"
- We can build on a previous success:


## The first European Cycling Lexicon

Key cycling terms
in all 23 official EU languages with illustrations

European Cycling













## The EESC's European Cycling Lexicon

120 key term around

- the bike, accessories,
- different types of cycles for different mobility needs
- cycling infrastructure
fully illustrated
in all 23 official EU languages



## Example of an European Glossary: <br> The EESC's European Cycling Lexicon



European Economic and Social Committee

## Example of an European Glossary: The EESC's Cycling Lexicon

## Types of bicycle



- Translators' terra incognita : need to create new terms
- Words change thoughts and thoughts change reality
- Photos as proof of existence

EU close to 'the citizen'


## Second edition of <br> European Cycling Lexicon

- More languages, incl. Turkish, Russian, Japanese, Chinese...
- A wiki for further terms and languages
- Additional information (EU funding sources, European statistics)
- EU-wide distribution (e.g. via EU-Info points)


## Do you speak Sustainable Construction? Yes! Ja! Jah! Qui! Si! Iva! Da! Ano! Igen!

Promoting and Sustainable Construction with

- A "European Sustainable Construction Glossary"
- Based on ACE and ECP's Common Language for Sustainable Construction glossary
- Key terms and concepts in all official languages of the EU
- Supplementary non-EU languages?
- Illustrations of good practice
- Printed brochure
- Web-version


## Conclusion

"What can be said at all can be said clearly, and what we cannot talk about we must pass over in silence." The early Ludwig Wittgenstein
" The meaning of a word is its use."

The late Wittgenstein

## Conclusion

Let's make 'Sustainable Construction' meaningful by using it:

- in legal texts,
- on the construction site,
- in calls for tender,
- when we talk with architects and clients
- in many languages.

Thank you for your attention!
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