



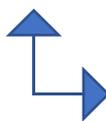
11th of January 2021
Brussels
CEPLIS' Secretariat

Report on CEPLIS' work in 2020

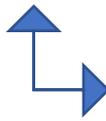
1. Working with the EU institutions: Exchanges with the European Commission (EC), European Parliament (EP) and the EU Council (EU CO)

13th February 2020 – Participation of CEPLIS in the position developed by Unión Profesional in the framework of European Commission's roadmap on the gender equality strategy for 2020-2024. It particularly deals with issues such as inclusive, equitable and quality education; visibility and promotion of women's work; reduction of the pay gap; work-life balance; politics and representation; gender-based violence.

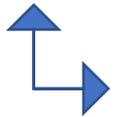
13th March 2020 – Letter sent to EP President David Sassoli and all MEPs (705). As the COVID crisis hits the European continent, President Stella deplores the lack of coordination at EU level. Furthermore, he mentions the feeling of abandonment expressed by European citizens and professionals, particularly among those in the health sector.

 **8th June 2020 – Response from President Sassoli.** This direct exchange with the European Parliament allows to maintain a link with a prominent public decision-maker at the heart of the Community legislative process and thus, increases both CEPLIS' visibility and network within the EU.

2nd April 2020 – Letter sent to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and the President of the EU Council Charles Michel. At the time, the EU's inaction in the midst of the pandemic was provoking a wave of Euroscepticism even among the Union's strongest supporters. In his letter, President Gaetano Stella underlined this fact, pointing out that if the institutions did not immediately succeed in gaining the support of large socio-economic communities, such as the liberal professions, they risked losing it.

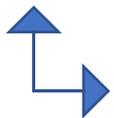
 **14th July 2020 – Response of the President of the European Council sent to the 'Social Partners'.** The fact that M. Michel chose to include, as a courtesy, our organisation in this group can be seen as a positive sign in the context of CEPLIS' efforts to obtain a presence at the table of European social dialogue.

7th April 2020 – Joint letter from Confprofessioni, Unión Profesional and CEPLIS gathering proposals for an active involvement of the European institutions in the fight against the consequences of the pandemic sent to the President of the European Commission.



24th July 2020 – Reply from Vice President Drombrowskis, European Commissioner for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services Union and Capital Markets. He acknowledges that “the feeling of liberal professionals that you represent and their families, when they perceived the lack of coordination at the beginning of the EU's response, and that this may have led to disappointment towards the European institutions”.

June 2020 – [Position Paper](#) on the issues faced by Liberal Professionals in the post-COVID-19 confinement reality shared with the Commission, the Parliament and the European Council.



30th July 2020 - Response from Martin Frohn, Head of Unit “Professional Qualification Skills” of the European Commission. In his reply, he underlines that the institution he represents fully shares CEPLIS' point of view.

June 2020 – [Position Paper](#) on Liberal Professions and the Digital shared with all the Members of the European Parliament (705).

November and December 2020 – Meetings with members of the European Commission, including Ms. Sophie Weissange, DG Grow, Unit Regulation of Professions and M. Omar Ennaji, Head of Paramedical Professions for the Commission. During these meetings, several important topics for CEPLIS' Members were discussed, namely the mutual recognition of professional qualifications or the European Pharmacists' Act for Laboratory Medicine Specialists for EUPMLG.

December 2020 – Nomination of Ms. Elena Cordoba (UP) as expert representing the Liberal professions in the Fit for Future (F4F) platform. This platform is a high-level group of experts which will assist the European Commission in its efforts to simplify European legislation and reduce unnecessary costs. It will examine whether existing laws can achieve their objectives effectively as we face new challenges such as Digitisation. Furthermore, the Commission will take the Platform's views into account to ensure that EU legislation helps, rather than hinders, citizens and businesses, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

2. Strengthening the relationship with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

October 2020 – Bolstering of CEPLIS’ presence within the ranks of the EESC. CEPLIS Vice-president, Ben Rizzo, and CEPLIS Honorary President, Rudolf Kolbe, once again have a seat at the EESC since they were nominated by their respective countries, namely Malta and Austria. In addition, M. Rudolf Kolbe became Vice-president of the EESC Group III "Diversity Europe".

December 2020 – Nomination of President Gaetano Stella to the CCMI following an intense lobbying by CEPLIS and its Members with a special mention for Vice-president Ben Rizzo and M. Jerry Carroll, as well as our Honorary President Rudolf Kolbe. The CCMI examines changes in industry across a wide range of sectors, keeping pace and tackling them according to the values of the European economic and social model. Thus, it is an opportunity for our organisation to further develop a close working relationship with the EESC and to increase exchanges with other EU institutions and agencies on a range of issues relating to our sector.

3. Establishment of an Informal Group of Liberal professions with the European Parliament

Contacts with various Members of the European Parliament, in particular French (FR), Maltese (MA), Belgian (BE), Spanish (ES), Romanian (RO) and Italian (IT) MEPs. Opportunity to increase CEPLIS’ outreach and to build bridges with MEPs interested in issues encountered by Liberal professionals in Europe.

4. Participation to EU-funded projects

- **Light illuminating dark corners:** CEPLIS, along with the Consejo Nacional de Notariado Español, UINL, Consejo General de la Abogacia Española, Federnotai, is proud to be among the partners of Confprofessioni to coordinate a new European Union project co-financed by the Justice 2014 - 2020 programme, which promotes judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, judicial training and better access to justice within the EU. For CEPLIS, it represents a leading role and a first step in the development of new ways to promote the continuous professional development of our professions.
- **Today's Unknown talents (TUT):** This project addresses the “cliché condition” of migrants by involving citizens in the interpretation of archaeological and historical artefacts, focusing on the manual process leading to the artefacts rather than the object itself. By appreciating artefacts and cultural discoveries through their unknown authors and their characteristics such as gender, migratory flows, education, craftsmanship, aesthetic vision, age, religion, beliefs, social and ethnic origin, language, a perception of dissonance is raised, deconstructing current stereotypes and supporting intercultural dialogue.

- Among projects submitted in 2020, there is also **Mutuus (call for proposals “support for social dialogue”)**, which successfully passed the evaluation.

5. Support towards CEPLIS’ individual Members

EAP: Support to the Common Training Framework Project (CTF).

ECEC: Dissemination of their Position pertaining to Small and Medium Entreprises (SMEs) towards the European institutions.

ECCO – APROA - Unión Profesional : Support in the context of NACE codes’ reform.

EUPLMG: Required and crisis management.

FEG: Dissemination of their position towards European institutions

OCE: Support in the framework of orthopedists’ profession reform in Belgium.

6. Participation and organization of events

5-6th March 2020: Participation in the Congress of Unión Profesional (UP) in presentiam. Our Spanish inter-professional member Unión Profesional (UP) held their biannual congress on 5th and 6th March in Madrid to stimulate discussion and analysis of the challenges facing the professions, to consolidate the concept of professional and to increase understanding among different sectors of society and citizens, of the importance of professional bodies. The Congress coincided with the 40th anniversary of UP, founded in January 1980. The event was attended by many renowned speakers and experts, such as Ms. Yolanda Díaz, Spanish Minister of Labour and Economy, Ms. Isabel Celaá, Spanish Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Ms. Ana Pastor Julián, former President of the Congreso de los Diputados (Spanish Parliament), M. Anthony Gooch, Director of Public Affairs and Communications of the OECD, M. Eric Thiry, President of the World Union of the Liberal Professions (WUP), and our President, M. Gaetano Stella (CEPLIS).

16-17th November 2020: Participation in EU SME Assembly online. The European SME Assembly is the most important event for SMEs in Europe. It is held once a year as a major event of the European SME Week. This event brings together representatives from the European Commission, EU Member States, the scientific world, European and national associations and entrepreneurs to discuss current issues in European SME policy.

18th December 2020: Organisation of the Standing Committee (SC) with the participation of 2 renowned guests. On the one hand, Spanish MEP M. Iban Garcia Del Blanco (S&D), member of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (AI) who developed the priorities of the European Parliament in the realm of Digitalisation. On the other hand, Vice-president of Group III 'Diversity Europe' within the EESC, M. Ioannis Vardakastanis, who informed us

about the latest developments within the institution he represents, and the reconfigurations carried out since October 2020.

7. Raising awareness about EU issues for professionals of our sector

Publication of the CEPLIS' Newsletter: Telegram -> 18 in total in 2020.