

PRESS RELEASE



European Parliament pledges support for European statutes for foundations, associations, and mutual societies

Brussels, 10 March 2011 - The European Parliament has passed a written declaration calling upon the European Commission to introduce proposals for European statutes for associations, mutual societies and foundations. The European Foundation Centre (EFC) welcomes this call from the European Parliament to create a level playing field and secure the diversity of the organisation of economic and social activities in Europe.

A European Foundation Statute (EFS) will allow foundations to develop their full potential in the internal market to address citizens' needs and well-being and sustainable development. The European Commission has started an impact assessment of a potential EFS and is due to present its conclusions this November. The written declaration 84/2010 on the European statutes was initiated by Regina Bastos (EPP), Marc Tarabella (S&D), Renate Weber (ALDE), Pascal Canfin (Greens-EFA), Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE-NGL)

Gerry Salole, Chief Executive Officer of the EFC, emphasised that support from the Members of the European Parliament is critical at this stage in the process, at a time when the Commission is reviewing which of the proposals set out in its Single Market Act (SMA) will be given priority and implemented by 2012. The EFS is one of these 50 proposals.

The EFC, its members and partners have submitted their contributions to the European Commission public consultation on the SMA in which we strongly support the proposal to move forward with the Statute and give details of how we believe the Regulation on a European Foundation Statute should look.

As a growing sector, with more than 110,000 public benefit foundations operating in Europe and contributing over 100 billion euros annually, European foundations are making an important and lasting impact on socio-economic development in Europe and supporting innumerable citizens' projects across the continent and around the globe. Foundations have much to contribute, including multiple resources, expertise, flexibility and creativity.

If they are fully to support the EU's goals for a "smart, sustainable and inclusive" growth in Europe, they need better legal backing, particularly with a growing number of them engaging in cross-border activities. A European Statute would enhance these efforts and deepen their impact. It would enable simpler management, more efficient administration, and increased mobility and responsiveness, while facilitating the pooling of expertise and resources in those areas that require increased scaling-up of funds and help Europe to meet global challenges.

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For more information: <http://www.efc.be/EuropeanFoundationStatute>

Read the full Written Declaration 84/2010:
http://www.europeanstatuteswrittendeclaration.eu/pdf/WD_84_2010_EN.pdf

For any further questions please email Emmanuelle Faure eu@efc.be

Notes to Editors

- The European Foundation Centre (EFC), founded in 1989, is the leading membership association representing public-benefit foundations at European level. It is based in Brussels.
- The EFC currently has **228 members** including community and independent foundations as well as corporate funders spread across 33 countries. A majority (90%) are based in Europe.
- The EFC has established a range of **Interest Groups and Fora** which facilitate cooperation and exchanges of good practice among members across a wide range of fields of activity including: diversity, migration and integration; human rights and disability; protecting the environment; HIV/AIDS; Roma inclusion; global health challenges; children and youth; social investment and Central and Eastern Europe.
- The EFC hosts the secretariat of the **Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE)**, which supports cooperation among national networks covering 22 European countries.
- The EFC coordinates the **European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding**, which was launched in 2007 with the support of the European Commission and other partners.

For more information about the EFC and its members please visit: www.efc.be