

\*\*\* Check against delivery \*\*\*

European Economic and Social Committee – Meeting of Employers’  
Group on the occasion of EESC’s 50th Anniversary

Address by Mrs Irini Pari, EESC Vice-President

28 May 2008, Brussels

Félicitations aux trois Présidents que nous venons d’élire par acclamations ! Je leur souhaite plein succès !

Chers Collègues, Chers amis,

C’est un honneur pour moi de présenter, aujourd’hui, le jour même de notre 50<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire, ma candidature à la vice-présidence de notre Comité. C’est avec un sentiment de responsabilité et je ne vous le cache pas, avec émotion que je demande votre soutien pour continuer à servir nos objectifs communs.

Thank you for your trust and support. Thank you all, and especially the President of our Committee and the President of our Group, for this fruitful cooperation.

My dear colleagues, my dear friends,

To the service of our Committee:

- I will bring my skills and experience after twenty years of work in Brussels, close to the heart of enterprises, European institutions and our Committee
- I will bring the network and contacts I have build all those years
- I will bring my knowledge, awareness and experience, as a member of the European Social Dialogue. That is especially relevant at this point of time as the next President of our Committee comes from the trade union family.

I will be the Vice-president of all of us, if you elect me of course.

We all belong to Group I; whether representing big or small enterprises, whether coming from industry, services, commerce, agriculture, tourism or transport.

We all belong to this Committee; the value of this Committee is dialogue and consensus and that is what I will work for.

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

Today, I am asking for your support to continue serving all our common objectives as Vice-president for Communication.

Communication for me means listening; listening to you, your needs and your expectations...

In this era where things move fast and we are over flooded by information; timely, fresh, lively, targeted communication is needed! The tools, the resources and the professional support exist. Let's use it!

For all of us, it is important to make our work more visible and to raise the profile of our members. For that, we need 5 actions:

- First, to relentlessly continue developing our contacts with the other institutions!
- Second to have systematic contacts with journalists and media in Brussels and in our respective countries
- Third to have a strategic plan and communicate on selected subjects
- We need less publication, more active and interactive communication
- Finally, we need to bring together members and secretariat; bring together the groups, the sections and the communication team.

We often say we act as the bridge between Europe and its citizens. Let's make it a living bridge!

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

The next two years are crucial. We will have a new Commission; a new Parliament; a new Treaty; we will have to discuss the new Lisbon strategy and issues of great importance for our companies.

This means that:

- the Committee will have to face a moving context,
- that the Committee will have to profile itself very strongly,
- that communication will have an overriding importance.

My dear colleagues, my dear friends,

I ask for your support and your trust and I will dedicate myself, with enthusiasm and energy, with responsibility and loyalty, to pursuing our common goals. Together with you, we can do it!

Thank you all!