

LIBERAL PROFESSIONS DAY

Conference



Preparedness in the EU:
The role of the liberal professions

Webstreamed

| 29 September 2026

| 10:30-16:15 (CEST)

| EESC, VMA 22

Rue Van Maerlant 2, Brussels

10th edition

@CSOGroupEESC #LiberalProfessions

10.30 – 11.20 - Opening session - Welcome by **Martin Böhme**, Member EESC and Spokesperson Liberal Professions Category

New realities require a new level of preparedness

- **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission (Video message TBC)

Keynote speech: Liberal professions as pillars of a resilient Europe

- **Dr Karin Hahne**, Vice-President of the German Federal Association of Liberal Professions and founding partner of HFBP Lawyers and Notaries

11.20 - 12.00 - Panel 1: Preparedness in EU policy - priorities, coordination, and regulation

Moderator: **Maurizio Mensi**, Member of the EESC

- **Grégory Allione**, Member of the European Parliament and Co-Chair Intergroup on Resilience: *EU's response and preparedness* (Video message)
- **Hanna Jahns**, Director for Strategy and Policy, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), European Commission: *Strategic considerations* (TBC)
- **Alison Hunter**, Director, Economic and Public Policy Consultancy (EPPC) and Senior Adviser, European Policy Centre: *Adopting a structural response to EU preparedness*

12.00 - 13.00 - Panel 2: Preparedness in practice - prevention, continuity, public health

Moderator: **Danko Relić**, Member of the EESC

- **Dr.-Ing. Heinrich Bökamp**, President of the German Federal Chamber of Engineers: *Resilient infrastructure*
- **Daniel Fügenschuh**, President of the Architects' Council of Europe: *Preparedness by design*
- **Prof Mary Codd**, University College Dublin: *Public health systems*

13.00 - 14.30 - Lunch break

14.30 - 15.45 - Panel 3: Digital preparedness - cyber, AI, and new ways of working

Moderator: **Rudolf Kolbe**, Member of the EESC

- **Elsa Veloso**, CEO at DPO Consulting and Board Member, Portugal National Association of Liberal Professions: *Cyber readiness as a basic duty*
- **Dr Anna Maria Bardone**, Vice-President of the Permanent Unified Committee of Professional Orders and Colleges: *AI tools in professional services: human oversight, transparency and accountability*
- **Dr Helena Donato**, Director of the Scientific Documentation and Information Service at ULS Coimbra: *AI, systematic reviews and communication*

15.45 - 16.15 - Closing session

Summary of discussions and final remarks by **Martin Böhme**, Member of the EESC and Spokesperson for the Liberal Professions Category