

JOINT STATEMENT

European Parliament pledges support to the European Foundation Statute

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) and the Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE) welcome 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.

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), and Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE-NGL).

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.

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.

Rosa Gallego, Chair of DAFNE, stated "this is a clear recognition of the just nature of our demands, and another step forward to provide foundations with an appropriate legal framework that will allow them to better develop their activities and to strengthen their contribution to a more social Europe".

The EFC and DAFNE have submitted their contributions to the European Commission public consultation on the SMA in which they strongly support the proposal to move forward with the Statute and give details of how they 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 foundations 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.

Details of the European Foundation Statute are available on the dedicated webpage:

<http://www.efc.be/EuropeanFoundationStatute>

Read the full Written Declaration 84/2010: <http://www.europeanstatuteswrittendeclaration.eu/>

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About the European Foundation Centre

The European Foundation Centre (EFC) is an independent association dedicated to creating an enabling environment for foundations, strengthening the infrastructure of the sector, and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond.

Who we are: Established in 1989, the EFC today serves a core membership of more than 230 members in some 30 countries. The EFC also hosts the secretariat of The Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE).

What we do: The Centre fulfils its mission through:

- Representing its members' interests at the level of third parties such as European and international institutions
- Improving the visibility and understanding of the role of foundations, and advocating good practice, openness and transparency
- Playing a consultancy role with respect to legal and fiscal issues and expansion of professional development opportunities for foundations' staff
- Convening foundations to facilitate exchanges of information and expertise and fostering cooperation with national-level associations of foundations, donors' fora and other organisations serving the sector

The Centre is an independent international not-for-profit association under Belgian law. Ultimate authority vests in the EFC Annual General Assembly of Members, with governance entrusted to an elected Governing Council, supported by a Management Committee. Membership of the Centre implies commitment to the EFC brand. Members agree to adhere to the [EFC Principles of Good Practice](#).

Details of EFC membership and activities are available at www.efc.be



Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe

About DAFNE

The Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE) is an informal network of Donors and Foundations' Networks (DFNs) in Europe serving charitable foundations and other grantmakers at the national level.

Who we are: Established in 2006 and representing 22 member organisations from all across Europe with collective membership of over 5,000 foundations, DAFNE sets out to underpin the individual activities of its members and to strengthen their collaboration to contribute to a fruitful environment for philanthropy and especially for public benefit foundations in Europe.

DAFNE also provides a platform for enhancing bilateral and multilateral collaboration among individual DFNs and also, collectively, with the European Foundation Centre (EFC) and third parties.

What we do: In pursuing its objectives the DAFNE is a platform for:

- exchanging national experience and knowledge including best practices
- organising the support of DFNs and peer learning
- offering networking opportunities and developing joint programs or projects
- promoting philanthropy and donors best practices at European level
- organising the support of advocacy efforts at European level
- defining common positions on regulatory and fiscal issues

Details of DAFNE are available at

<http://www.efc.be/Networking/Pages/Dafne.aspx>