MEDIA ADVISORY Thursday, June 13, 2013

EU Civil Society Contact Group

"What do we want for Europe?" Invitation to the first-ever European Citizens' Summit

When: 24 June 1pm-7pm 25 June 9am-1pm Where: BOZAR – Rue Ravenstein 23, 1000 Brussels

The EU Civil Society Contact Group invites you to the first ever European Citizens Summit.

Four hundred active citizens from across Europe will be brought together to discuss the future of the EU in a counter summit to the one that will gather Europe's heads of state and government (European Council) on 27 and 28 June.

Why?

Europe is in transition. While the impact of EU policies on the population in the current crisis is greater than ever, European citizens feel disconnected from decision-making in faced with ever more powerful multinational corporations and EU institutions that are failing to address the democratic deficit.

It is time for a radical re-think about who governs Europe and whose interests are being served.

How?

The EU Civil Society Contact Group, representing eight sectors of civil society, will start a genuine, dynamic and democratic dialogue *by* citizens *for* citizens about what kind of Europe we want to live in and how we, as individuals, can contribute to create a more just and sustainable society, in Europe and beyond.

Who?

The Summit, to be held in Brussels at the heart of the EU institutions, will gather representatives from eight sectors of civil society (Development, Health, Human Rights, Environment, Culture, Women's rights, Education and Social sectors), youth stakeholders and ordinary citizens engaged in issues of social justice and sustainability in Europe.

Background

This event is civil society's answer to a repeated, but rarely embraced, call for inclusiveness by European institutions, including the 2013 European Year of Citizens, the Europe 2020 strategy and the 2014 European elections.

Contacts

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EU Civil Society Contact Group

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Using Twitter? Join the discussion online **#EUCS2013**

Additional background

The European Citizens' Summit is organised by the EU Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG) and DEEEP, a project of CONCORD.

EU Civil Society Contact Group

The <u>CSCG</u> brings together the largest coalition of civil society organizations. It represents a vast and diverse community made up of 8 NGOs and sectorial networks and platforms.





DEEEP is a project initiated by the Development Awareness Raising and Education Forum (DARE Forum) of <u>CONCORD</u>. It aims to contribute to the creation of a global civil society through citizen's empowerment for change in order to achieve global justice.



DEEEP is co-funded by the European Union. The Citizens' Summit is supported by the King Baudouin Foundation, the Open Society Foundation and the European Union.