



Conference

Impact of organized crime on the EU economy

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Juan Mendoza, vice-president of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Workers' Group, welcomed the participants on behalf of his Group and the entire Committee. The topic of the conference is an important and sensitive one; it must be addressed at European or even international level. The context must be recalled: Europe means 20 million poor people, very high unemployment and an obvious lack of hope especially for young people. Such a situation paves the way to organized crime. Repressive approaches are needed -to the extent that they respect the freedoms and rights of citizens- but are not sufficient. The various forms of struggle against organized crime should be reflected in national institutions and in the dialogue with the social partners and civil society. Several tools are available for such a purpose: information, education, culture, especially for young people ... but an international coordination of the response is needed. With regard to defending rights and protecting citizens, this initiative is a way to build Europe in coordination with the European institutions and also with regional and local levels. The EESC, which is a tripartite body (employers, workers and civil society), wants to engage more on this subject; it will present an own- initiative opinion in accordance with what "Cultura contro camorra" proposed in the action lines of its manifesto. In conclusion, Juan Mendoza emphasized that the solution must come from a glimmer of hope and that the best answers are to be found in training people, asserting rights and in a Europe proposing decent work for all.

Franco Ianniello said he was very encouraged by the responses to the "Cultura contro camorra" initiative that were received both from institutions, actors on the ground in Campania and European representatives of the social economy. He mentioned the speakers who could not



come but who indicated their support like eg Libera, the FILEF, Gianni Pittella, vice-president of the EP, Luca Visentini (ETUC) ... It is not yet the time for expressing thanks as we are all now to fight against an evil that threatens democracy itself. Franco Ianniello indicated that the idea of "Cultura contro camorra" arose at the University of Caserta on the occasion of a debate on the increasing difficulties faced by companies (often social economy) that manage the properties which are confiscated from the camorra. Europe must not leave alone the operators facing adversity on the ground; Europe must show concrete solidarity, not just words. Organized crime should no longer appear as the only major player in a region. The inhabitants of affected areas must understand that another culture is possible, the culture of participation, transparency, democracy. With the spread of the influence of the mafia that has immense capital and infiltrates politics throughout Italy and now extends beyond Europe, it is the democracy itself which is threatened by such a cancer. The fight must be taken at European level. "Cultura contro camorra" aims at being a European network, including different categories of actors in society, with a coordination center in Brussels and branches in Member States. Fruitful contacts have already been established in Spain, France, Italy, Belgium, Germany and Sweden that we will of course pursue and expand. Franco Ianniello welcomed the commitment of the EESC to present an own-initiative opinion on the subject and added that concrete proposals from the conference will be submitted to the European institutions.

Rita Borsellino, MEP, welcomed the enthusiasm among facilitators and participants. To act effectively against organized crime, it is essential to pool energies, share experiences and work together. Rita Borsellino emphasized the great availability the Commission has shown both to produce the instruments that are needed for the fight against organized crime and to support the work of the EP that is now very active on the issue. The objectives of "Cultura contro camorra" also fit well with the priorities of the EP Special Committee CRIM on organized crime, corruption and money laundering. We must not repeat the mistakes of the years 1950-60 when we thought in Italy that organized crime was an isolated local phenomenon, limited to a few regions. On the contrary, we must admit that it is a structural phenomenon that also concerns other countries like Germany and France. We must be attentive to prevent the phenomenon spreading further. This is a subject that requires an absolute solidarity between institutions and actors of society, a greater willingness to change and to win and actual continuity in action. Rita Borsellino concluded by quoting Paolo Borsellino: "To fight against the mafia, we must not rely on the police and the judiciary, we must establish a moral and cultural movement. We must accustom everyone to breathe the fresh air of freedom and to hold their noses against the smelly wind of passivity and collaboration".

Christophe Rouillon, member of the Committee of the Regions and vice-president of the Association of Mayors of France (AMF), in charge of Europe, in turn emphasized the European dimension of the organized crime with nearly 120 billion EUR that evaporate each year towards the illicit economy, ie nearly 1% of European GDP. This is money that is missing for example for



financing social protection and that undermines the economy and society at their base. We must be able to organize ourselves at European level to go back to a healthy economy and fight against cross-border crime. The 14 proposals in the opinion that the Committee of the Regions adopted in October 2012 on the protection of the legitimate economy go in this direction. Christophe Rouillon mentioned among others the effective implementation of the European Public Prosecutor, that was made possible by the Treaty of Lisbon, the need for financial transparency by local representatives (signing of a code of ethics, filing of a declaration of assets) and the provision of appropriate financial resources to local authorities to effectively fight against organized crime, particularly through the repayment of part of assets seized from organized crime. In conclusion, Christophe Rouillon reiterated his support for the "Cultura contro camorra" initiative and announced that he will advocate with the French government and the AMF to help build this new European network.

Stefano Manservigi, director general of DG Home Affairs of the European Commission, welcomed this initiative, which, with others, complements institutional efforts thanks to its close touch to local conditions. It comes at an opportune time in the European construction to eliminate the phenomena of organized crime. The challenge is not only about public order, it is about the future of Europe, which means making choices in terms of institutions, governance and economic models. Mafia-like organized crime is primarily an economic reality that benefits from the single market to better penetrate it. From this point of view, it is a phenomenon that is more advanced than the means that are available for combating it. It is therefore an integrated economic phenomenon, that is emptying rules of their substance and against which Europe is still insufficiently equipped. It is an illusion to think that good national laws might do the trick. Economic integration, internal market and mafia integration go hand in hand. And presently there is a clear asymmetry in favour of the mafia integration. The coalition of all energies is necessary and it would be desirable to coordinate the various initiatives in this area with a kind of platform that respects the particularities of each but permits at the same time to give them a bigger impact.

Stefano Manservigi further explained that economic and social vulnerabilities caused by the crisis favour such parallel economy and society based on values and realities that are completely outside the rules, such as wear, credit access and access to underground work. Such asymmetry ruins efforts we make to redefine the European model. What are the lessons to be drawn for the European action plan? First, we must go beyond the national framework and be able to state more clearly the mafia qualification of a given criminal organization. We must hope that a follow-up can be given to the work of the EP Committee CRIM and that this commission, its work and visibility will be made durable. The European Commission acted at the legislative level. How? First with a framework decision of the former 3rd pillar which, once subject to the "normal" rules / legal bases of the Lisbon Treaty, should be reviewed, with the help of the EP, in order to for instance use it as instrument able to characterize organized crime.



Second, with a directive on the confiscation of properties on which the Commission started working three years ago and that now comes to the final trilogues. The European Parliament, the civil society and all stakeholders are invited to take notice carefully and exert mutual pressure to keep to this directive a sufficient level of ambition. For example, it is still not possible to agree on the harmonization of the extra-judicial referral of properties of a deceased mafioso, which forces reactivate bilateral actions between countries and thus prevents rapid action.

Finally, attention should be paid to how the legislation is implemented in order not to leave the judicial operators alone. Everything depends again on the conviction that the mafia phenomenon is a European one or, if not yet, will be so tomorrow. Networks such as the one created today are essential in this regard. And the issue of reuse for social purposes of confiscated properties is fundamental even if we do not have a legal basis for harmonization at European level. We can indeed share good practices. Reuse is a great way not only to inject organized crime money into a healthy economy but also to bring down the credibility of mafia power.

For Stefano Manservigi, it would also be an ideal subject for the next European elections, including with the aim of giving a new dimension to the inevitable themes of security and migration. Finally, the emphasis on the fight against organized crime deserves not only specific legislation but also dedicated attention in the different sectorial policies, in the structural funds, in the programs on culture, for example by creating incentive factors for access to support. In all this, the issue is about how to strengthen the social fabric that includes those in the field of the social economy and local authorities without forgetting the remarkable role of the Committee of the Regions. The report that will soon be published by the Commission on corruption in Europe will give a first insight into the extent of the phenomenon, its structural nature, its cost, its impact in terms of weakening our values.

After having recalled how essential it is to communicate with citizens about what Europe does and stressed the availability of "Cultura contro camorra" to play its part, Franco Ianniello gave the floor to Mireille Bruyère, Professor at the University of Toulouse and a member of the group of "Economistes atterrés". The speaker presented this group of heterodox economists that was created in 2010 in response to austerity, in order in particular to show that alternative strategies to get out of the crisis (ie strategies that do not favour the development of a widespread competition) were both desirable and possible. This group bases its analysis on the idea that, to make the community a better place to live, we need to be able to share things, values, goods. Thus the role of the social economy in the management of confiscated properties is essential. Mireille Bruyère recalled the main factors behind the crisis: the development of inequality and poverty, the weakening of representative democracy and the lack of a common European project because of the increasing financialisation. The approach of "Cultura contro camorra" fits well into this issue of building better places to live, of strengthening democracy and civic life and of re-adapting the banking system to the needs of the territories. In this context, economists can, on



the one hand contribute to reflection for example through observatories in order to re-balance economic, social and environmental aspects and, on the other hand, participate in popular education, in particular of youth, on the danger of easy money.

Laura Garavini , member of the Italian Parliament and founder of the association " *Mafia ? Nein Danke!* " in Germany in 2007 after the attacks perpetrated by the ndrangheta in Duisburg, expressed her great interest in the creation of" Cultura contro camorra ". It is indeed essential to establish a link between the work of the European institutions, the local authorities in Brussels and the local civil society to raise awareness across Europe and create an anti-organized crime culture. As a member of the anti-mafia commission of the Italian Parliament, she welcomed the work of the EP CRIM commission, expressed her wish for its continuation in the next EP and at the same time for increased synergies between the two parliaments. Laura Garavini explained the background and reasons of the birth of " *Mafia ? Nein Danke!* " after the terrible murders of Duisburg that were indicative of the mafia influence beyond national borders. She described in detail some of the objectives of the association, including the awareness of the phenomenon by the German population, the creation of a climate of trust between the Italian restaurateurs and law enforcement authorities, the denunciation of the mafia elements. She explained how the association was led to support Italian restaurateurs from Apulia but working in Berlin, facing an extortion operation from a Neapolitan mafia clan in the context of threatening letters and bombings. The action of the association was positive in helping to arrest mafia leaders in less than a fortnight. Then, thanks to the movement and action of Klaus-Jürgen Benetter, the Bundestag immediately transposed into national law the European directive on the confiscation of properties. According to Laura Garavini, associations such as" *Mafia ? Nein Danke!* " allow law enforcement authorities to accumulate more easily and faster the hard evidence they need. In a complementary way, " Cultura contro camorra " can carry out a valuable outreach and visibility work. Following Laura Garavini's intervention, Franco Ianniello asked Hella Gerth to get in touch with her.

Ahmed Laaouej, member of the Belgian Senate, also praised the initiative, partly because organized crime is a destructuring factor in the economic and social fabric and a declaration of permanent war against the public finances that allow redistributing the wealth produced and addressing inequalities. He agreed to promote lifelong learning and to rally public opinion to the idea that the fight against organized crime is not only the state duty but also the duty of all citizens. He stressed as others the fact that the criminal phenomenon knows no boundaries and can potentially contaminate any country. Ahmed Laaouej believes that "chasing the loot" must be at the heart of strategy. In the light of the Belgian experience, he is convinced that the best results are obtained by detection instruments and by the fight against money laundering. Regarding continuing education, governments have an important role to play in connection with social movements and civil society. Ahmed Laaouej cited the example of trade union campaigns that regularly raise awareness in Belgium on the value of the tax in a pedagogically meaningful



way.

Jean-Marc Mignon, president of the International Social Tourism Organisation (ISTO), explained why he intervened in this context. An organization like his should include in its deliberations the pedagogical dimension to implement with respect to young people first and evaluate how to educate its members on these issues. Organized crime also includes drug phenomena hitherto little discussed in holiday centres and school trips. The opinion must understand that criminal money is money that is missing in public finances, social activities, developing social economy. Jean-Marc Mignon will propose to his organization to reflect on the practical arrangements for the implementation of youth exchanges discussed during the conference through a European platform of social tourism. He will also invite it to see how to support initiatives by " Cultura contro camorra " in a sustainable manner.

In this context, Franco Ianniello wondered whether the Commission could not finance exchanges in the context of social tourism and quoted Erasmus for young entrepreneurs that could give priority to cooperatives members in regions affected by organized crime to train in social economy organizations.

Francesco Giangregorio of the *Collegamento campano contro le camorra e per la legalità e per la non violenza* presented the activities of his association and emphasized its presence throughout Campania. He stressed the need to draw lessons from the past, to change attitudes and make us all responsible. The Institute of mafias was created for this purpose, including with the objective to establish a mapping of crime groups in Italy, to confront several disciplines, to create a multi space-laboratory and a permanent exhibition, to conduct studies on the mafias and illegality.

Marcel Hipszman (Fonda) referred to the global and economic phenomenon of organized crime once again, and in particular to the fact that it has always a lap ahead and to the challenges posed by the high porosity between legal and illegal activities. He noted in this respect that the behaviour of criminal networks is sometimes not very far from the ultra-liberal model without of course the principle of free and undistorted competition. Regarding the social reuse of confiscated properties, he was of the opinion that the amendments to the Directive would focus in this direction. The social economy could play a key role relying on local authorities and their networks that are at the forefront to tackle the phenomenon. Based on recent contacts, Marcel Hipszman expressed his belief that information, awareness and reflection on the subject remain to be built in France. However some good examples already exist in this respect that are calling for further encouragement such as some academic research or the agency (AGRASC) that was created in 2010 to manage and recover assets seized and confiscated from organized crime. He reiterated his willingness to participate in the initiative " Cultura contro camorra ".



Maurizio Davolio (*Lega delle Cooperative*) briefly introduced his organization citing the collaboration agreement with the agency involved in the reuse of confiscated properties and the structure " *Terra libre* " launched to help young people create cooperatives to reuse assets, in a context of slow justice and depreciation over time of confiscated properties. Quality is necessary for the purchase of confiscated goods; they are often boycotted by local trade. Maurizio Davolio called on the EU to support the commercialization of these products. He also denounced abuses in tourism in camorra areas that are sometimes visited from a superficial or voyeuristic point of view and described some of the actions taken to remedy the situation. In this regard, he proposed to promote study visits and responsible tourism in these areas.

Geneviève Colas (*Caritas-France/Secours Catholique*) wanted to mention some of the aspects that associations are confronted with, and which were less discussed so far; these are about crimes related to human trafficking, which is a phenomenon that should raise awareness especially through dedicated international networks the *Secours Catholique* belongs to. Moreover, the *Secours Catholique* is very involved, especially in view of the upcoming European elections, in raising awareness on a more social Europe with more solidarity (see: www.construireurope.org). The topic of the conference today could well be echoed in this information campaign.

Citing the example of the murder more than three years ago of a mayor in Italy whose perpetrators have still not been found, Franco Ianniello and Laura Garavini emphasized the need for states to launch strong signals and concrete actions on the ground, to allocate all necessary resources to effectively punish mafia crimes. They also stressed the need to encourage the development of a civic culture, a culture of legality.

Michel Theys, journalist, wanted to put today's initiative in the context of the serious loss of legitimacy of the European integration. According to him such an initiative may well contribute to a cultural and political revolution that would strengthen democracy and participation in Europe: citizens join indeed their efforts to fight against a major plague, which is organized crime, and encourage institutions policies to support them. It is a way for citizens, in a specific but important area, to express the type of Europe they want.

Franco Ianniello thanked Juan Mendoza before his departure and reiterated the wish of " *Cultura contro camorra* " to be associated with the work on the own-initiative opinion that Juan Mendoza will propose to the Workers' Group of the EESC.

Michele Ottati, president of the Association of ACLI-Belgium took over the presidency of the meeting and gave the floor to Michele Mosca, representing the "*Associazione di promozione social - Comitato Don Peppe Diana* " and the Department of Political Science of the University Federico II of Naples. The speaker went back to the antidote character that the social economy



bears and its ability to reintegrate disadvantaged people. Good practices in this area should be put in a European perspective in order to find a way to improve some of them and increase the capacity for action of social enterprises. Michele Mosca expressed the availability of the organizations he represents to contribute to training, for example through the creation of specialized masters, like on social reuse of confiscated properties, or through carrying out case studies that could receive European financial support.

Michele Ottati intervened to recall that on January 1, 2014 the new programming period of the structural funds whose philosophy (especially with the multi-fund vision) and strategic framework change will begin. He invited participants to learn more about these changes and to quickly insert projects in national and regional partnerships agreements with the Commission.

Filiberto Parente (ACLI) considered it necessary to situate the debate in the context of global citizenship because Italy is a haven for migrants from the Third World. He made several proposals: the first, related to Erasmus, aims at promoting visits in the mafia territories by youth from all countries; the second, at establishing a handbook on social responsibility by social economy operators; and the third, at ensuring that seized properties become kinds of educational enterprises to show that the investment is something for the public good.

Enrico Vellante (Giosef - Youth Without Borders) evoked national campaigns his organization was leading towards young people in all economic and social sectors thanks to various European financial supports. Organized crime increases the departure of citizens from their territory, diminishes their participation in the management of these areas; it encourages the self withdrawal. Enrico Vellante proposed to work within "Cultura contro camorra" on issues linked to employment, cultural youth training, the European dimension of their lives. He mentioned the setting-up of the Mediterranean Youth Centre in a building seized from the mafia where youth will be invited from all over Europe in order to increase their awareness, be they Italian or non-Italian. Moreover, "Cultura contro camorra" should reflect on which kind of European publics should be targeted in cultural activities. Enrico Vellante suggested expanding to Europe local actions in Italy in particular to promote cultural change at the local level.

Nicole Fondeneige mentioned the Civic Pact initiative launched in France in 2012 and emphasised the benefits of gathering people around similar initiatives. Actors need to be encouraged at all levels to engage in pacts rejecting questionable practices. She cited the example of groups of citizens engaging in a number of areas and asking candidates in political elections to commit on the terms of relations with the electors in order to recreate trust. This could be replicated in the European elections of 2014. As a facilitator of the Europe group of the Civic Pact, Nicole Fondeneige proposed to continue to work with "Cultura contro camorra" to learn from this process and contribute to its Europeanization.



Marcel Hipszman indicated that, ideally, one might wish that "Cultura contro camorra" could be at the forefront of a citizen mobilization similar to what happened in the 90s in Italy before the adoption of the 1996 law. Presently, of course, we are far from such a situation but various initiatives such as those outlined in this conference could help. He suggested that, taken account of such a diversity of initiatives, "Cultura contro camorra" chooses a more specific intervention niche. Moreover, even if we rightly stressed the European dimension of organized crime, we should not have the feeling that a European solution be brought to an Italian problem because we must not overlook the national particularities.

Mario Greco spoke about the "Insieme per Palermo" initiative that took place at the occasion of the presentation of the candidacy of Palermo to become European Cultural Capital in 2019. A thousand of Palermo cultural actors carried out 200 cultural activities in a week with great success. Designed as a one-off event, this initiative is now being repeated until 2019. A DVD is available on this initiative. In this context, the completely voluntary nature was essential. But the sustainability of such initiatives relies on funding such as the European ones.

Giuseppe Nastri referred to the denial of rights that philosophical organisations such as freemasonry or others from civil society are supposed to generate. Franco Ianniello believed that these were subject matters that do not fall within the scope of today's conference.

Franco Ianniello then stressed the importance of adhering to the association "Cultura contro camorra" which will base its activity on "professional volunteering". The topic will be discussed at greater length after the lunch break.

After the break, Franco Ianniello moved indeed to a more formal phase of the constitution of the association in view of the deposit of its articles at the registry of the authorised court. He read the names of the first people and organizations that joined the ASBL and filled in the corresponding sheet. He invited other interested individuals and organizations to show up as soon as possible.

Michel Theys mentioned the need to respect the statutes distributed to participants and thus invited them to elect the board of directors (minimum 3 and maximum 7 members for 3 years - renewable once). Even if it is the board that nominates the president and other functions, Michel Theys considered it important that the general assembly gives a particular weight to the president as the person who will represent the ASBL. Given the central role Franco Ianniello played in the birth and gradual set up of the association, he proposed him to the presidency. Franco Ianniello proposed in turn Michel Theys as vice-president and Armand Rauch as secretary. All these proposals were adopted by the general assembly.

Franco Ianniello then proposed Hella Gerth as the bridgehead in Germany for contacts with Laura Garavini and "Mafia, nein Danke" movement. For France, he featured a trio composed of



Marcel Hipszman, Christophe Rouillon and Mireille Bruyère. In Spain, Franco Ianniello will talk with Miguel Cabra de Luna and Juan Mendoza. In Italy, the Don Peppe Diana Committee could be the aggregation place of associations fighting against the camorra. In Belgium, it will be possible to count notably on Jacques Defourny. Tomas Olsson will liaise with concerned structures in Sweden. All these proposals were accepted by acclamation. In the meantime, other applications for membership were received by the President, who quoted the names.

Franco Ianniello then opened the session on proposals and gave the floor to Tomas Olsson, senior official representing the Cultural Committee of the Region Västtra Götaland, Sweden. Tomas Olsson indicated he was coming from a so-called prosperous and quiet area but at the same time recalled the murders and attacks of politicians that his country had known. The 8 persons who died this year in his city, Gothenburg, show that his country experiences a growing phenomenon of organized crime. He is attending the conference to listen, learn and also offer. In his region there are very strong social economy and youth organizations, as well as structures involved in the culture. He would consider the idea of using the large budget available for culture and analysing the possible modes and examples of cooperation. It is also his region that produces the largest number of films (30 feature films per year as well as Swedish foreign films in co-production), which could lead to exchanges with Naples and its region. His region has a representation in Berlin, why not in Naples too ? Tomas Olsson also cited possible examples of collaboration in the field of early childhood (day-care centers). He indicated that he is mandated by a European network for cultural tourism to offer support because tourism is a powerful tool in the fight against organized crime. Finally he invited " Cultura contro camorra " to use its website to recruit more members and initiate cooperation projects.

After having recalled the distinction in the statutes of " Cultura contro camorra " between effective members and ordinary members without voting rights (which may become effective only after three years of membership) and hence the need to join today, Franco Ianniello gave the floor to Giulio Riccio, former municipal councilor in the province of Naples.

Giulio Riccio returned to the idea that we must fight the mafia on a European level and not just locally even if Italy, more than any other country in Europe, is caught in the vicious triangle linking corruption, mafia and austerity policy. An approach such as " Cultura contro Camorra " is particularly relevant and its activities must be developed. Giulio Riccio suggested for example the launch of a workshop on the transfer of management skills and the creation of training modules for administrations. All this should also rely on the alternative represented by the social economy.

Franco Ianniello invited Giulio Riccio to spell out in more details and in writing its proposals by the end of the conference.

Jacques Defourny, director of the Centre for Social Economy of the University of Liège and head



of the European network EMES, emphasized the role of the social economy to push back the mafia domination and recalled the important work of the EESC on the social economy. He described the analogy between the situation of the mafia and the historical circumstances that were generally conducive to emergence of social economy. The analysis of the history of the social economy teaches two lessons. First, this type of organization emerges when there is a requirement of necessity (poverty of the working classes, problems of access to health, ...). Second there is a condition of cohesion, of collective identity (selling milk at the best price, purchase of farm inputs at lower prices ...). Today, the contexts have changed, but the needs are still there. What about collective identities today, when it is rather usual that people engage in many different causes ? As organized crime expands beyond its current boundaries, awareness grows in the opinion that we all face the same problem, which means that the condition of collective identity has been transformed into a condition of "community of (shared) destinies". Jacques Defourny thinks that the growing awareness of the mafia phenomenon and its risks will gradually create a sense of common destiny, similar to the phenomenon of climate threat. If we add to the conditions now verified of necessity and common destiny, the existence of leaders able to launch sustainable initiatives, then the social economy can arise naturally. To summarize, the threats represented by mafia systems call "naturally" for social economy answers. Furthermore, four features of the social economy thwart the very nature of mafia systems: its roots in the territories; the combination offered by the social economy of economic and social objectives together with mixed resources in order to avoid unique dependencies (either from public subsidies or from market); the empowerment of stakeholders and finally the need for accountability/transparency.

Jacques Defourny added that he considers that, in the academic literature, there is certainly a way to promote the identification of social economy or social entrepreneurship models that are specific to mafia context, just as the past decade has given rise in Asia to social entrepreneurship initiatives called "post-disaster social enterprises" that are typical of an environment which has been split after natural disasters. A team like Liège could host researchers in the field. The great work on the identification of social enterprise models, which began five months ago together with the project that was launched under the title "International comparative social enterprise model project " and that includes 158 researchers from 50 countries are to be taken into account in terms of scientific support that may further contribute to the better understanding of both social entrepreneurship and organized crime.

Luciano Silvestri (CGIL) was of the opinion that the intuition that Europe must do more on this European topic is fully right and that the initiative " Cultura contro Camorra " is timely. He quoted the 2012 report of the anti-mafia investigations directorate which noticed the high level of organization of the Camorra that allows it to expand internationally and integrate intensively in various economic and financial sectors. The report also highlighted the large capacity of the mafia to take advantage of the economic crisis through the phenomenon of wear and thus



provide an alternative to the banks. Criminal organizations maintain a close relationship with the public sphere through public procurement and tenders. Regarding the proposals, Luciano Silvestri expressed the hope that more emphasis be put on social reuse of seized property as statistics show a significant increase (over 70 %) since the crisis. " Cultura contro camorra " could help to observe, understand and evaluate this phenomenon across Europe. He mentioned an example in Tuscany with an important property confiscated for 8 years but frozen pending the end of legal proceedings. The association could thus act to put the issue of social reuse on the table of the European Parliament and on the European legal agenda as the current lack of regulation on this issue does not preclude the sale of confiscated property and their re-acquisition by mafia groups. It is necessary to find the means to influence the texts drafting before their final adoption. Finally, Luciano Silvestri suggested the creation of a reference point, kind of an observatory, especially for disseminating good practices, facilitating the work. Such a place would broaden to stakeholders of civil society and representatives of employers and workers what is beginning to exist at the academic level.

Franco Ianniello indicated that several of the proposals in the conference today found their place in the " manifesto " available to participants. He mentioned in this respect the EESC own-initiative opinion, the promotion of the legislation on the confiscation of property and social reuse, the support to initiatives that provide opportunities for young people working on the spot through traditional crafts learning or workshops for social management and specific public administrations training. The manifesto will be presented to officials of the European institutions and leaders of associations and serve as a guide to action and work priorities for the association.

In the introduction to his closing statement, Miguel Cabra de Luna (EESC) recalled that his country suffered one of the characteristic forms of organized crime, which is terrorism. The economic cost of ETA terrorism was for example amounted to € 680 million per year for the period 2003-2008 without forgetting the pensions paid to victims and the reduction of the growth of Basque GDP and national GDP. There is also a mafia presence in the country in relation to the real estate bubble, to the control of municipalities and to urban planning decisions as highlighted by a study funded by the EU and carried out over the city of Malaga. Miguel Cabra de Luna participated as rapporteur to different opinions on the participation of civil society in the fight against organized crime and terrorism. Through his work in the social economy, including ONCE, he was also able to realize the role of organized crime such as in the duplication of the official system of social lottery or in online games and other illegal gambling that lead families to ruin and bring various diseases, such as in the traffic of human beings, in the arms sales that involve huge amounts of money. An effective fight against terrorism requires a good knowledge of the phenomenon. Spanish and Irish examples show the important role played by the social economy in this fight. It is obvious that there are connections at the highest level between civil organized crime (of camorra type) and terrorist type organized crime. The phenomena of



organized crime are now embedded in society and become increasingly difficult to eradicate if actions come late. It is important to create training programs for young people at national and European level. The Italian experience on the reuse of confiscated property is very interesting. Similar to what ONCE has been doing for years, civil society can also play a very important role in the reintegration of victims to avoid stigmatization, to enable them to initiate legal proceedings. However, in light of the revelations about the NSA wiretapping, the fight against organized crime cannot become an excuse to limit the rights and fundamental freedoms. All these issues should reappear on the occasion of the forthcoming revision of the Stockholm Programme on the European security strategy. Another idea is that the European network that "Cultura contro Camorra" is putting together could benefit from financial support of the European Commission as with the European funding for the Spanish association of victims of terrorism. Approaching the subject from the viewpoint of research, for example in the context of Horizon 2020, is equally a good idea. Last but not least, we should aim for harmonization in the fight against organized crime, and this should be reflected in all policy areas (justice, security, taxation, social affairs, employment, ...) and in all European programs (Horizon 2020, Erasmus and programs for enterprises, ...).

Franco Ianniello concluded the conference by confirming that it gave an excellent kick that will engage all stakeholders to continue their efforts and keep the momentum. He added that he firmly counts on the cooperation of all, especially of young people in this young association. Franco Ianniello again thanked all participants as well as the interpreters.