



**Motions of the Presidium and member organisations,
adopted by the CESI Congress of December 2 2016, concerning**

Main Motion II:

Public services – Delivering results



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Motion 1 of the Presidium – Put forward by the “Central administrations and finances” (ACF) Trade council

Call to the European Union to maintain functional public administrations – even in the era of cost-cutting

CESI demands the following from the EU and its top instances:

- Even in times of austerity measures and cost-cutting, the guarantee of the smooth operation of public administrations in EU member states should be considered a priority and should not be viewed as less important than other matters.
- When formulating the requirements, evaluating austerity policies and/or balancing the budgets in member states, the EU must clearly state that public budgets should not plan cuts that endanger the proper operation of public administrations. In addition, the EU must expressly remind the member states that public administrations must be awarded sufficient means to provide adequate services to their citizens and companies.

Justification:

CESI has noted that the applied austerity policies applied by certain EU member states as a result of the constraints imposed by the European institutions have resulted in the dramatic downfall of public administrations, and consequently, they have led to the reduction of the amount and quality of services in many key sectors, such as healthcare, education, security, the fight against irregular work, and more.

CESI and its member trade unions are of the opinion that the efficiency and smooth operation of public administrations are fundamental to ensure that citizens' rights are protected in European democracies.

CESI also believes that the reduced capacity of public administrations to meet the needs of citizens and companies puts at risk both social cohesion in the individual member states and damages the connections between the member states and the European Union, which in turn endangers the institutional, political and cultural foundations of the entire EU.

CESI and its member unions thus believe that the protection of public administrations are a fundamental aspect for the continuation on the path of values taken by the European Union.

Motion 2 of the Presidium – Put forward by the “Central administrations and finances” (ACF) Trade council

The “in-work poverty” phenomenon: wage protection in the public domain is an absolute necessity

CESI defends the fight against “in-work poverty” in civil service and the increasing pauperisation of public workers in the EU, by means of binding measures guaranteeing country-specific minimum wages for workers in the public sector.

Justification:

CESI has noted the sharp drop in purchasing power of public workers in these difficult economic times with grave concern; indeed, civil servants are getting increasingly closer to the poverty threshold.

The protection of wages in public service that are adapted to the cost of living and the needs of families guarantees the seamless operation of public administrations and prevent corruption.

Motion 3 of the dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion, Germany

Investments in public services

CESI should campaign for better framework conditions – especially concerning public investments – vis-à-vis the European decision-makers and institutions, because they represent an important pre-condition for economic development.

1. CESI demands the establishment of a stability pact that includes social and political stability in the member states of the Eurozone in addition to financial and economic factors, and which views investments aiming at modern public infrastructures and efficient administrations in a positive light.
2. CESI is against a European Competition Law that encourages privatisations by means of its own State aid and procurement regulations. Rather, operational public services and modern public infrastructures should be recognised as stabilising factors for democracy and the market economy.
3. CESI expects European investment and structural funds also to be channelled into public infrastructures in the member states. European programmes should not exclusively target new public-private partnerships – and consequently, new privatisations. They must grant room for manoeuvre for the states to invest in their future.

CESI defends the establishment of adequate formats to reach this aim, i.e., ones that take into account the significant automatic stabilising role played by public services in the multiple crises that have struck Europe since the global financial crisis, as well as the negative impact of inefficient administrations, which only contribute to worsening the situation.

Justification:

The drop in investments over many years in Europe is a cause for concern. This is the case of European economic investments in the single market, direct investments from third countries and public domestic investments. There is an intrinsic connection between good public infrastructures and incentives for investments in private entrepreneurship: indeed, public infrastructures such as information and transport networks (domestic and international), social security, education and research are important pre-conditions for the development of economic potential. Efficient public administrations (e.g. effective tax administrations) are indispensable to consolidate the economic and monetary union with the aim of overcoming the European debt crisis.

Effective and efficient administrative action on the basis of the rule of law and accessible, affordable, high-quality and reliable public services cannot be granted at zero cost. This is impossible without optimal human resources and equipment in administrations. It is the only way the EU and the Eurozone can once more return to increased growth and employment levels – and finally overcome the crisis.



Motion 4 of the dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion, Germany

Fair tax legislation and solid financial administrations

At the heart of its trade union policies, CESI should defend long-sighted, decisive legislation and solid financial administrations. A precondition for solid financial administrations is the employment of well-trained, motivated staff in sufficient numbers, with access to modern, optimal working conditions (e.g. state-of-the-art IT facilities and networks).

CESI should promote the improvement of communication and information exchanges between national tax administrations. CESI strives to ensure that the need for efficient financial administrations in the member states that are able to collect revenue for the states by means of the effective and efficient application of tax regulations and legislation is discussed to a greater extent on an EU level.

CESI points out that the taxation of all types of income must be performed in a fair manner, depending on performance.

Justification:

The European Union is undergoing times of simultaneous crises, some of which are interlinked, and others that are independent from each other. These crises are actually endangering the continued existence of the EU itself. One of the most important ones is the sovereign debt crisis, which is having a negative impact on numerous other fields. Unilateral austerity measures have worsened the social situation in many member states. Indeed, such measures are one of the root causes of anti-democratic, populist and extremist movements in practically all EU countries. The policies of the EU and its heads of state and government have mainly focused on expenditure cuts, without taking other factors into account. The fact is that budgets do not only have an “expenditure” heading: they also include an “income” one.

It is high time to consider the EU states’ income to a greater extent, in order to overcome the sovereign debt crisis. In addition to being important for reasonable economics, it is a matter of generational fairness, because states do not have access to funds to invest in their future – and this, put simply, is translated into fewer opportunities for upcoming generations. The EU must take tax enforcement in its member states into account more. Although member states are responsible for their own financial policies, the Eurogroup especially could push for the application of tax laws within the framework of the monetary union.

Efficient tax legislation promotes the economic freedom of citizens and businesses, while providing states with the basis to maintain and develop their public service missions and infrastructures. Moreover, it ensures there is social cohesion. This viewpoint must become a guiding principle for tax



policies across the entire EU, while maintaining the states' responsibility for tax collection and its organisation.

Motion 5 of the dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion, Germany

Administration 4.0 – European standards and cooperation

CESI must defend the following principles in view of the irreversible “Administration 4.0” process:

CESI

1. views the opportunities granted by the “Administration 4.0” e-government model as open-minded and positive. With citizens and businesses in mind, the aim is to ensure that all users have guaranteed access to these services anytime and anywhere. A fundamental prerequisite for this is comprehensive broadband coverage. The European Commission must accompany the expansion of broadband coverage via supporting aid regulations. Public investments on all levels must be made to make digital infrastructures available, bearing future-oriented sustainability in mind. Privatisations over public systems cannot be the doctrine applied. It must be a universal service obligation so as to provide the necessary basis for “Administration 4.0”.
2. demands that all citizens also be able to communicate with their administrations and fulfil the necessary procedures via non-electronic means (especially those who feel they cannot use the internet, for whatever reason). Real people must act as contact points for all administrative processes. These services must be provided with the same conditions.
3. is strongly against job cuts for the benefit of digitalisation. “Administration 4.0” does not result in fewer tasks but in new task profiles, and the various administration training programmes must systematically focus on them. In addition, the employees must receive regular training and further training. Here too, European experiences can be useful, i.e. by means of the transfer of know-how, for instance.
4. welcomes the opportunities provided by “Administration 4.0” to strengthen cooperation between authorities on a European level. This applies particularly to large-scale administrations such as finance administrations or police or security authorities. These potentials must be beneficial to citizens. Moreover, European data protection legislation must be strengthened, clearly aimed at protecting personal data and with the possibility of adapting to new technological developments.
5. supports the principle of creating standardised points of contact, as per the Single Market Directive and in relation to “Administration 4.0” (e.g. the creation of the public authorities’ number 115 in Germany). The dbb calls for a unique European public authorities’ number.
6. defends the participation of European social partners on the committees for local, regional and central administrations in the drafting of framework agreements concerning European minimum standards for staff participation in the digitalisation process of administrations. In this view, a European consensus concerning these minimum standards must be formulated.
7. hopes that the experiences of member states’ administrations will be taken into account in the European social dialogue, especially concerning the issue of task-appropriate human resources and HR training.
8. calls on the European Commission to support the expansion of European internet and software providers: indeed, only independence from large American or Chinese corporations can



guarantee optimal data protection and security in line with top technical and legal standards. Europe must step up its efforts to achieve a level playing field.

Justification:

The digitalisation of public administrations within the framework of e-government processes must lead to a simpler, more efficient form of administration. Nowadays, “Administration 4.0” is a newly-coined concept, influenced by “Industry 4.0”. Authorities are accessible beyond normal office hours, citizens and businesses can submit requests and documents electronically, and collaboration is streamlined.

As long as it is properly managed, this developing digitalisation will have a long-term impact on labour requirements and task profiles in public administrations, as well as on the relations between users and authorities. It opens up new perspectives for EU-level administrative cooperation, beyond the perception of European fundamental freedoms.