

**« Public Institutes and public  
examination of normative legal acts :  
Questions of democratization and law  
creation »**

**Speech of the Belgian Senator**

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**Development of Civil Society in Belgium  
and in Europe and its role in the  
development of a country**

# 1. Introduction

- Congratulations of the organizers
- Recognizing the importance of civil Society shows that Uzbekistan is resolutely looking to the future
- No single model for Civil Society
- Balancing Government, Institutions and civil Society a delicate exercise that requires :
  - A true « institutional strategy
  - A definition of what is meant by civil society
  - Civil Society has to meet certain conditions

## 2. What is Civil Society ?

- A dynamic grouping with common objectives and ideals
- It provides informations in order to :
  - Induce changes in a country's legislation
  - Take into account specific situations
  - Pilot innovative projects
  - etc...

# 3. What civil Society can not be ?

Extremist and/or violent movements, whether they be religious, anarchistic or other

## 4. What is the contribution of civil Society in a State and what is its role ?

- Strong source of support for the Government's policies
- More social cohesion
- Sustainable efficiency in challenges
- More sustainable economic growth
- Oversight of political power
- Equal opportunities
- Promotion of peace and stability
- Tackling of problems that are not completely resolved by the State
- Serving as an example

# 5. Civil Society in Belgium

- 4 Basic characteristics of the Belgian model :
  - « Corporatist » model shared with Germany, Austria, France and the Netherlands
  - The strong compartmentalization of Belgian civil Society
  - The complexity of the Belgian institutional framework
  - The art of compromise

# 6. The Economic weight of civil Society in Belgium

- 11 % of jobs
- 5 % of its contribution to GDP
- The 100 largest non-profit organizations are worth 7,5 billion euros

# 7. The main players in Belgian civil Society

- Professional associations
- Medias
- NGO'S
- Various associations



# 8. How does civil Society make its voice heard in Belgium ?

- Through direct contacts with the authorities :
  - The Government
  - Individual Ministers
  - Parliamentarians :
    - make recommendations
    - organize hearings during the process of preparing bills
- Through demonstrations/actions/petitions
- Through the media

## 9. Civil Society is not a static phenomenon, it evolves !

- Citizens are connected to the rest of the world.
  - They want to take an active part before decisions are made
  - If there is no dialogue, chance of rejecting the world of politics

# 10. What about civil Society in Europe

- EU has put in place important mechanisms for dialogue
- Civil Society has created major Pan-European federations
- The EESC contributes to express its views at the European level :
  - To ensure that EU policies tie in with economic, social and civic reality
  - To be more in touch with its citizens
  - To promote the values on which the EU is founded

# 11. Conclusions

- Uzbekistan is an important actor of stability at home and in its region
- A young country with a young population
- Challenges include demopgraphic and social issues, a perfect time for enthousiastically promoting a dynamic process in the main issues you have to deal with
- Civil Society can not be invented, it must be built ! It results from a continuous process
- There is no single model
- Building civil Society should be pragmatic, taking account your culture, history, people, geopolitical context, your challenges

- Uzbekistan has to define its priorities and timing to become a leader and a driving force, both at home and in its region

« Who moves mountains is the one who always starts by moving little stones » Conficius

Thank you for your attention.