



European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry

## The EFCl participates to the EU Tripartite Social Summit stressing the relevance of the services' industry perspective

Brussels, 16 October 2019 – EFCl's President, Juan Díez de los Ríos, attended the Tripartite Social Summit, the forum for dialogue between the EU institutions and the European Social Partners at top management level. EFCl's President stressed the importance of considering the *services industry perspective* in all EU legislative actions.

The European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry ([EFCl](#)), represented by its President Juan Díez de los Ríos and its Director Isabel Yglesias, took part in the Tripartite Social Summit of 16 October on the theme "Progressing on the social and economic dimensions for a competitive, fair and sustainable Europe". It is the first Social Summit to discuss a topic directly linked to climate change and its impact on the economy.

The Tripartite Social Summit is a forum for dialogue between the EU institutions at President level and the European Social Partners at top management level. For the last time before the establishment of the new European Commission, the meeting was co-chaired by Donald Tusk (President of the European Council) and Jean-Claude Juncker (President of the European Commission). The Finnish Prime Minister Antti Juhani Rinne (Head of State or Government of the rotating presidency), the Commission's Vice President for Euro and Social Dialogue (Valdis Dombrovskis) and the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility (Marianne Thyssen) were also present.

The employers' delegation was composed of representatives from [BusinessEurope](#) (with its President Pierre Gattaz), [SMEunited](#) (association of crafts and SMEs in Europe, with its President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller) and the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises ([CEEP](#)), accompanied by the employer's associations from the trio Presidency countries (Finland, Croatia and Germany) and the EFCl as sectoral association.

The Summit agenda included the following topics: (i) a just transition to a climate neutral economy; (ii) investing in skills and improving access to adult training and (iii) designing an industrial policy fit for the future.

During its intervention, Juan Díez de los Ríos underlined the need to have a services-oriented policy mindset in order, for instance, to allow the services industry to rapidly integrate into the circular economy. He further highlighted the need to ensure wide access to basic digital and "green" skills and the need to ensure the application of existing legislation and cooperation with social partners in the drive to reducing the gender gap in the labour markets.



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This was EFCI's first participation to the Tripartite Social Summit, and therefore a major step forward for the cleaning and facility services sector and for EFCI's recognition as European Social Partner.



Family picture of the Tripartite Social Summit with Jean-Claude Juncker (European Commission's President) and Donald Tusk (European Council's President) in the centre of the first row. Juan Díez de los Ríos is third from the left in the second row.



EFCI's President saluting European Council's President Donald Tusk.



Juan Díez de los Ríos during his intervention.



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**Intervention by EFCI's President at the Tripartite Social Summit on 16 October 2019 in Brussels:**

*Thank you, Minister,*

*I would like to thank the Finnish Presidency of the Council and the European Commission for inviting the European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry in the Tripartite Social Summit, to present the views of a growing services industry that employs nearly 4 million people through 270,000 companies.*

*I have followed with interest the previous discussions and analysed them from the perspective of a labour-intensive services sector. I would therefore like to underline some points:*

- i. It is very relevant that legislative actions consider the services perspective. Indeed, business services represent over 12 % of the European economy and are key drivers for increasing European productivity and transforming the economy. It is therefore crucial to have a services-oriented policy mindset in order, for instance, to allow the services sector to rapidly integrate into the circular economy.  
Tools like a quality-focused public procurement should be used. It could contribute to the right social conditions across business services sectors;*
- ii. As a sector employing up to 80 % of blue collars, the issue of skills becomes more and more central. Not only the need to ensure wide access to basic digital skills, but also those arising from the circular transition;*
- iii. Finally, representing a sector whose workforce is composed of up to 80 % of women in some Member States, we are convinced that in order to reduce the gender gap, focus should be put on the better enforcement and application of existing rules, with the close involvement of social partners.  
Closing the gap requires a cultural shift, rather than new legislative efforts.*

*As European Social Partners, we are committed to continue working together with the Institutions and Unions to address the employment issues arising from the climate challenge, digitalization and fight for gender equality.*

*Thank you very much.*

**About the EFCI**

The EFCI is the voice of the European cleaning and facility services industry in Europe, bringing together associations representing the industry at national level. The cleaning and facility services sector is one of the major services industries in Europe, representing more than 270,000 companies employing nearly 4 million people. To know more, visit [EFCI's website](#) and consult [EFCI's political priorities](#).

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