

MANIFESTO FOR A EUROPEAN STATUTE OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

We, the representatives of the Organised Civil Society, urge the European Union to act and take the necessary steps for introducing proposals for European statutes for associations.

Civil society organisations have been campaigning for a long period of time for the setting up of a **European Statute for the European Association**, giving institutional recognition to the engagement and to the activism of millions of citizens, freely and voluntarily joining together in associations across Europe. The **freedom of association** at European level is both a fundamental right of the European citizens and an active component in the emergence of a **European public sphere**.

We are now at a critical juncture to build a citizens' Europe and we believe that the European Statute for European association is an essential instrument aiming to:

- give official **recognition of the legitimacy** and the relevance of **European associations' collective voice** in a more participatory European democracy;
- **secure the diversity of social economy** across Europe, contribute to cohesive, smart and sustainable growth in Europe;
- build a common political culture that gives citizens from Member States the possibility to gather together within legally recognised transnational organizations; establish a **common framework** and recognise our European dimension, **facilitate our transnational activities** and ensure **democratic functioning and sustainability** at European level;
- lay the foundations for the development of a **genuine European civil dialogue** along with the provisions of the Lisbon treaty.