E.C.H.O. Granted Observer Status in the EESC Liaison Group

An important step towards strengthening the voice of the long-term care sector in European civil society dialogue.

November 2026

The European Confederation of Care Home Organisations (E.C.H.O.) has been granted observer status in the *Liaison Group with European Civil Society Organisations and Networks* of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

This marks an important milestone in E.C.H.O.'s efforts to strengthen its engagement at European level and creates new opportunities for dialogue and cooperation on health and social care policies, particularly in the field of residential and long-term care.

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is an advisory body of the European Union representing employers, workers and civil society organisations. Through its opinions and recommendations, it contributes to EU policymaking and promotes dialogue between European institutions and organised civil society.

Established in 2004, the EESC Liaison Group provides a permanent framework for dialogue and cooperation between the EESC and European civil society organisations and networks. It brings together EESC representatives and European civil society networks from various sectors, encouraging the exchange of expertise, institutional cooperation and participation in discussions on European policy priorities.

Founded in 1989, E.C.H.O. brings together national associations representing private providers of residential care and nursing home services across Europe. The Confederation promotes European cooperation, the exchange of good practices and continuous improvements in the quality of care.

Observer status in the Liaison Group represents a further step in strengthening E.C.H.O.'s institutional engagement at European level, at a time when demographic change and population ageing are placing increasing pressure on long-term care systems.

Growing demand for care services, workforce shortages, international labour mobility and the need to ensure accessible, high-quality and sustainable care are challenges shared by EU Member States.

Against this background, participation in the Liaison Group will provide E.C.H.O. with opportunities to contribute its sector-specific expertise to European civil society dialogue, share the experiences of its member associations and engage with other European organisations working on common priorities.

It will also offer new opportunities to develop cooperation on population ageing, workforce development, the protection of vulnerable people and the long-term sustainability of care systems.

E.C.H.O. wishes to express its sincere gratitude and special thanks to Professor Paolo Amato, who made a valuable contribution to the application process. His expertise, dedication and support were greatly appreciated throughout this important step in the Confederation's institutional development.

Observer status in the EESC Liaison Group opens a new chapter for E.C.H.O., reinforcing its commitment to European cooperation and constructive dialogue on the future of long-term care.

Under the leadership of President Averardo Orta, the Confederation will continue to encourage cooperation among national member associations, participation in European initiatives and projects, and closer engagement with organisations and institutions involved in health and social care policies.

E.C.H.O.'s objective remains to contribute to a European vision of long-term care that places human dignity, quality of services, workforce development and the sustainability of care systems at its core.