



Staffan Nilsson

President of the Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

1946 - Born Skövde, Sweden

1968 - Degree in Nordic Languages and History of Literature, University of Gothenberg

1969-1971 - Involved in student politics e.g. Vice President of the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS)

1970s - Farmer, buying and running a dairy farm in Hälsingland, Sweden

1995 - Became a member of the EESC when Sweden joined the EU

2004 - President of the Various Interests Group III of the EESC

2010 - Elected as President of the EESC (for a two and a half year term)



Role in the EU:

- The President is responsible for the smooth running of the EESC and is the external spokesman
- The EESC meets approximately 8 times per year to discuss economic and business policies
- It brings together business and trade union leaders, farmers and consumers representative and other groups
- The EESC aims to identify opinions to be forwarded to the Commission, Council and Parliament (the EU Commission and Parliament have to consult the EESC before making decisions but are under no obligation to take its advice).

The President's main themes for his term in office:

- Dialogue and participation
- Sustainability and growth
- Solidarity and development

Quotes:

"Engaging people for a sustainable Europe" (2010 - the President's political message for his term of office)

"We have everything to win by uniting in cooperation instead of continuing Europe's broken history." (2010 Inaugural Speech)

Trivia:

Staffan Nilsson can speak fluent Swedish and English and has a good understanding of French.

Website: http://www.eesc.europa.eu/organisation/president/sepi/blog/template_author.asp?id=1