

# THE PATH TOWARDS A SOCIALLY JUST FIT FOR 55

An Analysis of the  
Inclusion of Social  
Considerations into  
Key Legislative Files

**BRUSSELS**  
**27 SEPTEMBER**  
09:00 - 12:00

 **UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**  
INSTITUTE FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

**FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
STIFTUNG**

**FEPS**  
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN  
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



## THE PATH TOWARDS A SOCIALLY JUST FIT FOR 55 PACKAGE AN ANALYSIS OF THE INCLUSION OF SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO KEY LEGISLATIVE FILES

*Experts Meet Policymakers Exchange*

**27 September 2022**

8:30-12:00

FEPS Office

Avenue des Arts 46, Brussels

### AGENDA

**8:30 – 9:00 ARRIVAL & WELCOME COFFEE**

**9:00 – 9:10 WELCOMING REMARKS by**

- **Mohammed Chahim**, MEP, Chair of the S&D Group Fit for 55 Task Force

**9:10 – 9:30 THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S ROLE IN PROMOTING THE SOCIAL DIMENSION  
WITHIN THE FIT FOR 55 PACKAGE: Why & How did social considerations become  
better integrated into key files?**

Presentation of preliminary research findings by:

- **Sanna Markkanen**, Research Programme Lead and Senior Analyst, Institute for Sustainability Leadership, University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)
- **Krisztina Zálnoky**, Research Project Manager, University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)

**9:30 – 10:30 POLITICAL VIEWS ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION: PRIORITIES, STRATEGIES &  
PROPOSALS**

with representatives of the political groups of the European Parliament: S&D, Greens/EFA, EPP, Renew Europe, and GUE/NGL. The discussion will focus on the following four key policy files:

- 1) the **Renewable Energy Directive (RED)**
- 2) the **Emissions Trading System (ETS)** with an emphasis of the introduction of a new

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- Emission Trading System for buildings and transport (ETS 2)
- 3) the **CO2 emission performance standards** for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles (CO2 cars)
  - 4) the **Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)**

Short inputs (5-6 minutes per intervention) on the state of the inclusion of social considerations into the proposed revisions by:

- **Mohammed Chahim**, MEP, Chair of the S&D Group Fit for 55 Task Force
  - **Marc Angel**, MEP, S&D Group
  - **Nicolás González Casares**, MEP, S&D Group
  - **Jutta Paulus**, MEP, Greens/EFA Group
- (More MEPs to be confirmed)

## **10:30 – 11:45 Interactions with all participants**

Moderator: **David Rinaldi**, Director of Studies & Policy, FEPS

## **11:45 – 12:00 CLOSING REMARKS by**

- **Maria João Rodrigues**, FEPS President

## **GUIDING NOTE FOR THE 'EXPERTS MEET POLICYMAKERS' EXCHANGE**

Social considerations have become increasingly prominent in the European Parliament's work on the Fit for 55 Package. However, differences in emphasis of which social aspects should be addressed persist across political groups, committees and legislative files. In addition, there are different perceptions of how regressive distributional impacts can best be avoided. For instance, some emphasise compensatory measures, while others focus on employment or the provision of basic services and public goods. More recently, debates have also addressed questions around structural issues, such as the lack of representation and access as well as discrimination and disadvantages.

To map out how the inclusion of social issues into European climate policy has taken place in the European Parliament, the "Experts Meet Policymakers Exchange" aims to foster a dialogue between members of different political groups, researchers and policy experts. Members of the European Parliament are invited to share their reflections on how they have conceptualised the social dimension, which social issues they regard as most important, and how they have translated their ideas into concrete policy proposals in the four legislative files that are addressed in this research project. In



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In addition, participants are invited to share their views on how the meaning of the social aspects in the fit for 55 package is evolving in the changing (geo-) political context.

The discussion will provide crucial inputs to the research project and highlight the role of the European Parliament in shaping the meaning of the social dimension of climate policy through concrete policy interventions. In addition, participants are invited to actively contribute further to the evolution of the project through follow-up interviews and by providing feedback to the researchers.

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE SESSION 'POLITICAL VIEWS ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION: PRIORITIES, STRATEGIES AND PROPOSALS'**

- What does “integrating the social dimension into the Fit for 55 Package” mean for your work as an MEP?
- What, in your view, are the most important social issues that climate legislation should cover?
- Which social aspects are most prominently covered in the legislative file(s) that you focus on?
- What are the key debates and differences in opinions amongst political groups with regards to the social dimension in the legislative file(s) you focus on?
- Which policies and provisions could, in your opinion, be most effective in mitigating the risk of adverse social impacts associated with the climate policy files you focus on? Which policies can further leverage positive social aspects of climate policy?
- Which events during the past 12 months have increased or decreased the relevance of social aspects in the Package?
- What impact, if any, do you think that the war against Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis and other geopolitical developments will have on how social aspects are covered in the Fit for 55 policy files as the trialogues progress?
- Which stakeholders do you think are / have been pivotal in pushing for greater inclusion of social issues in the design and implementation of the Fit for 55 Package? What are meaningful ways of engaging these stakeholders?

## **ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT**

Increased energy prices and fears of recessionary dynamics that might develop as a consequence of the Russian invasion of Ukraine have put additional emphasis on the need for the EU's climate legislation to better address social considerations.

With the research project **THE PATH TOWARDS A SOCIALLY JUST FIT FOR 55 PACKAGE** (working title),

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FEPS and CISL unpack the ties between the increasing salience of social considerations in climate and energy and policymaking in the EU. The project investigates how social issues have been included over the past 12 months into key policy files of the Fit for 55 Package that was initially tabled in July 2021 by the European Commission.

The aim of the project is to understand how and why social issues have become increasingly integrated in the EU climate policy discourse, what have been the driving forces behind this development, and how the growing awareness over the importance of social issues is reflected in the Parliament's proposed amendments to the Commission's original proposals.

The scope of the research project is restricted to four key policy files that have the potential to have greatest positive or negative social impacts. These include:

- the Renewable Energy Directive (RED)
- the proposal for an Emissions Trading System (ETS) for buildings and transport
- the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)
- the CO2 emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles