



## **Addressing the Crises: Costs, COVID-19, Climate and Conflict**

*Monday 28 November 2022 | 10.00–19.00  
Foundation ABF, Wenceslas Square 833, Prague*

The European Union is at a difficult crossroads. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have brought new challenges for the Union and its integration. In parallel, the EU must also address the ongoing climate crisis. National governments and welfare systems face new pressures and the need for greater support from the EU. European solutions are particularly crucial in a globalized world, where for example, the war in Ukraine, has implications for citizens across Europe. In this context, how can the EU strengthen integration and support national governments in tackling the current and emerging crises?

Progressive forces and office-holders have played a major role in the construction of Social Europe and will continue to demand and shape a Europe that ensures a decent quality of life for all. This Call to Europe Conference in Prague will bring together current and former policy-makers, academic experts as well as activists, including current EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit. We will discuss not only the current state of play but also how European social and economic policy should be shaped moving forward so that no one in Europe is left behind.

### **AGENDA**

#### **Morning sessions: By invitation only**

*10.00–10.15*

##### **Arrival & Registration**

*10.15–12.00*

##### **Closed-door Discussion: Reviving Social Democracy Leadership in the East Part of Europe**

**László Andor**, FEPS Secretary General, former EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs

**Katya Koleva**, President, Institute for Social Integration

**Daniela Ostrá**, Vice-chair of the Czech Social Democratic Party

**Urban Überschär**, Head of FES Czech Republic and Slovakia Office

Moderated by **Lubomír Zaorálek**, President of Masaryk Democratic Academy

*12.00–13.00*

##### **Networking lunch**



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13.00–14.30

### Expert roundtable: Addressing the Energy Crisis' Impact on Households

Karel Polanecký, Friends of the Earth CZ

Vladimír Špidla, Former PM of the Czech Republic and former European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Introduction and moderation: David Rinaldi, FEPS Director of Studies and Policy

### Afternoon sessions: Public conference

14.30–15.00

#### Registration & Coffee

15.00–16.00

#### Discussion: Book launch of “Europe’s Social Integration”

László Andor, FEPS Secretary General, former EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs

#### Inputs by:

Cecilia Bruzelius, Junior Professor of European Public Policy, Tübingen University  
Matthias Ecke, Member of the European Parliament

Lubomír Zaorálek, President of Masaryk Democratic Academy

16.00–17.00

#### High-level talk: Addressing the Crisis of Living Costs

Daniel Prokop, Sociologist, PAQ Research

Josef Středula, Chair of Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions (ČMKOS)  
Saša Uhlová, Journalist, internet daily Alarm

17.00–17.30

#### Coffee break

17.30–18.00

#### Keynote speech

Nicolas Schmit, EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Q&A with the audience moderated by Patrik Eichler, Director, Masaryk Democratic Academy

18.00–19.00

#### Closing & Reception

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*The conference will be simultaneously interpreted into Czech and English.*