

THE PATH TOWARDS A SOCIALLY JUST FIT FOR 55

FEPS Policy Study
Launch

FEPS HQ, BRUSSELS
7 FEBRUARY



FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



THE PATH TOWARDS A SOCIALLY JUST FIT FOR 55

AN ANALYSIS OF THE INCLUSION OF SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO KEY LEGISLATIVE FILES

Experts Meet Policymakers Exchange & Policy Study Launch

7 February 2023

14:00-17:00

FEPS Office

Avenue des Arts 46, Brussels

AGENDA

14:00 – 14:25 ARRIVAL & WELCOME COFFEE

14:25 – 14:30 WELCOMING REMARKS by

- **Claudia Detsch**, Director of FES Just Climate

**14:30 – 15:30 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 final key findings by:

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

Discussion with:

- **Mohammed Chahim**, MEP and Vice-President of the S&D Group
- **Tsvetelina Penkova**, MEP and Shadow Rapporteur for the EPBD file
- **Joachim Schuster**, MEP and Shadow Rapporteur for the ETD file

Open exchange with all participants

Moderator: **Kevin Le Merle**, Junior Policy Analyst on Climate and Environment, FEPS

15:30 – 16:30 NEXT STEPS: TRANSLATING POLICIES INTO PROGRESSIVE PRACTICES

Inputs by:

- **Saïd El Khadraoui**, EEA Brussels Representative and institutional expert
- **Delara Burkhardt**, MEP S&D Group, ENVI
- **Frank Siebern-Thomas**, Head of Unit, DG EMPL in charge of “Fair Green and Digital Transitions, Research”

Open exchange among participants

Moderator: **Reghina Dimitrisina**, Policy Advisor, FES Just Climate

16:30 – 16:35 CLOSING REMARKS by

- **David Rinaldi**, Director of Studies & Policy.

16:35 – 17:00 INFORMAL NETWORKING RECEPTION

GUIDING NOTE FOR THE ‘EXPERTS MEET POLICYMAKERS’ EXCHANGE & POLICY STUDY LAUNCH

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.

In reaction to the final findings of the Policy Study on 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. Participants are invited to engage and reflect on the next steps policy could take to further the best practices identified in the policy process, but also to rectify any potential shortcomings. Additionally, all participants are kindly invited to contribute further to the evolution of the project by disseminating the launched policy study so as to increase awareness of the European Parliament’s functioning and role in pushing for socially just climate policies.

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR ‘NEXT STEPS: TRANSLATING POLICIES INTO PROGRESSIVE PRACTICES’

- 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 at this stage of the policy process?
- From the report findings, each file seems to have its own ‘social’ focus, which sometimes diverges, how can we make these complementary in practice?
- Do you see opportunities for further enhancing social angles between and across the files? How do we ensure the at times different angles work together when we approach the European Parliament’s first reading?
- As we near the implementation phase of the policies, do you have insights on strategies Member States could adopt to ensure complementarity of the social angles of the different files?
- 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?

- Which stakeholders do you think will continue to be 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 engage these stakeholders?
- What “best practices” and lessons have we learnt and that we could pass on and apply to future files (how to best capitalise on co-benefits, perhaps the need for unified definitions)?

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), 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