



Security at work in an uncertain world

FEPS and Progressive Britain roundtable on the future of work

Thursday, 5 October, 15:30 - 17:30

FEPS office, Avenue des Arts 46, Brussels (Closed-door)

FEPS and *Progressive Britain* are partnering up on a major **project on the future of work and the need for social democrats to create and promote a new politics of work.**

Work is central to most of our lives. However, due to **rapid social, economic, and technological changes** worldwide, it is changing at a pace that politicians and policymakers need help to keep up with. For the public who bear the brunt of these shifts, the causes behind them seem distant and their leaders powerless. Despite this, parties worldwide have struggled to develop a politics that speaks to the mounting uncertainty and looks to the future with optimism and the prospect of a better life.

The roundtable is part of a series bringing together experts and politicians from around Europe to wrest control of the debate back from technocrats and put forward a **new politics of work** curated by Frederick Harry Pitts of the *University of Exeter*, and Andrew Pakes, the Deputy General Secretary and Director of Research at *Prospect Union*.

Following previous events in London, Stockholm, and Berlin, this roundtable will focus on **the connections between national security, economic security, and security at work and the implications for employment, workers and industrial strategy of the changing geopolitical picture.**

The starting point of the discussion will be a *policy study* published by FEPS and Progressive Britain with the main findings from comparing the three different approaches in the UK, Sweden and Germany. We will hear interventions from social democrats and trade unionists on the European dimension of the politics of work. This roundtable aims to learn from the **European model of industrial relations**: how is it evolving in light of today's challenges? And what can others learn from that?

Draft agenda of the roundtable:

- 15:30 Opening by **Gerard Rinse Oosterwijk**, *Digital Policy Analyst of FEPS*
- 15:35 Welcoming words by **László Andor**, *Secretary General of FEPS and former EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*
- 15:40 Presentation by **Frederick Harry Pitts**, *Senior Lecturer in Politics and Director at the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences at the University of Exeter's Cornwall Campus*

Presentation of policy Study: *'Security, social democracy and the politics of work in an age of unease. What Labour can learn from the European centre-left'* (to be published)
- 15:55 Opening statements by first discussants:
 - **Andrea Glorioso**, Policy officer at the "Future of Work, Youth Employment" unit, DG EMPL at the European Commission;
 - **Prof. Nicky Dries**, Professor of Organizational Behavior that runs the Future of Work Lab within the Faculty of Economics of KU Leuven;
 - **Daniel Samaan (online)**, Senior Economist and Future of Work Expert at International Labour Organization;
 - **Mehtap Akgüç**, Senior researcher Economic, Employment and Social Policies Unit at ETUI.
- 16:45 Discussion between all discussants and other roundtable participants



17.25 Closing remarks by **Frederick Harry Pitts**

17.30 Networking reception

The session will be a small, closed roundtable event operating on **Chatham House rules**. Unattributed (or attributed where agreed) insights from the discussion will feed into a policy brief published later this year.

Background on the content of the project

As background reading, find here the [report of the first roundtable](#) in London, 'Security as means and ends. A Report from the FEPS/Progressive Britain roundtable on the future of work, the [report of the second roundtable](#) in Stockholm, 'Security at work and structural change – Roundtable report', the [report of the third roundtable](#) in Berlin, 'The politics of security between production and distribution', and the paper '[Security at work in an uncertain world](#)' by Harry Pitts and Andrew Pakes, which will serve as the basis for the discussions at this Berlin roundtable.

In the run-up to this roundtable, we will publish the policy study '*Security, social democracy and the politics of work in an age of unpeace. What Labour can learn from the European centre-left*' by Harry Pitts and Andrew Pakes, will contain the main findings and recommendations.