

## THE FUTURE IS SOCIAL

Tuesday 30 April 2024

Brussels

How can we expect people to galvanise around the idea of Europe if they don't perceive that the EU is improving their living standards, opportunities and wellbeing? Progressives have always been at the forefront of innovative policymaking to reduce inequalities, expand rights and improve working conditions. For the current EU legislature, under the leadership of EU Commissioner Schmit, among others, many achievements have been reached, for instance: a directive on minimum wages and collective bargaining, the EU care strategy for childcare and long-term care, the Social Climate Fund, which is still too little but conceptually significant; an EU equality strategy pushing towards equal pay and more women in business; a big fiscal stimulus to protect wages and fight unemployment, such as SURE and the NextGenEU to transform our economy. It is, therefore, undebatable that socialist action has achieved a lot in this legislature. So, **how can progressives build on this to show that is the way to go for Europe?**

The Belgian presidency of the EU is the occasion in which, finally, social investment and socio-economic matters have been put up as European priorities. In this conference, we will therefore ask how social democracy can revitalise the passion around the European project and showcase that **leadership that can pave the way for a future that thrives on inclusivity, sustainability and collective prosperity.**

**Call to Europe** has become a reference point for the progressive family in Europe by providing a platform for exchange for **experts, civil society representatives, and policymakers**. Under the so-called 3-P-rule, FEPS' call is to have a Positive, Participatory, and Progressive dialogue on Europe's most pressing challenges. Therefore, it aims at 'bridging the gap' between **European citizens** and institutions with interactive and inclusive formats.

**Call to Europe: The Future is Social** – taking place in Brussels on the afternoon of 30 April is an occasion to reignite the transformative power of social-democratic values in shaping tomorrow's Europe. A future in which EU policymaking shall put well-being and quality of life first.

**REGISTER NOW AND SECURE YOUR SPOT**



More info and registration at [www.feps-europe.eu/event/call-to-social-europe/](http://www.feps-europe.eu/event/call-to-social-europe/)

*in collaboration with the Brussels chapters of social-democratic parties:*



## AGENDA

13:30 – 14:00

Registrations **@FEPS – Avenue des Arts 46**

14:00 – 14:10

**Welcoming words and moderation**

**László Andor**, Secretary General, FEPS

14:10 – 14:45

**What does “Social” mean for Europe today?**

**Enrico Letta**, former Prime Minister of Italy and author of the Report “[Much More than a Market – Speed, Security, Solidarity](#)”

Discussants:

- **Mojca Kleva Kekuš**, President of Progresiva Foundation
- **Sandra Parthie**, Head of IW Köln's Brussels Office and President of the EESC's Section for the Internal Market (INT)

15:00– 16:15

**Parallel Interactive Workshops**

*Informal group discussions to develop one idea per workshop for progressives to champion*

**1. Health and Care Services for All** with:

- **Alain Coheur**, Director of EU and International Affairs, SOLIDARIS & member of the European Economic and Social Committee
- **Gloria Ghéquierre**, Member of Cabinet, Belgian Minister for Social Affairs and Health
- Representative of the Disabled Persons' Organisation (DPO)

*Facilitator: Anna-Maria Livolisi*, Political Advisor on Health and Social Affairs, Institute Emile Vandervelde

**2. Artificial Democracy? Protecting Society from Disruptive Disinformation** with:

- **Hendrik Nahr**, Head of European Affairs, Make.org
- **Stella Meyer**, Research Associate, The Lisbon Council
- **Francesco Cerasani**, Political advisor for the AFCO Committee and the special committee on foreign interference, S&D Group

*Facilitator: Gerard Rinse Oosterwijk*, Digital Policy Analyst, FEPS and Council Member at the Centre Public D'Action Sociale of Ixelles (CPAS)

**3. Innovation in Employment and Social Affairs** with:

- **Codruta-Liliana Filip**, President of PSD Belgium, Coordinator of PES Activists Diaspora, and political advisor, S&D Group
- **Francesco Corti**, Member of Cabinet, Belgian Minister for Social Affairs and Health
- **Silvia Righi**, Political adviser to the office of the EP negotiator on the EU Platform Directive, Elisabetta Gualmini, S&D Group
- **Katharina Erdmenger**, Member of the Board of SPD Brussels

*Facilitator: Maria Freitas*, Political adviser for social policy, PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions

**4. Taxing Billionaires to Finance Climate Justice** with:

- **Joško Klisović**, President of the Assembly of the city of Zagreb and Member of the European Committee of the Regions, PES Group
- **Linus Steinmetz**, Climate activist, Fridays for Future Germany
- **Aurore Chardonnet**, Political advisor to the Subcommittee on Tax Matters, S&D Group
- **Annamaria Abbafati**, Secretary, PD Brussels chapter
- **Gauthier Hansel**, Political advisor, Institut Emile Vandervelde (IEV)

*Facilitator: Alejandra Oriola Almarcha*, PSOE Bruselas

16:15 – 16:45

### Coffee & Cake Break – with lightning talks on Citizens' Action

*Short introductions to civil society & youth's initiatives*

- Eyes on Europe (**Maria Carmela Noviello**, Co-President)
- I vote where i live (**Claudio Sartorelli**, local representative)
- 100 Voices - One Planet (**Ophelia Wach**, Co-Founder)
- Le Forum - Bruxelles contre les inégalités (**Frédéric Aerden**, chargé de mission)
- Restless Brussels (**Adriano Rodari**, local activist)

Moderated by: **Imogen Tyreman**, Leader of the UK Labour BXL

16:45 – 17:30

### Pills of Inspiration – Progressive ideas worth spreading

**Kate Pickett**, Professor at the University of York, author of "[The Inner Level: How More Equal Societies Reduce Stress, Restore Sanity and Improve Everyone's Well-Being](#)" and of "[The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone](#)"

**Nika Kovač**, Director of the 8 March Institute and coordinator of the European Citizens' Initiative [My Voice My Choice](#)

**Vivien A. Schmidt**, Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration, Boston University and author of the book "[Europe's Crisis of Legitimacy: Governing by Rules and Ruling by Numbers in the Eurozone](#)"

Moderated by: **Mario Vega Esteban**, Co-President, Eyes on Europe

17:30 – 18:45

### Pitch to Action

*Presentation of policy ideas to policymakers, Dragons' Den format*

- **Bruno Tobback**, Member of the Flemish Parliament, Vooruit
- **Cinzia del Rio**, President of the Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship Section at the European Economic and Social Committee and Director of the international department, UIL
- **Valeria Ronzitti**, Secretary General, Services of General Interest (SGI) Europe
- **Claes-Mikael Ståhl**, Deputy Secretary General, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- **Yonnec Polet**, Deputy Secretary General, Party of European Socialists and Member of the European Committee of the Regions

Moderated by: **David Rinaldi**, FEPS Director of Studies & Policy

18:30

**Registrations @Academie Royale de Belgique – Rue Ducale 1**

18:45 – 19:45

**Networking Reception – Bites & Drinks with Progressives**

19:45 – 20:15

### Social-ist Impact for the next European Legislature

**Fernando Mariano Sampedro Marcos**, State Secretary for Europe, Spain

**Maria João Rodrigues**, FEPS President and Chair of PES Financial and Economic Network

Chair: **Luis Planas Herrera**, PSOE Bruselas

20:15 – 21:30

### The Future is Social

*Short inputs by workshops' participants, youth representatives and the Brussels chapters of social-democratic parties on Employment, Health, Housing, Democracy, Climate, Equality*

*Response by:* **Nicolas Schmit**, EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Chair: **László Andor**, Secretary General, FEPS