



in collaboration with

# Social Europe is our target

## High-level conference

Porto, Portugal

Friday, 19 June 2026, 09:00 – 15:45

@ Crowne Plaza Porto (Avenida Da Boavista, 4100-114 Porto, Portugal)

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## Background

Five years after the Porto Social Summit and the adoption of the Action Plan for the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), the European Union seems to have shifted its economic and social agenda to increasingly mirror a US-style competitiveness agenda, cherry-picking from the recommendations of the Draghi Report. With a fifth of the EU population at risk of poverty or exclusion, including millions of children, precarious working conditions in the face of the green and digital transition, demographic change, and economic austerity measures across Member States, **a new European Economic Socialisation Agenda is needed** to revive the spirit of Porto.

**The current geopolitical landscape has shifted the attention towards defence spending and militarisation. This is often done at the expense of social investment**, while wars and conflicts across the globe have direct consequences on the cost of living for millions of people. **The defence of the land shall not overtake the need to protect citizens with strong welfare states.**

While the European Commission is expected to present important initiatives such as the Quality Jobs Act, the Anti-Poverty Strategy or the Fair Labour Mobility Package, **there is a need to further reinforce the social dimension of European policies and to adopt a new roadmap for “Porto 2.0”**, looking at where the Action Plan for the EPSR fell short and how Europe can define new economic and social policy objectives and tools.

Therefore, *FEPS*, in collaboration with the *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Portugal*, the *Fundação Res Publica*, *SOLIDAR*, the *Johannes Mihkelson Centre* and *Proforum*, organises a high-level conference in Porto.

Following an afternoon of expert meetings the day before, the public conference takes place on **Friday, 19 June 2026**, between 09:00 – 15:45 and will feature high-level and expert keynote speeches and future-oriented panel discussions on topics such as the implementation of the EPSR and the definition of European sovereignty with a strong social dimension.

This event will send a strong message to political stakeholders for prosperity and well-being for all.  
[Register now and secure your spot!](#)

Cannot join us in Porto? The event will be **live-streamed here**.

## **Agenda - Friday 19 June 2026**

@ Crowne Plaza Porto, Guimaraes I + II (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

09:00 – 09:30 Registrations and coffee

**09:30 – 10:00 Opening session**

*Keynote speeches by:*

- **Nicolas Schmit**, President, FEPS
- **Roxana Mînzatu**, Executive Vice-President for Social Rights, Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness (*online*)
- **José Luís Carneiro**, Secretary-General of the Socialist Party of Portugal
- **Esther Lynch**, General Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)\*

**10:00 – 11:15**

**The social dimension of European sovereignty**

*Keynote by:*

- **László Andor**, Secretary General, FEPS

*Panel discussion with:*

- **Tanel Kiik**, Member of Parliament, Former Minister of Social Affairs, Estonia
- **Mónica Vidal**, Built Environment Manager, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
- **Elisa Ferreira**, Former European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, former Vice-Governor of the Bank of Portugal

*Q&A and discussion with the audience*

*Moderated by:*

- **João Albuquerque**, Director for International Relations, Fundação Res Publica



11:15 – 11:30

Coffee break

**11:30 – 12:45**

**Building an agenda with the people**

*Keynote by:*

- **Marta Iglesias**, Member of SOLIDAR's Board and Director of Strategy and Advocacy at Movement for Peace (MPDL)

*Panel discussion with:*

- **Erica Acosta**, Advocate, Casa do Brasil do Lisboa
- **Sophia Reisecker**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

*Q&A and discussion with the audience*

*Moderated by:*

- **Fabian Schmiedel**, Head of Office, FES Portugal\*

12:45 – 14:00

Networking lunch

**14:00 – 15:15**

**The next 10 years of the European Pillar of Social Rights**

*Video message by:*

- **Gabriele Bischoff**, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the PES Social Europe Network

*Panel discussion with:*

- **Estelle Ceulemans**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Ana Mendes Godinho**, Former Minister of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security, Portugal
- **Maria Helena André**, Former Deputy Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation, former Director of the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities, former Minister of Employment and Social Affairs, Portugal

*Moderated by:*

- **François Balate**, Policy Analyst, FEPS



15:15 – 15:45

### Conclusions & looking ahead

- **Mário Centeno**, Former Minister of Finance, Portugal, former Governor of the Bank of Portugal, former President of the Eurogroup
- **Pedro Silva Pereira**, President, Fundação Res Publica
- **Valeska Hesse**, Director, FES Spain and Portugal
- **Inês Rodrigues**, Vice-President, Young European Socialists (YES)\*

*Moderated by:*

- **László Andor**, Secretary General, FEPS

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*\*Some speakers are to be confirmed.*