



Discussion

Social Democracy in a Diversified Left – A Social Democratic Vision for Europe?

**Brussels, February 1st, 2018
17h30-19h00
(Registration starts at 17h00)**

Venue

**Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Rue du Taciturne 38
1000 Brussels**

European Social Democrats have struggled uphill in recent years. The traditional parties have come under pressure from different political sides. On the left new parties have emerged in the aftermath of the financial crisis. On the other side right-wing populists pretend to care about social cohesion. And in the centre a social-liberal option, President Macron's 'En Marche' movement might turn into a European party.

At the same time a renewed Labour movement in the UK and courageous economic and social policies like in Portugal continue to mobilize voters. Apparently social democratic values still offer relevant guidance to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. Worker participation has proven to be an important safeguard to steer economies through crises without sacrificing too many jobs. Solidarity instead of austerity and democratic dialogue instead of populist slogans are answers guiding societies to more social cohesion.

The panel will bring together national and European perspectives concerning the options of Social Democracy in an increasingly diversified left in Europe.

Programme

- 17h00 *Registration*
- 17h30 Welcome
Renate Tenbusch, Director, FES EU Office
- 17h40 Discussion with
Jernej Pikalo, Progressiva Foundation, former Slovenian Minister of Education
Kati Piri, Member of the European Parliament
Maria João Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-President of the S&D Group
Johanna Uekermann, Member of the SPD Executive Committee
- Chaired by
Uwe Optenhögel, outgoing Director, FES EU Office
- 18h50 Wrap-up
Udo Bullmann, Member of the European Parliament and acting President of the S&D Group
- 19h00 *Refreshments*