



in collaboration with:



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament



Forging the new EU agenda

Progressive Economic Policy Conference

When?

Wednesday, 25 September (starting at 13:00 CEST)

Thursday, 26 September (until 17:30 CEST)

Where?

Palais des Académies, Rue Ducale 1, 1000, Brussels

(Trône, entrance from Caien Maudit monument, Boulevard du Régent)

The beginning of a new legislature offers possibilities to re-shape the work plan of European Institutions, adapt the approach to some existing initiatives and put forward new policy initiatives that freshly appointed European Commissioners or Members of the European Parliament would want to champion.

This initiative, as a collaboration between progressive organisations, representatives of the social-democratic movement and trade unions, aims at discussing in a closed-door setting the way to bring forward progressive priorities in some of the important policy areas that the Union will be active on in this new legislature. It offers the possibility to fine-tune organizational priorities, and discuss openly but in a restricted setting. In short, the sessions will be designed to reflect on how to give a real bite to progressive political priorities into key areas of work.

The conference consists of six main roundtables on key economic policy challenges facing the EU as well as sessions on how to support workers in the transition to defend the Green Deal and on the future of the gender equality agenda (see draft program overleaf). Further, several key priorities of progressives and trade unions are addressed transversally across the conference:

- Continuing the social agenda anchored to the European Pillar of Social Rights
- Protecting and expanding the EU Green Deal principles, policies and reach
- Ensure quality of work and good employment amidst the transitions
- Upholding upward convergence, territorial cohesion and equality

Please note that the event is by personal invitation only.



Wednesday, 25 September

By invitation only

Location: Marble Gallery (1st floor)

13:30 Welcome Coffee & Registration

13:40 Opening Remarks

Tobias Mörschel, Director, FES EU Office Brussels

László Andor, FEPS Secretary General

14:00 **Anchoring equality in the new European agenda**

Legacy Speech by **Helena Dalli**, EU Commissioner for Equality

First Comments:

- **Zita Gurmai**, Member of Parliament, Hungary & President of PES Women
- **Lina Gálvez Muñoz**, Chair of FEMM, S&D Group, and FEPS Vice President

Q&A

Chair: **Alex Sceberras Trigona**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the World Trade Organization, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta and member of FEPS Scientific Council

15:00 **Supporting workers in the transitions and ensuring quality jobs**

High-level talk with:

- **Esther Lynch**, ETUC General Secretary
- **Gabriele Bischoff**, S&D Group Vice President & MEP, Germany

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

16:00 *Networking Coffee*

Strengthening Europe's socio-economic model

Location for all roundtables: Stevin and Lipsius Room (1st floor)

16:15 Roundtable I - **Governance and tools to deliver on the Social Pillar**

Inputs by:

- **Rolf Schmachtenberg**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany
- **Isabelle Schömann**, Deputy General Secretary, ETUC



Discussants:

- **Ana Mendes Godinho**, Member of the Portuguese Parliament and former Minister of Employment, Solidarity and Social Security
- **Oliver Röpke**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
- **Gabriele Bischoff**, S&D Group Vice-President & MEP, Germany
- **Santina Bertulesi**, Deputy Head of Cabinet, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, European Commission
- **Maria Jepsen**, Deputy Director, Eurofound

Chair: **Yonnec Polet**, Deputy Secretary General, PES and Member of the European Committee of the Regions

17:45 *Coffee break*

18:00 Roundtable II - **Funding the EU's future**

Inputs by:

- **René Repasi**, Chair of the German Delegation & MEP, S&D Group, Germany
- **Sylvie Lemoine**, Deputy Director General & Executive Director Industrial Policy, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC)

Discussants:

- **Ludovic Voet**, Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) (online)
- **Irene Tinagli**, MEP S&D Group & Member of ECON, Italy (online)
- **Carla Tavares**, MEP S&D Group & Rapporteur on the MFF, Portugal
- **Jens Geier**, MEP S&D Group & Rapporteur on the MFF, Germany

Chair: **Cédric Koch**, Policy Advisor European & International Economic Policy, FES

19:30 **Networking Reception**

Location: **Marble Gallery (1st floor)**

Inputs by:

- **Matevž Frangež**, State Secretary for Industry, Slovenia
- **Matthias Ecke**, MEP, S&D Group, Germany



Thursday, 26 September

Location for all roundtables: Stevin and Lipsius Room (1st floor)

09:15 Welcome (back) remarks: **David Rinaldi**, Director of Policy Studies, FEPS

Industrial policy for full-capacity Europe

Closed-door sessions

09:30 Roundtable III - **Digital public infrastructure to strengthen Europe's digital ecosystem**

Inputs by:

- **Francesca Bria**, President, Italian National Innovation Fund & Honorary Professor, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose
- **Zuzanna Warso**, Director of Research, Open Future Foundation

Discussants:

- **Renate Nikolay**, Deputy Director-General, DG CONNECT, European Commission
- **Matthias Ecke**, MEP, S&D Group, Germany
- **Lina Gálvez Muñoz**, MEP, S&D Group and FEPS Vice President
- **Matthias Pfeffer**, Founding Director, Council for European Public Space
- **Paul Nemitz**, Principal Advisor, DG JUST, European Commission

Chair: **Marie Hasdenteufel**, FES / **Gerard Oosterwijk**, FEPS

11:00 *Coffee break*

11:15 Roundtable IV - **Industrial strategy for climate, convergence and quality jobs**

Inputs by:

- **Dóra Piroška**, Associate Professor, International Relations Department, Central European University
- **Milan Petit**, Working Group Member, Systems Transformation Hub and Co-founder SSA.eu

Discussants:

- **Paolo Pasimeni**, Deputy Chief Economist, DG Internal Market and Industry, European Commission
- **Sandra Parthie**, Head of Brussels Office, German Economic Institute
- **Claudia Detsch**, Head of FES Competence Centre Just Climate

Chair: **Anna Kolesnichenko**, Policy Analyst on Economy, FEPS

12:45 *Networking Lunch*



Sustainable global Europe: trade & partnerships

14:00 Roundtable V - Trade policy to strengthen EU competitiveness, well-being, resilience and sustainability

Inputs by:

- **Werner Raza**, Director, ÖFSE – Austrian Foundation for Development Research
- **Claes-Mikael Stahl**, Deputy Secretary-General, ETUC

Discussants:

- **Brando Benifei**, S&D INTA Coordinator, European Parliament (online)
- **Lucian Cernat**, Head of Unit, DG TRADE, European Commission
- **Tanja Buzek**, Vice President of the EESC International Trade Committee

Chair: **Daniela Iller**, Policy Officer for Trade and Development Policy, FES

15:30 *Coffee break*

15:45 Roundtable VI - Global partnerships for socio-ecological sustainability

Inputs by:

- **Fiona Ramsey**, Head of Unit, DG INTPA, European Commission
- **Judith Kirton-Darling**, Secretary General, IndustriAll

Discussants:

- **Cecilia Nicolini**, Member of Mercosur Parliament, Argentina
- **San Bilal**, Senior Executive and Associate Director - sustainable economies and climate action, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
- **Fabien Valli**, Head of Unit – International Trade, Development and Global Sustainability, S&D (*tbc*)

Chair: **Franziska Korn**, Policy Advisor Business & Human Rights, FES

17:30 Closing remarks: **Maria João Rodrigues**, FEPS President

International solidarity and new global order after the Summit of the Future

Closing Remarks: **Tobias Mörschel**, Director, FES EU Office Brussels
Next steps for a progressive economic policy in the new EU legislature



This Conference is organised with the financial support of the European Parliament. It does not represent the view of the European Parliament.



Roundtable Format

Each roundtable should consist of about 20-25 selected people including:

- Representatives of progressive governments and ministers
- European Commission officials
- MEPs/MEP staff and S&D Staff
- Representatives of trade unions
- Progressive think tanks and academic experts
- Selected civil society with a track record of strong policy proposals

Each roundtable will be introduced by two inputs or presentations by experts, officials or policymakers – 5 minutes each, and selected high-level participants will respond first with comments and inputs. An open discussion will follow.

Each roundtable will have a two-page note to set the context of the expert dialogue and anticipate some policy ideas to be considered and discussed. The notes will be available one week prior to the event.

Contact points:

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