

Programme // Conference Our Social Europe – Strong Together 16 September 2020

10.00 **Technical check-in**

10.30 **Digital stakeholder-workshops: Discussing Social Europe** (English only)

Workshop 1 Learnings from Covid-19: future-proofing employment with reforms for inclusive and dynamic labour markets
BusinessEurope, Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA), The Adecco Group

Workshop 2 Adequate, accessible & enabling minimum income schemes across Europe – The time for action is now!
Caritas Europa, Eurodiaconia, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), Social Platform

Workshop 3 Collective bargaining & minimum wages in Europe
European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)

Workshop 4 Not another lost generation: Real solutions to tackle youth unemployment & social exclusion in Europe
European Youth Forum (YFJ), German Federal Youth Council (DBJR), Youth committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC Youth)

Workshop 5 Fair conditions for temporary migrant workers in the EU – Towards a fully-fledged information system throughout migration
International Labour Organization (ILO) Representation in Germany, ILO Office for Central and Eastern Europe

12.00 **Lunch break**

13.00 **Talk with the host: My Social Europe**

13.20 **Social partner interview: How to overcome the crisis?**

13.50 **Sofa concert**

14.00 **High-level panel: Upward convergence – What does it take?**

14.45 **Break**

15.30 **Ministers meet stakeholders: Discussing Social Europe**

17.00 **End of conference**

Moderator: **Natasha Walker**
Co-moderator: **Thomas Richter**

Digital stakeholder-workshops // Conference Our Social Europe – Strong Together 16 September 2020

Workshop 1 Learnings from Covid-19: future-proofing employment with reforms for inclusive and dynamic labour markets

BusinessEurope, Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA), The Adecco Group

Europe's response to the crisis has so far allowed to contain the employment and social impact of the crisis in a more effective way than has been the case in other world regions. Strong and autonomous social partners in Europe have been an asset for rapidly designing and implementing fairly balanced crisis-related solutions, including the role of collective bargaining.

The recovery plan presented by the Commission on 27 May is a bold first step, and given its financial weight, it has the potential to make a real difference to boost investment and job creation by competitive companies, protect jobs and reduce business closures. An important priority now is to ensure that the money is well spent to boost investment and increase the earning and job creation capacity of European business. The disbursement of EU funds must also be linked to the implementation of country specific structural reforms agreed in the European Semester.

This workshop will aim to provide space for discussing what are the labour market issues on which to prioritise the use of available resources in order to future-proof the performance of labour markets and social systems. The legitimate focus on addressing crisis-related short-term challenges is no reason to lose sight of the crucial need to progress on tackling the well-known structural challenges hampering growth and employment in diverse ways across the Member States.

Workshop 2 Adequate, accessible & enabling minimum income schemes across Europe – The time for action is now!

Caritas Europa, Eurodiaconia, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), Social Platform

Europe is one of the most prosperous regions in the world. People living in the EU enjoy some of the best living and working conditions and the most comprehensive social protection systems. However, there is a different story behind this overall context. In 2018, more than 109 million people were living at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This amounts to approximately one in five people. Moreover, certain groups are disproportionately affected.

Adequate and guaranteed income plays a key role in reducing the extent and depth of poverty and social exclusion. Minimum income schemes are an integral part of a comprehensive, rights-based and universal social protection system. They play a key role when it comes to enabling people's full participation in society and to ensuring a life in dignity over the entire course of their lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased the need for comprehensive social protection and coordinated EU action.

We call for an EU Framework Directive on Adequate Minimum Income to lay the foundation of a basic social safety net, while at the same time reducing poverty and inequalities by fostering upward social convergence within and across EU Member States and mitigating the immediate and long-term socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Workshop 3 Collective bargaining & minimum wages in Europe European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)

No worker must be left behind on Europe's road to recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed particular light on the working and living conditions of workers in essential services (such as the care sector) and other vulnerable sectors. This workshop will pinpoint the problems experienced by workers in relation to decent work and most importantly adequate wages.

The type of problems dealt with in this workshop include: lack of coverage by collective agreements, level of minimum wages, non-payment of minimum wages (collective agreements and statutory minimum wages), unfair deductions from wages, problems with working time (for example unrecorded working hours).

The workshop will discuss the nature of these problems in an interactive manner through the experiences of the workers directly affected and will identify solutions to promote inclusion through collective agreements and minimum wages combating poverty in Europe. The workshop outcomes will be of interest and relevance to national and EU policymakers as well as to the social partners and labour inspectorates.

Workshop 4 Not another lost generation: Real solutions to tackle youth unemployment & social exclusion in Europe European Youth Forum (YFJ), German Federal Youth Council (DBJR), Youth committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC Youth)

Today, young people in Europe are the age group with the highest risk of poverty and social exclusion. In fact, 15.1% of young people are unemployed, compared to 6.7% of the overall population. A lack of quality jobs, poor access to social protection and the need for greater support during the transition from education to employment are common challenges faced by Europe's youth. Given these existing vulnerabilities and the unprecedented consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people, it is crucial that instruments proposed at the European level are ambitious when it comes to addressing these challenges and preventing another lost generation.

Join the European Youth Forum, the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR) and ETUC as we discuss why young people are particularly vulnerable in today's labour market and then have your say on how they can be supported so that no young person is left behind.

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Workshop 5 Fair conditions for temporary migrant workers in the EU – Towards a fully-fledged information system throughout migration

International Labour Organization (ILO) Representation in Germany,
ILO Office for Central and Eastern Europe

A legal framework for circular EU migration is in place, offering different modes of temporary migration and rights at work. Migrant workers often have little information about different migration modalities and their rights. This leads to a situation of information asymmetry vis-à-vis their employers. The information deficits between migrant workers, employers and subcontractors have been exploited frequently. This results in an unequal treatment of workers reinforcing disparities.

In this workshop, we will discuss how to prevent and remedy information deficits among temporary migrant workers. We would like to jointly envision fully-fledged information dissemination strategies for migrant workers in the EU by identifying knowledge gaps of migrant workers and employers, examining the entire migration trajectory from recruitment to placement and by identifying different levers for improvement. The aim is to arrive at final recommendations for information dissemination strategies for migrant workers in the EU.



Further information from the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on the German EU Council Presidency can be found here www.bmas.de/EN/eu2020