

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2008

Thursday 20-21 November 2008

Brussels

“EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP, FREE CIRCULATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION”

Interpretation in English, French and German will be available

Programme

Thursday 20 November:

12.45-13.45h

Registration

14.00-14.30h

Opening

- Representative of the French government in the name of the French presidency of the EU
- Jacques BARROT, Vice President of the European Commission, responsible for justice and home affairs
- Mario SEPI, European Social and Economic Committee (EESC)
- Jean-Marie SPAETH, President of the French national academy of social security (EN3S)
- Franz TERWEY, Director of the European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

14.30-16.35h: Session 1: Social services in the Member States and free circulation – the challenges - chaired by Franz TERWEY, Director of ESIP

14.35 – 15.30: From coordination to convergence and harmonisation?

Introductory presentation by Jérôme VIGNON, European Commission, Director in charge of Social Protection and Integration

- Francis KESSLER, Junior lecturer at the University Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris I
- Wolfgang SCHULZ-WEIDNER, ESIP, representative of the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund

15.30-16.20h: Social minimum benefits and free circulation: the links and the impacts

- Presentation of a study mapping social minorities in the Europe of 27 by Martine FABRE and Sebastien WAGNER of the 47th academic year of the EN3S followed by a discussion on the potential effects of the competition between national social systems.
- Prodromos MAVRIDIS, Principal administrator, European Commission DG Employment, social affairs and equality.

- Jean-Claude FILLON, Assistant Director, Community and International Affairs Division, Department of Social Security, Ministry of Health, France

16.20 – 16.35h: Open discussion

16.35 – 16.50h: Coffee break

16.50 – 18.50h: Session 2: European citizenship and social rights: the interactions – chaired by Jean LAPEYRE, EESC

16.50 – 17.55h: From citizenship to fundamental social rights? A legal analysis

- Ulrich BECKER, Director of the Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Sozialrecht, Munich
- Jean-Yves CARLIER, Professor at the Universities of Louvain and Liège
- Sandrine MAILLARD, Junior lecturer at the University of Paris XI
- Klaus LÖRCHER, Former advisor to the EU Civil Service Tribunal

17.55 – 18.30h: The view of organised civil society

Discussion between representatives of civil society and the previous four speakers

- Rodriguez GARCIA-CARO, Advisor to the European Social and Economic Committee (group I)
- Laure BATUT, Advisor to the European Social and Economic Committee (group II)

18.30 – 18.50h Open discussion

18.50 – 20.00h Cocktail

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2008:

9.00 – 9.15h: Summary of discussion from Thursday 20 November

- Jos BERGHMAN, President of the European Institute of Social Security, Belgium

9.15 – 9.45h: European citizenship: the citizens' perception

- Eurobarometer trends in 2008 (Jennifer GUEDJ and Aminata DIOP of the 47th academic year of the EN3S)
- View of the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) (Claire DAMILANO, Legal Officer, European Citizen Action Service)

9.45 – 12.25h: Session 3: Instruments for European solidarity: outline of a European Social Pact – Chaired by Jean Marie SPAETH, President of the EN3S

9.45 – 10.35h: EU social rights?

- Moderator: Anne PEETERS, Director, European Social Observatory
- Tiziano TREU, Senator, former Ministry of Work, Italy
- Pascale VIELLE, Professor of Social Law, Catholic University of Louvain

10.35 – 10.50h: Coffee break

10.50 – 11.10h: A social cohesion strategy through citizenship? Possible scenarios under debate

- Anne PEETERS, Director, European Social Observatory

11.10 – 12.35h: Social cohesion strategy: views of the players

- Mia DE VITS, Member of the European Parliament, Belgium
- Josef NIEMECK, Member of the Secretariat of the ETUC (European Trade Union Congress)
- Roshan DI PUPPO, Director of the Platform of European NGOs in the social sector
- Jan OLSSON, Advisor to the EESC (group III)
- Philippe DE BUCK, Secretary General of BusinessEurope (to be confirmed)
- François EWALD, Professor at the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (CNAM), President of the group “Risks and Protection” in the framework of the initiative “France 2025”

12.25 – 12.40h: Summary of the topics covered during the conference

- Zofia CZEPULIS-RUTKOWSKA, ESIP, representative of the Polish Social Security Institute, Warsaw

12.40 – 13.00h: Closing remarks

- Jean-Marie SPAETH, President of the EN3S
- Franz TERWEY, Director of ESIP

Conference location:

**European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
2 Rue van Merlant - 1040 Brussels**