



# Social developments in the European Union: state of play 2017

## INTRODUCTION AND KEY MESSAGES

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*Brussels, 12 December 2017*



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# What should you expect from this book?

- **Solutions**
- **Questions**
- **Analysis**
- **Proposals**

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# The analytical framework and the narrative

## Hypothesis on the future of the EU:

**Further integration:** the 27 advance together towards a closer and deeper union.

**Disintegration:** we should expect other MS to leave the Union or, at any rate, the ambitions of the European project to be downsized.

**Differentiated integration:** a cluster of MS will advance towards further integration in specific policy domains (the others could join later)

## The White paper on the Future of the EU



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Ch.1 **The present and future of the European Union,  
between the urgent need for democracy and  
differentiated integration**

*Mario Telò*

**Multi-speed Europe** (Differentiated integration): a politico-institutional process where a political avant-garde of countries, a 'core group', would advance towards further integration.

**Which actors** should relaunch the integration process?



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## Ch.2 **Brexit, the UK labour market and the lessons for Social Europe**

*Daniel Clegg*

Brexit took place in a **relatively healthy economic situation**, with employment at record levels in the UK

**But**

The results of growth were not equally shared by the population: the **'left behind'**

**Lessons for (social) Europe:** departure from the EU agendas of **activation and making work pay**, adding to the objective of employment promotion other kinds of objectives such as job quality.



## Ch.3 Europe and the migration crisis: migrants' rights sacrificed on the altar of security?

*Dalila Ghailani*

Lack of **solidarity** between the MS (failure of the refugee resettlement programme)

**Ineffective** EU response

Threatening **refugees' and migrants' human rights:**

- 'hotspots'
- outsourcing approach

**Do we need a common EU asylum policy?**



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## Ch.4 Towards a European Pillar of Social Rights: from a preliminary outline to a Commission Recommendation

*Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke*

Focus on the **consultation** process on the **Preliminary outline**

### Criticisms and proposals from a lively debate:

- Excessive expectations and a narrow understanding of ‘social rights’;
- Legal status and (lack of) competences;
- A declaration of principles: the risk of non-implementation;
- A Social Pillar subordinated to economic and fiscal goals?;
- The risk of unclear formulations and a simple rephrasing of existing rights;
- The coverage of the initial outline of the Social Pillar: missing dimensions;
- The risk of a ‘two-speed’ Europe.
- The role of the social partners;
- What about **governance** and **implementation arrangements**?



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Ch.4    **Towards a European Pillar of Social Rights: from a preliminary outline to a Commission Recommendation**  
*Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke*

## From the Preliminary Outline to the Commission Recommendation

- **A fair number of amendments** (importantly: from ‘principles’ to ‘rights’)
- What has been the **role of the consultation** process? To what extent have stakeholders’ opinions been taken into account?



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## Ch.5 The EU's economic governance in 2016: beyond austerity?

*Amandine Crespy and Vivien Schmidt*

The notion of **structural reforms**: are we really **beyond austerity**?

A relatively high number of **social investment-oriented CSRs**: is this necessarily good news?



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## Ch.6 The relaunch of European social dialogue: what has been achieved up to now?

*Christophe Degryse*

European and, in most countries, national **social dialogue under strain**

**Sectoral social dialogue at the EU level** (lights and shadows):

- **Work-life balance** (blocked)
- Measures for **older workers** (progress)
- The **digitalization of the economy** (the topic of the future)



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## Ch.7 Healthcare regulation: an obstacle to cross-border trade in services? On the muffled application of the EU Single Market Strategy and CETA

*Rita Baeten*

Focus on the **Regulation of healthcare providers:**

- **'Services Package'** (several proposals aimed at simplifying procedures for service providers and subjecting regulation in the service sectors to EU scrutiny)
- **Healthcare Services Focus Group** set up by the European Committee for Standardisation to come up with proposals on an overall approach and methodology towards standardisation in the area of healthcare services.
- Implications for the healthcare sector of recent developments in external trade policies

Key developments **under the radar** of key stakeholders



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## Ch.8 Towards new work-life balance policies for those caring for dependent relatives?

*Denis Bouget, Chiara Saraceno and Slavina Spasova*

**Key policy area**, also in the context of the *European Pillar of Social Rights*

- **striking variation** in the situations and initiatives undertaken across the Member States;
- Reforms are leading to the emergence of **precarious working conditions for caregivers**
- EU policy discourse in this field relates exclusively to **caregivers in employment** (what about the needs of caregivers outside the labour market?)



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## Ch.9 An ageing active population in Europe: challenges, policies and practices

*Ramón Peña-Casas*

### Focus on:

- Initiatives and situations in the Member States;
- **European level:** Framework Agreement on Active Ageing and an Inter-Generational Approach concluded by the social partners in December 2016.



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# The European Union in 2016: key events

*Cécile Barbier*

From the beginning of the Dutch Presidency (1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 )

To the publication of the ETUC resolution on trade union involvement in the European Semester (22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016)

But, please, **have a look at the chronologies of the last years...**



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# Conclusions

*Bart Vanhercke, Sebastiano Sabato and Denis Bouget*

- **Solutions**
- **Questions**
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# Thank you for your attention



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