

The European Social Observatory (OSE) and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) cordially invite you to a conference marking the publication of



Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2017

Brussels, 12 December 2017 – 2.00 pm - 5.30 pm

Event hosted by the Workers' Group (II) of the EESC

Venue: European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Van Maerlant Building, Room VM3, rue Van Maerlant 2, 1040 Brussels

Programme

1.30 *Registration*

2.00 **Introduction**

Gabriele Bischoff, President, Worker's Group (II), European Economic and Social Committee, EESC
Philippe Pochet, General Director, European Trade Union Institute, ETUI
Bart Vanhercke, Director, European Social Observatory, OSE

Chair: **Bart Vanhercke**, Director, OSE

2.15 **Social Policy in the EU: state of play 2017 – Key messages**

Sebastiano Sabato, Researcher, OSE

2.35 **The future of the European Union**

Mario Telò, Emeritus President, Institut d'études européennes, ULB

Panel discussion introduced by **Philippe Pochet**, General Director, ETUI

Cosmin Dobran, Head of Unit, Employment, Education and Social Affairs, Secretariat General, European Commission

Maxime Cerutti, Director, Social affairs Department, BusinessEurope

Katja Lehto-Komulainen, Deputy General Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation, ETUC

3.25 **Q&A**

3.55 **Developments in EU socio-economic governance and the European Pillar of Social Rights**

Amandine Crespy, Associate Professor, Institute for European Studies (IEE) and Centre d'Etude de la Vie Politique (CEVIPOL), ULB

Panel discussion introduced by **Sebastiano Sabato**, Researcher, OSE

Jeroen Jutte, Head of Unit, DG EMPL, European Commission

Kelig Puyet, Director, Platform of European Social NGOs

Freek Spinnewijn, Director, European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)

4.50 **Q&A**

5.20 **Conclusions**

Bart Vanhercke, OSE

5.30 Drinks reception

Mandatory [online](#) registration.

Interventions in EN and FR - Interpretation will be provided.

Authors of ‘Social Policy in the European Union: State of Play 2017’:

- Rita Baeten, OSE
- Cécile Barbier, OSE
- Denis Bouget, OSE
- Daniel Clegg, University of Edinburgh
- Amandine Crespy, Centre d'Etude de la Vie Politique (CEVIPOL), ULB
- Christophe Degryse, ETUI
- Dalila Ghailani, OSE
- Ramón Peña-Casas, OSE
- Sebastiano Sabato, OSE
- Chiara Saraceno, University of Turin and WZB Berlin
- Vivien A. Schmidt, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University
- Slavina Spasova, OSE
- Mario Telò, Institut d'études européennes, ULB
- Bart Vanhercke, OSE

 ***Follow the debate on Twitter: [#SPEU2017](#)***

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etui.

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The 18th edition of *Social policy in the European Union: state of play* reports on recent European Union and national social policymaking, with contributions from leading scholars. The formidable challenges confronting the EU in 2016 have put its survival at risk. Despite some progress, the EU's socio-economic governance is still not satisfactorily addressing macroeconomic, fiscal and social challenges in a balanced way.

The EU is confronted with a difficult predicament: either to attempt to advance towards 'further integration' involving all 27 Member States. Or to resort to 'differentiated integration', with core members spearheading further integration. This debate is very visible in attempts to relaunch an EU social agenda – as exemplified by the European Pillar of Social Rights, which announces itself as a milestone in EU social policymaking.

This book has two parts. The first addresses 'high-level' politics during 2016, going beyond social policy *stricto sensu*. It includes an analysis of the labour market determinants of Brexit, EU responses to the refugee crisis and the public consultation preceding the publication of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The second part deals with 'day-to-day' policies in a number of social policy areas during the past year. These discuss recent developments in the European Semester, the state of EU sectoral social dialogue, healthcare, work-life balance and active aging policies.

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