



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 2018

Brussels, 11 December 2018 – 8.30 am - 12.45 pm

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**Venue :** The International Auditorium, Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5 – 1st floor – 1210 Brussels

## Programme

8.30 **Registration**

9.00 **Introduction**

**Philippe Pochet**, General Director, European Trade Union Institute, ETUI  
**Bart Vanhercke**, Director, European Social Observatory, OSE (Chair)

9.15 **Social Policy in the EU: state of play 2018 – Key messages**

**Dalila Ghailani**, Senior researcher, OSE

## Session 1. High-level politics: debating the future of Europe

9.35 **The European Social Union: how to piece it together?**

**Maurizio Ferrera**, Professor, University of Milan

9.55 **Sustainable welfare, degrowth and eco-social policies in Europe**

**Max Koch**, Professor, University of Lund

10.15 Panel discussion introduced by:

**Sacha Garben**, Professor of EU law, College of Europe (Bruges)

**Marcel Haag**, Director for Jobs, Growth and Investment, Secretariat General, European Commission

**Philippe Pochet**, General Director, ETUI

11.00 **Coffee break**

## Session 2. Day-to day politics: the European Pillar of Social Rights one Year on

11.20 **The social situation of the self-employed in Europe: labour market issues and social protection**

**Slavina Spasova**, Researcher, OSE and **Mathijn Wilkens**, Researcher, EUROFOUND

- 11.40 Panel discussion introduced by:  
**Ana Carla Pereira**, Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission  
**Liina Carr**, Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation, ETUC  
**Maxime Cerutti**, Director, Social Affairs Department, BusinessEurope
- 12.30 **Social Policy in the EU: conclusions and recommendations**  
**Sebastiano Sabato**, Researcher, OSE
- 12.45 **Light lunch**

**Mandatory registration:** <http://www.ose.be/form/111218/>

Interventions in EN and FR: **interpretation** in these languages will be provided.

 **Follow the debate on Twitter: #SPEU18**

**For more information :**

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**etui.**

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A dominant feature of this annual review of social policy in the European Union is the way in which the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) has slowly but steadily started to influence EU policymaking, well before it was politically endorsed in November 2017. The Pillar's new 'rights-based social investment approach' is at present leaving its mark on the 2018 European Semester and has triggered two batches of legislation: the 'Pillar Package' and the 'Social Fairness Package'.

These developments are critically visited in the 19th edition of this edited volume, looking at both their positive and negative outcomes as well as their potential to serve as steps towards a fully-fledged 'European Social Union' (ESU). *But will the EPSR, despite recent progress in the prevention of occupation cancers, also leave its stamp on occupational health and safety, a field in which workers' interests continue to be largely subordinate to business interests? And will the Pillar be able to steer the direction of Member States' policies and, ultimately, the EU's macroeconomic policies?*

In a world characterised by changes in the very substance of work, to a large extent dictated by new IT-governed processes, this volume also looks at social policy in the growing and EU-promoted initiatives in the field of self-employment, providing refreshing in-depth reflections on the many facets of self-employment and social protection, whether positive or negative.

But this review of the EU's 'high-level' politics as well 'day-to-day' social policymaking presents not just the state of play. It also looks at what is already on the horizon, questioning the very sustainability of social policy and programmes in the face of environmental problems and forcing us to reflect on alternative approaches such as degrowth and 'sustainable welfare'. Becoming increasingly evident, eco-social policies need to be put on the agenda urgently – *but at whose expense?*