



# Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth

2018



The European  
Pillar of Social Rights:  
on the road to  
implementation

Programme  
27 April 2018 > Crowne Plaza  
Brussels

#ACIG2018  
#SocialRights



## ENGLISH

### INTRODUCTION TO THE 2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Welcome to the third Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth, organised by the European Commission. The Convention is a platform for stakeholders, civil society organisations and policy makers from 35 countries to discuss how to improve the social dimension of the EU.

This year, the Convention focuses on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar was solemnly proclaimed on 17 November 2017 in Gothenburg by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. On this occasion, President Juncker said: *"The European Pillar of Social Rights is not a poem. It is first of all a programme of principles but also an action plan. [...] If we want to be credible, we have to deliver."*

Through presentations, workshops and interactive sessions, the Convention will stimulate the exchange of ideas and best practices to turn the principles of the Pillar into a reality.

Every voice counts. Make yours heard!

## FRANÇAIS

### INTRODUCTION À LA CONVENTION ANNUELLE 2018 POUR UNE CROISSANCE INCLUSIVE

Nous vous souhaitons la bienvenue à la Convention annuelle pour une croissance inclusive, organisée par la Commission européenne. La Convention constitue une plateforme qui permet aux parties prenantes, aux organisations de la société civile et aux décideurs de 35 pays de débattre des meilleures manières de renforcer la dimension sociale de l'UE.

Cette année, la Convention donne la priorité à la mise en œuvre du socle européen des droits sociaux. Le socle a été officiellement proclamé le 17 novembre 2017 à Göteborg par le Parlement européen, la Commission européenne et le Conseil de l'Union européenne. À cette occasion, le président Juncker a déclaré : *« Le socle des droits sociaux n'est pas une collection de poèmes mais un programme de principes d'abord et d'actions ensuite [...] Si nous souhaitons être crédible, nous devons agir. »*

Dans le cadre de présentations, d'ateliers et de sessions interactives, la Convention stimulera les échanges d'idées et de bonnes pratiques afin de faire une réalité des principes énoncés dans le socle.

Chaque voix compte. Exprimez-vous !

## DEUTSCH

### EINFÜHRUNG ZUM JAHRESKONGRESS FÜR INTEGRATIVES WACHSTUM 2018

Willkommen zum dritten Jahreskongress für integratives Wachstum, organisiert von der Europäischen Kommission. Der Kongress bietet Interessenvertretern, zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen und politischen Entscheidungsträgern aus 35 Ländern eine Plattform, um darüber zu sprechen, wie die soziale Dimension der EU verbessert werden kann.

In diesem Jahr wird der Kongress sich auf die Implementierung der Europäischen Säule sozialer Rechte konzentrieren. Diese Säule wurde vom Europäischen Parlament, der Europäischen Kommission und dem Rat der Europäischen Union am 17. November 2017 in Göteborg feierlich proklamiert. Bei dieser Gelegenheit sagte EU-Präsident Juncker: *“Die Europäische Säule sozialer Rechte ist keine Gedichtsammlung. Sie ist in erster Linie ein Grundsatzprogramm aber auch ein Aktionsplan. [...] Wenn wir glaubhaft sein wollen, müssen wir liefern.”*

Anhand von Präsentationen, Workshops und interaktiven Veranstaltungen wird der Kongress den Austausch von Ideen und bewährten Verfahren fördern, um die Grundsätze der Säule in die Realität umzusetzen.

Jede Stimme zählt. Sorgen Sie dafür, dass Ihre gehört wird!

# Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth 2018

## The European Pillar of Social Rights: on the road to implementation

### PROGRAMME

#### MORNING SESSION – moderated by Sean Klein

##### 08.30 Registration

Welcome coffee in the European Pillar of Social Rights exhibition

##### 09.30 Official opening of the Convention

###### **Marianne Thyssen**

European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs,  
Skills and Labour Mobility

###### **Biser Petkov**

Bulgaria's Minister of Labour and Social Policy

##### 10.00 Plenary talk followed by Q&A

###### **Alberto Alemanno**

Professor of Law at HEC Paris

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##### 11.00 Break / Change of room

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##### 11.15 Six parallel workshops

*Participants are invited to attend one of the following workshops*

- 1 ➤ How can EU funding support the implementation of the Pillar at national and EU levels? (*Klimt Room*)
- 2 ➤ “No one left behind”: how can the Sustainable Development Goals ensure an inclusive implementation of the Pillar? (*Creativity & Exploration Room*)
- 3 ➤ Implementing the Pillar through the European Semester (*Vision Room*)
- 4 ➤ Adult learning and skills: a key contribution to the Pillar (*Harmony Room*)
- 5 ➤ The enabling and supporting role of social services (*Innovation & Evasion Room*)
- 6 ➤ Social economy and social enterprises: a boost for the implementation of the Pillar? (*Clarity Room*)



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##### 13.00 Lunch break

**AFTERNOON SESSION – moderated by Sean Klein****14.00 Parallel activities: Showcasing best practices from across Europe**

*Participants are invited to attend either the speed dating session or one of the side events*

➤ **Speed dating session** (Klimt Room)

➤ **Side events**

- 1** How to use transnational human rights jurisprudence and monitoring to facilitate the implementation of the Social Rights Pillar? (Harmony Room)
- 2** Community based support and services as pillars for an inclusive European Union? Join the debate! (Creativity & Exploration Room)
- 3** The EU added value of investing in children and youth in vulnerable situations (Innovation & Evasion Room)
- 4** The Future of Work and the European Pillar of Social Rights: How to foster inclusive labour markets to reduce poverty and inequality? (Vision Room)
- 5** From principle to action: Implementing the Pillar at local level (Clarity Room)

**15.30 Break / Change of room****15.45 Key messages and recommendations from the workshops****16.30 Panel discussion and Q&A**

*Reflection on the conclusions and key messages of the day*

**Maria João Rodrigues**

Member of the European Parliament

**Heinz-Joachim Höfer**

Member of the European Committee of the Regions  
and Mayor of the City of Altenkirchen

**Emilia Bjuggren**

Stockholm's Vice-Mayor for Labour Market, Culture and Sport,  
and representative of EUROCITIES

**Jana Hainsworth**

President of the Social Platform

**Alfonso Lara Montero**

Chief Executive of the European Social Network

**Joost Korte**

Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

**17.30 End of the event**

**EN, FR, DE, BG & ISL interpretation services will be available in the plenary sessions**

# Convention annuelle pour une croissance inclusive 2018

## Le socle européen des droits sociaux : le processus de mise en œuvre

### PROGRAMME

#### SESSION du matin – animée par Sean Klein

##### 08.30 Inscription

Café de bienvenue au sein de l'exposition sur le socle européen des droits sociaux

##### 09.30 Ouverture officielle

###### **Marianne Thyssen**

Commissaire européenne pour l'emploi, les affaires sociales, les compétences et la mobilité des travailleurs

###### **Biser Petkov**

Ministre bulgare du travail et de la politique sociale

##### 10.00 Session plénière suivie de questions-réponses

###### **Alberto Alemanno**

Professeur de droit à HEC Paris

##### 11.00 Pause / Changement de salle

##### 11.15 Six ateliers parallèles

*Les participants sont conviés à assister à l'un des ateliers suivants*

- 1 ➤ Comment les financements européens peuvent soutenir la mise en œuvre du socle aux niveaux nationaux et européen ? (*Klimt Room*)
- 2 ➤ « Ne laisser personne pour compte » : dans quelle mesure les objectifs de développement durable permettent une mise en œuvre inclusive du socle ? (*Creativity & Exploration Room*)
- 3 ➤ Mettre en oeuvre le socle par le biais du semestre européen (*Vision Room*)
- 4 ➤ Formation des adultes et développement des compétences: une contribution majeure au socle (*Harmony Room*)
- 5 ➤ Services sociaux: un rôle de soutien et d'activation (*Innovation & Evasion Room*)
- 6 ➤ Économie sociale et entreprises sociales : des appuis pour la mise en œuvre du socle ? (*Clarity Room*)



##### 13.00 Pause déjeuner

**SESSION DE L'APRÈS-MIDI – animée par Sean Klein****14.00 Sessions parallèles : Présentation de bonnes pratiques à travers l'Europe**

*Les participants sont conviés à assister à la session de "speed dating" ou à l'un des événements parallèles*

➤ **Session de "speed dating"** (Klimt Room)

➤ **Événements parallèles**

**1** Comment utiliser et assurer un suivi de la jurisprudence transnationale sur les Droits de l'Homme afin de faciliter la mise en œuvre du socle des droits européens ? (Harmony Room)

**2** Le soutien et les services au niveau de la communauté comme piliers d'une Union européenne inclusive ? Participez au débat ! (Creativity & Exploration Room)

**3** La valeur ajoutée de l'UE dans l'investissement pour les enfants et les jeunes en situation de vulnérabilité (Innovation & Evasion Room)

**4** L'avenir du travail et le socle européen des droits sociaux : comment encourager des marchés du travail inclusifs afin de réduire la pauvreté et les inégalités ? (Vision Room)

**5** Des principes aux actes : la mise en œuvre du socle au niveau local (Clarity Room)

**15.30 Pause / changement de salle****15.45 Messages clés et recommandations issus des ateliers****16.30 Débat et questions-réponses**

*Réflexion sur les conclusions et les messages clés de la journée*

**Maria João Rodrigues**

Membre du Parlement européen

**Heinz-Joachim Höfer**

Membre du Comité des régions et maire de Altenkirchen

**Emilia Bjuggren**

Adjointe au Maire de Stockholm en charge du marché du travail, de la culture et des sports, et représentante d'EUROCITIES

**Jana Hainsworth**

Présidente de la Plateforme Sociale

**Alfonso Lara Montero**

Administrateur général du Réseau social européen

**Joost Korte**

Directeur général de la DG Emploi, affaires sociales et inclusion

**17.30 Fin de la Convention**

**Services d'interprétariat en EN, FR, DE, BG et ISL seront disponibles durant chaque plénière**

# Jahreskongress für inklusives Wachstum 2018

## Die Europäische Säule sozialer Rechte: auf dem Weg zur Umsetzung

### PROGRAMM

#### VORMITTAGSPROGRAMM – moderiert von Sean Klein

##### **08.30      Registrierung**

Begrüßungskaffee in der Ausstellung zur Europäischen Säule sozialer Rechte

##### **09.30      Offizielle Eröffnung**

###### **Marianne Thyssen**

Kommissarin für Beschäftigung, Soziales, Qualifikationen und Arbeitskräftemobilität

###### **Biser Petkov**

bulgarischer Minister für Arbeit und Soziales

##### **10.00     Plenarvortrag gefolgt von einer Fragerunde**

*Simultanübersetzung in EN, FR, DE, BG & ISL verfügbar*

###### **Alberto Alemanno**

Juraprofessor an der HEC Paris

##### **11.00     Pause / Raumwechsel**

##### **11.15     Sechs parallele Workshops**

*Die Teilnehmer werden eingeladen, einen der folgenden Workshops zu besuchen*

- 1 ➤** Wie kann EU-Finanzierung die Umsetzung der Säule auf nationaler und EU-Ebene unterstützen? ([Klimt Room](#))
- 2 ➤** “Keinen zurücklassen”: Wie können die Ziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung eine inklusive Umsetzung der Säule sicherstellen? ([Creativity & Exploration Room](#))
- 3 ➤** Umsetzung der Säule durch das Europäische Semester ([Vision Room](#))
- 4 ➤** Erwachsenenbildung und -qualifizierung: ein wichtiger Beitrag zur Säule ([Harmony Room](#))
- 5 ➤** Die befähigende und unterstützende Rolle sozialer Dienste ([Innovation & Evasion Room](#))
- 6 ➤** Sozialwirtschaft und soziale Unternehmen: Können sie der Umsetzung der Säule Auftrieb geben? ([Clarity Room](#))



##### **13.00     Mittagspause**

**NACHMITTAGSPROGRAMM – moderiert von Sean Klein****14.00 Parallel Veranstaltungen:  
Präsentation bewährter Praktiken aus ganz Europa**

*Die Teilnehmer werden eingeladen, entweder am Speed-Dating oder an einer Nebenveranstaltung teilzunehmen*

➤ **Speed-Dating** (Klimt Room)

➤ **Nebenveranstaltungen**

- 1** Wie können die Rechtsprechung und Überwachung der transnationalen Menschenrechte bei der Umsetzung der Säule sozialer Rechte helfen? (Harmony Room)
- 2** Gemeinschaftsbasierte Unterstützung und Dienstleistungen als Pfeiler für eine inklusive Europäische Union? Diskutieren Sie mit! (Creativity & Exploration Room)
- 3** Der EU-Mehrwert von Investitionen in benachteiligte Kinder und Jugendliche (Innovation & Evasion Room)
- 4** Die Zukunft der Arbeit und die Europäische Säule sozialer Rechte: Wie können inklusive Arbeitsmärkte zur Verringerung von Armut und Ungleichheit gefördert werden? (Vision Room)
- 5** Vom Grundsatz zur Maßnahme: Die Umsetzung der Säule auf lokaler Ebene (Clarity Room)

**15.30 Pause / Raumwechsel****15.45 Kernbotschaften und Empfehlungen aus den Workshops****16.30 Podiumsdiskussion und Fragerunde**

*Reflexion über die Schlussfolgerungen und Kernbotschaften des Tages*

**Maria João Rodrigues**

Mitglied des Europäischen Parlaments

**Heinz-Joachim Höfer**

Mitglied des Ausschusses der Regionen und Bürgermeister von Altenkirchen

**Emilia Bjuggren**

Vizebürgermeisterin für Arbeit, Kultur und Sport in Stockholm und Vertreterin von EUROCITIES

**Jana Hainsworth**

Präsidentin der Sozialplattform

**Alfonso Lara Montero**

Geschäftsführer Europäisches Soziales Netzwerk

**Joost Korte**

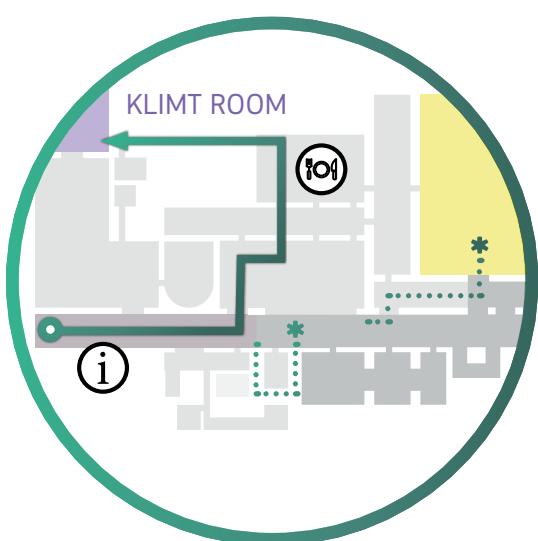
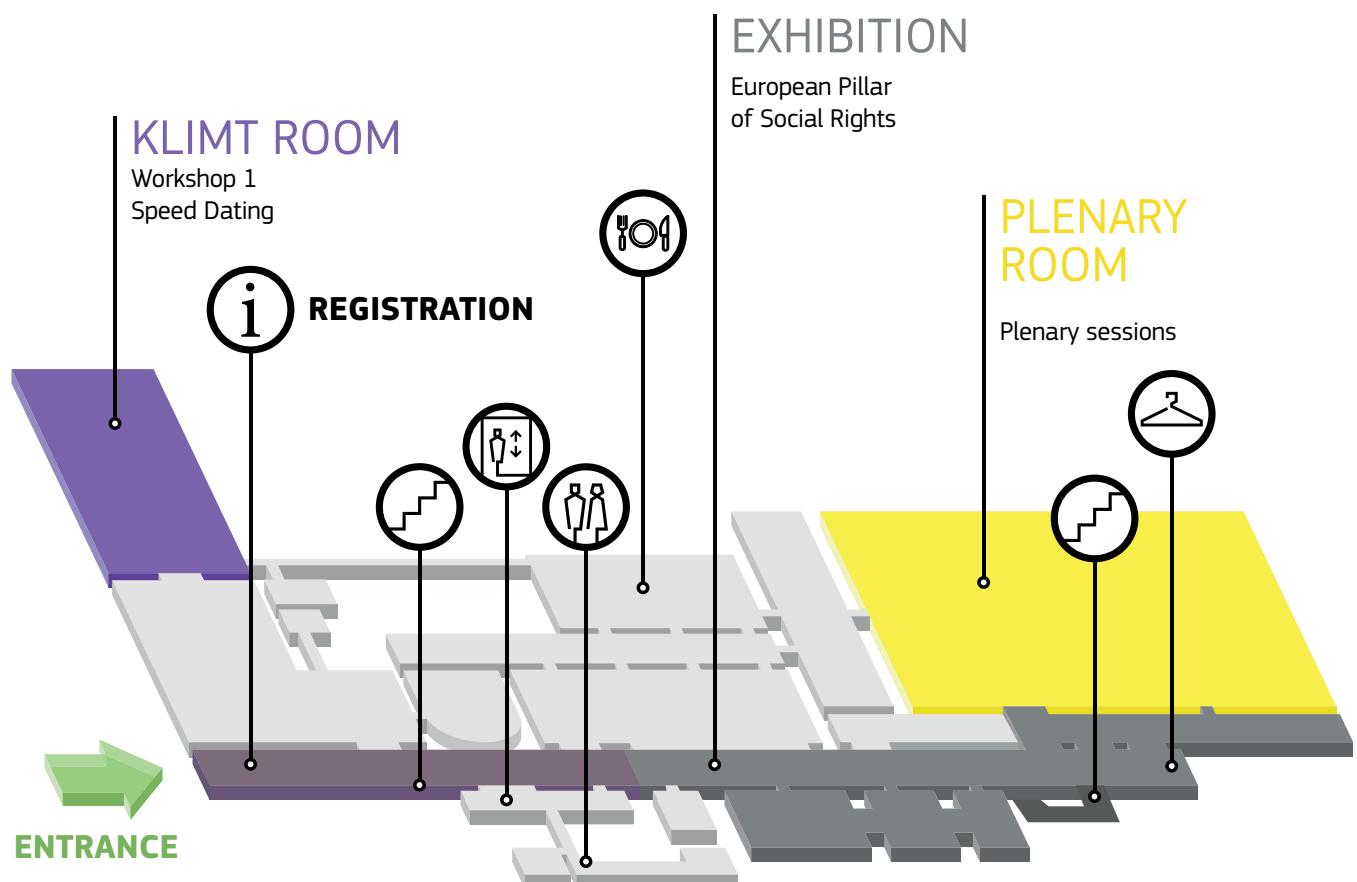
Generaldirektor der GD Beschäftigung, Soziales und Integration

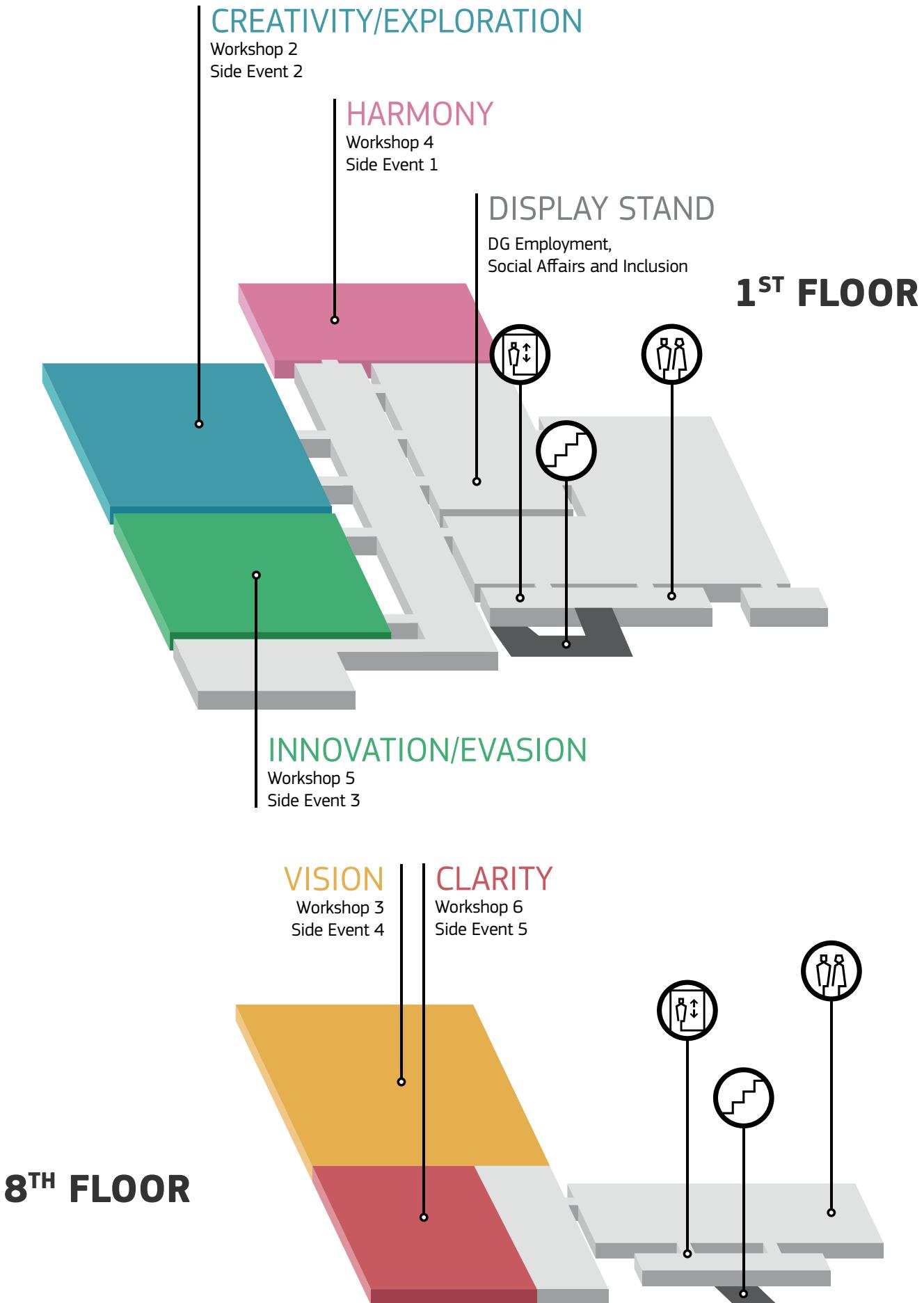
**17.30 Ende der Veranstaltung**

**Simultanübersetzung in EN, FR, DE, BG & ISL ist während der Plenarversammlung verfügbar**

# Venue Map

## GROUND FLOOR





# SPEAKERS: MORNING SESSION

## Official Opening



### Marianne Thyssen

European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

Marianne Thyssen is Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. Her portfolio includes overseeing European Union policy on employment, vocational training, skills, labour market reforms and social inclusion, including workplace equality legislation. She is also responsible for the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat).

She studied Law at KU Leuven where she had her first job at the Law Faculty. Prior to her political career, she worked for UNIZO for more than 10 years (SME representative organisation). After that, she served as a member of the European Parliament (1991-2014) and as Vice-Chair of the Economic Committee. She was also the party leader of the Flemish Christian-Democratic Party (CD&V) and the Vice-President of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.



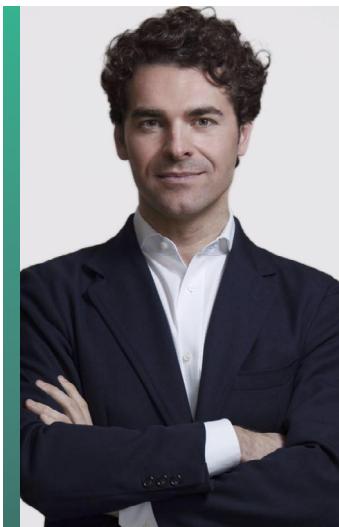
### Biser Petkov

Bulgarian Minister of Labour and Social Policy

Biser Petkov took over the rotating presidency of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) at the end of 2017. Throughout his career he has held various managerial positions in different governmental institutions, where he has been responsible for the coordination and implementation of social security policy. He was also a Governor of the National Social Security Institute from 2011 to 2017 and Deputy Chairperson of the Financial Supervision Commission from 2003 to 2009. He is a former member of the Bureau of the International Social Security Association (ISSA).

Biser Petkov started his career as a lecturer at the University of National and World Economy in 1988, where he was appointed Associate Professor in 2012. He holds a Master's degree in Economy and Organization of Internal Trade, and a PhD in Economics. He has over 40 scientific publications to his name.

## Plenary Talk



### Alberto Alemanno

Professor of Law at HEC Paris

Alberto Alemanno is an academic, civic advocate and public interest lawyer. He's currently the Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law at HEC Paris and Global Professor of Law at New York University School of Law. He has pioneered innovative forms of civic engagement and activism in the EU transnational space via his civic start up The Good Lobby and the EU Public Interest Clinic. The World Economic Forum nominated him Young Global Leader in 2015, and Friends of Europe included him among the 40under40 European Young Leaders.

Alberto is a regular contributor to Le Monde, Bloomberg, Politico Europe and Forbes, and his scholarly and public interest work has been featured in The Economist, The New York Times, the Guardian, Financial Times and Nature. He sits on the board of several civil society organisations and citizens' campaigning movements.

# SPEAKERS: AFTERNOON SESSION

## Key messages and recommendations from the workshops



**Workshop 1**

### Freek Spinnewijn

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

Since 2001, Freek Spinnewijn has been the Director of FEANTSA, the European network representing most of the NGO homelessness sector. His responsibilities include following EU processes such as the Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights. He also sits on the board of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). Freek Spinnewijn specialises in strategic NGO management, strategic research management, housing policy and human rights.

He holds a Master's degree in Medieval History and European Law and Policy from the University of Leuven (Belgium). After finishing his studies, he took short work placements at the UN in Geneva and the EU in Brussels before becoming director of EPSO, the office responsible for selecting staff to work for the institutions and agencies of the European Union, a position he held until 2000.



**Workshop 2**

### Danielle van Kalmthout

Coordinator for international and EU Affairs at Gezinsbond and representative of COFACE

Danielle van Kalmthout is the international and European affairs coordinator for the Flemish League of Families (Gezinsbond). She is also part of the policy research unit and works on environmental policy, in particular children's environmental health. Before joining Gezinsbond, she worked for 12 years for different European networks in the field of environmental affairs and renewable energy policy. Danielle is also a PhD Research Fellow at the Human Rights Centre at Ghent University.

Gezinsbond is a network of families in Flanders, with more than 250,000 members. Gezinsbond is a pluralistic and democratically structured organisation for all families in Flanders and Brussels. It defends the interests of families, regardless of religious, ideological or political beliefs, or the composition of the family (large and young families, single parents, married or cohabiting couples, stepfamilies, grandparents etc.). Gezinsbond provides services in child support, work-life-balance, education, quality childcare, media and health, and is one of the founding members of COFACE Families Europe.



**Workshop 3**

### Conny Reuter

Secretary General, Solidar

Conny Reuter has been Secretary General of SOLIDAR since October 2006. He has also been Co-Chair of the Liaison Group of the European Economic and Social Committee's (EESC) since 2013. Conny Reuter co-founded both the Steering Group of Civil Society Europe (CSE) and Social Service Europe (SSE). He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA) since 2008.

Before moving to Brussels, Conny Reuter worked in Paris and Berlin heading the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) Department for School and Youth Exchanges (1998-2006), working at La Ligue de l'enseignement in Paris on European projects (1990-1998) and heading the liaison office of La Ligue in Germany, where he worked on Franco-German youth exchanges in professional and vocational training (1985-1990). From April 2008 to April 2013 he served as President of the Social Platform, the platform of European Social NGOs.

# SPEAKERS: AFTERNOON SESSION

## Key messages and recommendations from the workshops



Workshop 4

### Gina Ebner

Secretary-General, European Association for the Education of Adults

Gina Ebner is Secretary General of the European Association for the Education of Adults. Before that, she worked as a language assistant in England, a trainer for German and English at different adult education institutes, and as a pedagogical manager for a vocational training institute in Austria. After moving to Brussels, she was a project manager at EUROCADRES (Council for European professional and managerial staff) before joining EAEA. She is also secretary general of the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning.

EAEA represents non-formal adult education with 142 member organisations in 44 countries. EAEA monitor and impact European policies on non-formal adult education, offer capacity building opportunities for adult education professionals and cooperate through projects both as coordinator and partner. EAEA's aim is to achieve concrete outcomes in its areas of interest and to influence adult education and lifelong learning policies through advocacy.



Workshop 5

### Heather Roy

Secretary General, Eurodiaconia

Heather Roy is Secretary General of Eurodiaconia, a European network of churches and Christian organisations providing social services and advocating for social justice across Europe. With over 30,000 service providers in 32 European countries, the network is particularly concerned with poverty, inequality, and the provision of social and health care services.

She has extensive experience of the development of civil society in Europe, including Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and has worked on partnerships with other parts of the world including the Arab world. Until May 2015, Heather was President of the Social Platform, the Europe-wide network of social NGOs. She is currently a board member of Social Services Europe, the International Society for Research in Diaconia and Christian Social Practice, and sits on the Advisory Board of several European level projects on social and economic policies.



Workshop 6

### Stephen Barnett

Chief Executive, EUCLID network

Stephen Barnett has been building European networks and projects in the social space since 2006. He became CEO of Euclid Network in 2013 after eight years at European Social Network. Based in London and The Hague, Euclid is the European network for social entrepreneurs and civil society leaders, with 22 Member Organisations in 14 countries federating 5000 people. Thanks to new partnerships under EaSI and EuropeAid, the development of the social enterprise and finance ecosystem in Europe and the Southern Neighbourhood will be at the heart of Euclid's strategy 2018-21. Euclid facilitates peer mentoring for social entrepreneurs through Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and has recently co-created a framework of competences for entrepreneurial leadership called EU3Leader.

Stephen Barnett holds a Bachelor's degree in European Studies from Lancaster University (UK), and a Master's degree in Political and Administrative Studies from the College of Europe.

# SPEAKERS: AFTERNOON SESSION

## Panel discussion and Q&A



### Maria João Rodrigues

Member of the European Parliament

Maria João Rodrigues is a former Portuguese Minister of Employment. She has worked as a European policy maker since 2000, in EU Presidency teams, in the European Commission, as Member of the European Parliament and as the first Vice-President of the S&D Group in charge of general coordination and interface with the other EU institutions and working with the Committees of Economic and Social Affairs.

The main political highlights of her career include the EU Strategy for Growth and Jobs, the Lisbon Treaty, solutions for the Eurozone and the Refugees crisis, and the Strategic Partnerships for sustainable development with China, Brazil and others.



### Heinz-Joachim Höfer

Member of the Committee of the Regions and Mayor of the City of Altenkirchen

Heinz-Joachim Höfer has been the Mayor of the German city of Altenkirchen for more than 26 years. He has also represented the German Association of Towns and Municipalities in the Committee of the Regions (CoR) since 2009. Höfer was CoR's rapporteur for the opinion on the 'European Pillar of Social Rights' in 2016.

Heinz-Joachim Höfer studied Law at the universities of Mannheim and Heidelberg and completed his education with the second state law exam. He holds a degree as Assessor Juris. He started his career in the administration of the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. There he worked for nine years, among other things as a lecturer in the training of junior management.

In 1992 he was elected mayor of the city of Altenkirchen. Mr Höfer has also been a member of the State Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate since 2016. He belongs to the SPD party.



### Emilia Bjuggren

Stockholm's Vice Mayor for Labour Market, Culture and Sport and representative of EUROCITIES

Emilia Bjuggren holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics & Political Science from Stockholm University. She first entered the Stockholm City Council in 2010. She acted as Oppositional Vice Mayor in 2014, representing the Social Democratic Party, before being elected Vice Mayor in September 2014. Her main areas of responsibility are labour market, culture and sports policy. Other responsibilities include sitting on the board of the Stockholm-Mälardalen Region, and acting as chairman of the board of the Stockholm Globe Arena.

Before serving as Oppositional Vice Mayor, Emilia Bjuggren was also President of the Swedish Social Democratic Youth Stockholm from 2008 until 2011, a youth league campaigning for equal opportunities for all.

# SPEAKERS: AFTERNOON SESSION

## Panel discussion and Q&A



### Jana Hainsworth

President of the Social Platform

Jana Hainsworth was appointed Secretary General of Eurochild in 2006. Eurochild is a membership network promoting children's rights in Europe, and includes over 170 member organisations and individuals across 33 European countries. Eurochild has a specific focus on child poverty, child welfare and protection reforms, and children's rights and participation.

In 2015 Jana Hainsworth was elected President of Social Platform. The Social Platform brings together 48 European networks united in their commitment to social justice and human rights. It plays a key role in representing the civil society in relevant EU policy debates, particularly on the implementation of the recently proclaimed European Pillar of Social Rights. She has an honours degree in Natural Sciences (Durham University), a Master's degree in Environment, Development and Policy (Sussex University) and professional experience in private consultancy and NGOs in the volunteering & youth sectors.



### Alfonso Lara Montero

Chief Executive of the European Social Network

Alfonso Lara Montero is the Chief Executive of the European Social Network (ESN), a network of social services organisations located in 33 countries. ESN works closely with these organisations to promote social inclusion and improved prospects through the delivery of quality social services.

Alfonso Lara Montero has managed ESN's policy, practice, and research programme for the past five years, leading its thematic work on mental health, children's services, integrated services and evidence-based social services. He has also authored and co-authored several publications on social services, such as 'Investing in children's services', 'Integrated social services in Europe', 'Investing in the social services workforce', and the 'Toolkit for planning and evaluating social services'. Alfonso is a regular contributor to academic journals, newspapers, and specialist social services magazines. He holds an MA in European governance from the College of Europe and an MSc in public policy from University College London.



### Joost Korte

Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Joost Korte was appointed Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in March 2018. He previously served as Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Trade Department. Before that, he served as Deputy Director-General in the Agriculture and Rural Development Department as well as in the Enlargement Department.

He spent several years in the Commission's Secretariat General as Director responsible for the relations with the Council of Ministers, where he gained extensive experience in the private offices of Sir Leon Brittan, Chris Patten and Danuta Hübner. These professional experiences within the European institutions allowed him to develop a profound understanding of EU decision-making. A lawyer by training, Joost Korte joined the Commission in 1991, following eight years of academic work on European law at the Universities of Utrecht and Edinburgh.

**Sean Klein**

Managing Director, SeanKlein Media Ltd

During his twenty-year career with the BBC, Sean Klein has worked with award-winning journalists worldwide on some of the top news stories – US presidential elections, the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, and the funeral of Pope John Paul II – producing reports for the BBC's flagship TV and radio news programmes. Sean Klein spent ten years in Brussels as a BBC journalist and later as the BBC's Brussels Bureau Chief, managing large teams of journalists covering news stories across the continent. Now a multi-lingual consultant, he brings a thorough knowledge of the EU institutions and policies to a broad range of clients in the Brussels-EU environment and beyond.

SeanKlein Media Ltd provides clients with expert media strategy, coaching, event moderation and film production, using a network of skilled professionals. Clients include DGs of the European Commission, the European Business Summit, think-tanks, governments, commerce, industry, and charitable foundations.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Directorate “Social Affairs”  
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