



# “Unequal Europe”

## A NEUJOBS brainstorming workshop

### Thursday 22 January 2015

#### Invitation

In the past year, [Friends of Europe](#) – *Les amis de l'Europe* brought together a **High-Level Group on Social Union** under the chairmanship of Prof. Frank Vandenbroucke. Thirty or so senior experts from a range of professional backgrounds and political affiliations discussed the social challenges that confront the European Union, as well as the EU's social policy options once a new Commission and Parliament are in place.

Some of the key themes that were addressed by the High-Level Group are closely related to those covered by the [NEUJOBS](#) (FP7) research project, which has undertaken extensive research on the long-run determinants of European labour markets, in view of the four major transitions that will impact employment: the socio-ecological and societal transitions, new territorial dynamics, and skills upgrading.

At the moment where the *NEUJOBS* project has delivered its final output and the *High-Level Group* is finalizing its own report, researchers, policymakers and EU as well as domestic stakeholders will exchange views during a *by invitation only* **brainstorming workshop** that will focus particularly on defining the EU social policy agenda for the coming five years. NEUJOBS invites you, as someone with a research or policy interest in these matters, to actively participate. The main questions that will be addressed at the workshop will include the following:

- What are the shared *fundamental convictions, values and aspiration* on which we can build a joint social agenda for Europe? What is the *key criticism* of social policy, and what does the empirical evidence tell us?
- What are the *key social challenges Europe is facing*, including the effectiveness and efficiency of social policy interventions; the education and skills agenda; the need for open labour markets?
- And what *should and can be done* to address the challenges: what is the role of social policy; which balance between 'EU' and 'domestic' responsibilities; how to establish links between a variety of policies; how to reinvigorate social and civic dialogue? Delivering on the 'Social Investment' and 'social inclusion' strategies; boosting mutual learning in social policymaking.

While drawing on NEUJOBS [research](#), the workshop is intended primarily to be an opportunity for open discussion and exchanges of views between academic researchers and stakeholders about the relevant policy issues. For this reason, there will be only short, introductory presentations, intended to highlight the underlying policy dilemmas and to provoke debate. These will provide feedback on the High-Level Group's **Background Report** (Vandenbroucke with Vanhercke, 2014), which will provide the main topics to be examined. Download the report [here](#).

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### Programme

- 12:15** Informal light lunch
- 1:15pm** Welcome from **Philippe Keraudren**, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation and **Giles Merritt**, Friends of Europe and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union
- Brief introduction to NEUJOBS (FP7) and the High-Level Group on Social Union
- 1:30pm** Chair: **Bart Vanhercke**, European Social Observatory, NEUJOBS and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

### Session 1. The key social challenges Europe is facing: shared convictions and empirical evidence

Introduction by **László Andor**, Hertie School of Governance, former European Commissioner and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Initial 5 minute responses from:

- **Anton Hemerijck**, VU University Amsterdam and NEUJOBS
- **Damian Grimshaw**, Manchester Business School
- **Attila Bartha**, Central European University, Budapest and NEUJOBS

*General discussion*

- 2:45pm** \*\*\* Refreshments Break \*\*\*

### 3:15pm Session 2. What should and can be done: Recommendations for a caring Europe

Introduction by **Freek Spinnewijn**, FEANTSA and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

Initial 5 minute responses from:

- **Ruth Paserman**, Cabinet of European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen
- **Philippe Pochet**, European Trade Union Institute
- **Karina Ransby**, Confederation of Danish Employers
- **Connie Reuter**, SOLIDAR and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

*General discussion*

- 4:45pm** Messages from the workshop by **Frank Vandenbroucke**, Universities of Leuven Antwerp and Amsterdam and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union
- 5:00pm** End of workshop and refreshments

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### *List of confirmed participants*

**László Andor**, Hertie School of Governance, former European Commissioner and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Attila Bartha**, Central European University, Budapest

**Pierre Baussand**, Social Platform

**Tom Bevers**, Chair of the Employment Committee

**Denis Bouget**, European Social Observatory

**Geert Cami**, Friends of Europe and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Mary Collins**, European Women’s Lobby

**Philippe De Buck**, former BusinessEurope and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Thomas Dominique**, Chair of the Social Protection Committee

**Werner Eichhorst**, Institute for the Study of Labour, Bonn and NEUJOBS

**Jacky Fayolle**, Centre Etudes & Prospective chez Groupe ALPHA

**Nathalie Furrer**, Friends of Europe and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Damian Grimshaw**, Manchester Business School

**Michaela Gstrein**, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna and NEUJOBS

**Anton Hemerijck**, VU University Amsterdam and NEUJOBS

**Jeroen Jutte**, European Commission, DG for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

**Philippe Keraudren**, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

**Maciej Kucharczyk**, AGE Platform

**Ilenia Maselli**, Centre for European Policy Studies and NEUJOBS

**Giles Merritt**, Friends of Europe and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**John Morley**, Independent policy adviser and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Dominik Owczarek**, Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw

**Ruth Paserman**, Cabinet of European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen

**Philippe Pochet**, European Trade Union Institute

**Monika Queisser**, Social Policy Division, OECD

**Karina Ransby**, Confederation of Danish Employers

**Connie Reuter**, SOLIDAR and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Sebastiano Sabato**, European Social Observatory

**Rebekah Smith**, Social Affairs Department, BUSINESSEUROPE

**Freek Spinnewijn**, FEANTSA and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Jean-Yves Stenuick**, Friends of Europe

**Agnes Uherezky**, Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU (COFACE)

**Frank Vandembroucke**, Universities of Leuven Antwerp and Amsterdam and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Bart Vanhercke**, European Social Observatory, NEUJOBS and Member of the High-Level Group on Social Union

**Laurence Weerts**, European Commission, DG for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

**Jonathan Zeitlin**, University of Amsterdam

**Contact:**

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