



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament



Commission européenne
Europese Commissie

CAN THE SEMESTER HELP BUILD A BETTER SOCIAL EUROPE?

SEMINAR

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Thursday 12 January 2017, 9.30 am - 1.00 pm

European Parliament, ASP A3-H1, Brussels

Background information

The event is jointly hosted by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) with Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D). The seminar aims to review how well the European Semester and Europe 2020 is working in terms of its delivery on social rights, poverty and participation and to debate what changes are needed to ensure progress towards a more Social Europe.

It comes at a timely moment with the adoption of the [2017 Annual Growth Survey](#) and the European Commission's upcoming proposal following the [public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights](#). The key questions to be raised are: can the European Semester become a positive instrument to promote Social Europe? Will it change its narrative and move towards a more balanced economic and social agenda? How will the European Pillar of Social Rights be implemented and mainstreamed in the Semester? Can the EU become more accountable to citizens? What can be done to increase the impact of civil society engagement as well as national and European Parliament in the European Semester and EU policy-making?

The seminar will discuss stakeholders' views and proposals from the national and EU level, including presenting EAPN's 2016 Assessment of the National Reform Programmes: What progress for Social Europe. The 2nd round table will promote dialogue between the Rapporteurs for the relevant reports on the European Pillar of Social Rights and on the Annual Growth Survey, and key members of the European Commission and the audience.

Practical Arrangements

The event will take place from 9.30-1.00 on Thursday 12 January 2017 in the European Parliament – Room A3-H1. Tea/Coffee and water will be provided.

Please register [here](#). If you don't have a EP badge please provide details of your name, nationality, date of birth and identity card or passport. Please come to the Luxembourg entrance with your ID card/passport from 9.00 to be signed in to the event if you haven't a badge.

For more information please contact: Sian Jones (sian.jones@eapn.eu) and for registration: Rebecca Lee (Rebecca.lee@eapn.eu).

Programme

09.00 - 09.30 Registration at Luxembourg Entrance

09.30 - 09.45 Welcome and opening remarks

- ♦ **Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto**, MEP S&D
- ♦ **Sian Jones**, EAPN Policy Coordinator

09.45 - 11.15 **1st Panel: How well is the Semester delivering on social rights? – views of National/EU stakeholders.**

- ♦ **Paul Ginnell**, Chair of EAPN Inclusion Group/EAPN IE and Better Europe Alliance Ireland
- ♦ **Carlos Susias Rodado**, President EAPN ES/Vice President EAPN
- ♦ **Jana Hainsworth**, General Secretary of Eurochild/Semester Alliance
- ♦ **Richard Pond**, EPSU

Discussion with the audience

11.15 - 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 - 12.45 **2nd Panel: Mainstreaming Social Rights in the Semester**

- ♦ **Maria João Rodrigues**, MEP S&D Group, Rapporteur of own initiative report on the European Pillar of Social Rights
- ♦ **Yana Toom** MEP ALDE, Rapporteur of EMPL Opinion on the Annual Growth Survey 2017
- ♦ Comments from Shadow Rapporteurs: **Sofia Ribeiro**, MEP EPP
- ♦ **Raquel Lucas**, European Commission, cabinet of Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis

Discussion with the audience

12.45 - 13.00 **Closing Remarks: Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto and Sian Jones**

Further Information

- ♦ EAPN Assessment of the National Reform Programmes 2016: What progress on Social Europe? See [here](#).
- ♦ EAPN response to the European Pillar of Social Rights: Last chance for Social Europe? See [here](#).

This conference is supported under the [European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" \(2014-2020\)](#). The information contained in this message does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.

Photos: European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty, 2016 © Rebecca Lee, for EAPN.