

European Anti-Poverty Network CONFERENCE
Thursday 16 June 2016 (13.30 – 17.30)
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Le Palace
3 rue Gineste, 1210 Brussels (Metro Station Rogier)

From the Delors White Paper (1993) to the EU Pillar of Social Rights (2016), what future for the fight against poverty in Europe

EAPN's response - building on 25 years combating poverty, inequality and exclusion



Introduction: On March 8 2016, the European Commission launched a public consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights. This was announced by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in September 2015, and is part of a greater initiative to strengthen the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), and, implicitly, its social dimension, by ensuring upward social convergence between Member States.

Context: The initiative is targeted at the Eurozone, aimed at strengthening the Economic and Monetary Union, but other Member States can join if they want to. The reasoning is the strong economic interdependence in the Euro area. The legal nature of the Pillar is to be defined, as it will involve a number of different tools of a diverse nature, according to the content, subsidiarity principle, and overall legal EU framework.

Commitments in the consultation on the Pillar of Social Rights, come under three headings:

1. *equal opportunities and access to the labour market:* skills, active labour market policies, improving employability, supporting transitions;
2. *fair working conditions:* achieving balance between flexibility and security, facilitate job creation, promote social dialogue
3. *adequate and sustainable social protection and access to high-quality essential services:* childcare, healthcare, long-term care, to ensure dignified living and enable professional and social participation

Objectives: The aim of the conference is to provide a concrete and timely input to this key consultation at European level.

EAPN will provide its experience and insights into how such a Pillar could complement or build on the existing strategies such as: Europe 2020 and the European Semester and the Social OMC.

The potential of the Pillar of Social Rights will be reflected upon, and links to the future role of the EU in the fight against poverty and social exclusion will be explored.

Venue: The seminar will take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Le Palace, 3 rue Gineste, 1210 Brussels (room Klimt). Tea/Coffee will be available.

Participants: The seminar is free and open to any EU or national stakeholder. No costs can be covered except for the 70 EAPN members who will participate from the national level.

Registration: Register for the conference via [this link](#) by 10 June. The Conference language will be English.

Photo Exhibition: A series of photographs by Bence Járdány, organised by the office of Tamas Meszerics (Greens/EFA) will be exhibited at the conference. It illustrates issues from the recently adopted European Parliament Report on *Meeting the anti-poverty target in the light of increasing household costs*.



This conference is supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>. The views contained in this document do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission

Photo: European Meeting of People experiencing Poverty, 2014 © Rebecca Lee, for EAPN.

EAPN CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday 16 June 2016

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3 rue Gineste, 1210 Brussels (Meeting Room Klimt)

13.30: Registration Tea/Coffee

14.00 Session 1: Exchange on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Chair: Peter Kelly, Vice President EAPN

- **Tribute to Activists with direct Experience of Poverty and statement from the 2015 European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty**
- **Presentation by Allan Larsson, special advisor for the European Pillar of Social Rights**
- **Reflections, Comments, Questions: Initial responses from EAPN members:**
 - *Sérgio Aires, President EAPN*
 - *Elke Vandermeersch, EAPN Belgium, EAPN Europe Inclusion Strategies Group*
 - *Alexander Kraake, EAPN Germany*
 - Interventions from the floor
- **Response from Allan Larsson**

15.30: Tea/Coffee break

16.00 Session 2: The future role of the EU in the fight against poverty and social exclusion and the potential of the proposal on an EU Pillar of Social Rights

Chair: Jasmina Kronic, Vice President EAPN

- **Maria João Rodrigues, MEP S&D Group Vice-President in charge of Economics & Social Policies (rapporteur of Parliament report on the Social Pillar)**
- **Reflections on the Potential of the Pillar proposal**
 - Heather Roy, Secretary General, Eurodiaconia
 - Freek Spinnewijn, Director, FEANTSA
 - Phillipe Seidel, AGE Platform Europe
- **Reflections, Comments, Questions from the floor: Initial responses from EAPN members:**
 - *Paul Ginnell, EAPN Ireland, EAPN Europe Inclusion Strategies Group*
 - *Marija Babovic, EAPN Serbia, EAPN Europe Inclusion Strategies Group*
 - Reflections from the floor
- **Response from Maria João Rodrigues**

17.30 Concluding remarks and next steps

- **Stefan Olsson, Director Employment, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission**
- **Sérgio Aires, EAPN President**

18.00 Close of Conference