



**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Convention of the  
European Platform**  
26-27 November 2013  
BRUSSELS

**Against Poverty and Social Exclusion**  
**Contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale**  
**Tegen armoede en sociale uitsluiting**  
**Gegen Armut und soziale Ausgrenzung**

Join the debate! [#poverty2020](#) [Social Europe](#) 

***Side Event: In Work Poverty***  
***The Contribution of Employment to Poverty Reduction and Inclusion***

*26 November 2013, Aquarium Room, The Egg, Brussels*

**KEY MESSAGES**

- Quality of jobs and employment is a right, as well as a fundamental tool to sustainably exit the crisis. “Recovery” measures, in the form of austerity, including reduction in decent wages, only undermine it. The EU plays a fundamental role in coordinating and issuing Country-Specific Recommendations on the employment policy of Member States, in the context of Europe 2020 and the Semester. CSRs should require progress towards quality jobs which ensure decent lives, whilst countering in-work poverty.
- A comprehensive EU strategy to fight in-work poverty is badly needed – in-work poverty was named a “trend to watch” in the 2013 SPC report. The European Commission is invited to put forward such a strategy, within an overarching strategy to fight poverty and social exclusion for all groups, with an implementation roadmap attached, developed in full consultation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organisations and people experiencing poverty.
- Despite the fact that the EU has, in many occasions, highlighted the potential of the health care sector, there is no strategic investment in the sector, in order to create quality jobs and improve its attractiveness, while the jobs in the healthcare and social services sector presents difficult working conditions for staff (in particular front-line), including in-work poverty..
- Social economy, especially work integration social enterprises, are at the forefront of the professional and social integration of people facing multiple obstacles and disadvantages, yet they need to be better supported and their role better recognized, in order to be able to remain sustainable, thus ensuring decent wages and quality workplaces.