

2018 Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth

Side Event

The Future of Work and the European Pillar of Social Rights

How to foster inclusive labour markets to reduce poverty and inequality?

Background and rationale

New ways of work, and changes brought to labour markets by an increase in atypical, insecure contracts, not least brought about by trends such as digitalisation and robotisation, the platform economy, and globalisation, are a crucial topic for the policy debate around the future of Europe. The side-event will explore the key role the European Pillar of Social Rights can play¹ in tackling key challenges, to ensure quality and sustainable work and progress in the fight against poverty and inequality. Key employment initiatives constitute the bulk of the Social Fairness Package, including a proposal for a *Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed*, and a proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing a *European Labour Authority*. It is a timely and crucial discussion, which will bring together social partners, civil society, and the EESC to formulate positive proposals around working together for a meaningful delivery of the Pillar of Social Rights, including through the European Semester, as well as hard law initiatives eg on *work-life balance*.

Questions

- What are the main trends shaping the present and future labour markets?
- What implications for decent work, poverty, and inequality? What role for social protection?
- How to best use the tools the EPSR (including the SFP) provides to respond to these challenges and foster inclusive labour markets?
- What fruitful partnerships can be established, at national and EU level, to meaningfully implement the EPSR in this context?

Outcome:

Identify positive policy proposals (Key Messages) for the national and EU level, to ensure that the European Pillar of Social Rights delivers on the inclusive labour markets of the future, curbing poverty and inequality.

Agenda

14:00 – *Welcome and opening remarks by Chair:* Conny Reuter, Secretary General **SOLIDAR**

14:10 – *Civil society:* **European Anti-Poverty Network** – Dr Katherine Duffy & Kerrie Friel

14:25 – *EU advisory body:* **European Economic and Social Committee** – Judy McKnight

14:35 – *Social partners:* **European Trade Union Confederation** – Marina Monaco

14:45 – *European Commission response:* **Secretariat-General** – Hubertus Arndt

14:55 – *Discussion with the audience:* Key Messages, way forward

15:25 – *Closing remarks by Chair:* Conny Reuter, Secretary General **SOLIDAR**

¹ Including follow up on the important European Parliament [Resolution on the European Pillar of Social Rights](#) adopted 19 January 2017. (Rapporteur: Maria João Rodrigues/S+D).