

Beyond Europe 2020 to Agenda 2030

Working together for a post 2020 strategy that benefits people & planet

13 June 2019

9 am – 1 pm

2019EAPN



What

EAPN will organise its **2019 policy conference** on how to get a **transformative social and sustainable post 2020 EU strategy which can deliver real results for poverty and social rights** – underpinned by the Social Pillar and the SDGs. We will provide a participative reflection space to progress concrete proposals.

When & Where

The seminar will be held on **Thursday 13th June in Brussels**, as a half day event (9.00-13.00), in the [Area 42](#) venue, Rue des Palais 46A, 1030 Brussels.

Objectives

- To raise awareness of current challenges facing people experiencing poverty in the context of a lacking strategy.
- To exchange with stakeholders & decision-makers on concrete proposals for the EU post 2020 Strategy.
- To debate on how to create synergies to benefit people and planet, as part of a transformative EU and in the context of the new Commission and Parliament.

Who

The Policy Conference will involve 80 EAPN national members, and European Organisation members, and aim to promote a dynamic debate between 50 external participants, including people experiencing poverty, key stakeholders and decision-makers from the European Commission, Council and Parliament.

Why

2020 marks the end of the Europe 2020 strategy that aimed to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It was notable for adopting 5 key targets, 1 of which was a poverty target, to reduce those in poverty by at least 20 million people by 2020. However, despite the unacceptable failure to deliver on this key target (only a 5 million reduction by 2017), no review or public consultation of the strategy is planned.

The main proposals coming from the Commission are through the **Future of Europe** Reflection papers. In January 2019 a new Reflection Paper "[Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030](#)" was adopted. This paper aims to stimulate discussion on the EU's vision and strategy for the long-term implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as part of a broader debate on the future of Europe and the priority setting for the new European Commission. This paper sets out **three scenarios on how Agenda 2030 and the SDGs could be incorporated into the EU's priorities**:

1st scenario proposes an overarching SDG strategy to act as a 'compass' with strategic action coordinated with Members States including concrete and time-bound targets, a 'sustainability first principle' on regulation, coordination of national reporting and monitoring through the European Semester, with a key role for the Multi-stakeholder platform.

2nd scenario proposes continued mainstreaming of the SDGs in all relevant EU policies, but not enforcing Member State Action. This would 'guide the development of the post EU-2020 growth strategy focussing on areas of EU value added e.g. circular economy, climate.."

3rd scenario proposes putting an enhanced focus on EU external action i.e. mainstreaming SDGs in EU external policies, reporting to UN process.

One of the priorities is ***a socially fair transition to a sustainable economy that should leave no one behind***¹, however the paper predominantly focuses on how to deliver green growth, with the social objectives left to the European Pillar of Social Rights. It also falls short of the ambition to deliver the transformative Agenda 2030 vision: "*This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan.*"

In 2017, EAPN's policy conference 'Learning from the past to beyond Europe 2020' already agreed **key messages² on the need for an ambitious post 2020 built on Europe 2020 targets** that could deliver an "ambitious social, sustainable and democratic vision for Europe based on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs'. This strategy should implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and develop an explicit rights-based integrated anti-poverty strategy based on active participation and backed by EU funding. This has been further developed under EAPN's [Future of Europe Position Paper](#), calling for support for a sixth scenario.

This participative conference comes therefore at a timely moment - just after the election of the new European Parliament and the start of the new Commission, to agree **concrete demands that can ensure that the post 2020 strategy really delivers on social rights and poverty**, putting SDG 1 at the heart of a truly social and sustainable post 2020 strategy.

¹ This priority highlights need for social investments in education, training, lifelong learning, working conditions, health and long-term care, social inclusion and gender equality.

² [Key Messages from 2017 EAPN Conference: Learning from the past to beyond Europe 2020](#).

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8.30 Registration

9.00 INTRODUCTION: Why the EU needs a post 2020 strategy that benefits people and planet

Chair: Leo Williams, EAPN Director

- First Vice-President, Commissioner Frans Timmermans, European Commission (tbc)
- Carlos Susías, EAPN President/EAPN ES
- Vera Hinterdorfer, EAPN Vice-President/Activist with direct experience of poverty/EAPN AT

9.30 PANEL DISCUSSION: How should the new strategy end poverty and implement social rights?

EAPN's draft position will be presented, followed by responses from social NGOs, then discussion within the audience

- Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator
- Heather Roy, Secretary General, Eurodiaconia
- Freek Spinnewijn, Director, FEANTSA
- Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild (tbc)

10.15 Coffee table discussions

- what you dis/agree with/what's missing
- feedback session
- summing up by the chair

11.15 Coffee break

11.30 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: How should the new strategy ensure synergies for people and planet?

Inputs from social & environmental NGOs and Trade Unions, then discussion with the audience

- Leida Rijnhout, Steering Group member, SDG Watch and Agenda 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Platform
- Mary Collins, Senior Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, European Women's Lobby
- Graciela Malgesini, Chair of EAPN EU Inclusion Strategies Group/EAPN ES
- Marco Cilento, Senior Advisor, ETUC

12.15 Discussion with the audience

- buzz exchanges with tables preparing a question
- presenting questions and exchange with panel

12.45 CONCLUSIONS & WRAPPING UP

- First Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mairead McGuinness (tbc)
- Leo Williams, EAPN Director