

INVITATION

26–27 April 2018, Brussels

SOCIAL EUROPE STRENGTHENING WORKERS' VOICE

European Dialogue 2018

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EUROPEAN DIALOGUE 2018

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The next elections to the European Parliament are due to be held in May 2019. They will determine what chance we stand of continuing to develop a Social Europe fit to live in, with positive prospects for jobs and companies, or whether we shall be stuck with the task of defending Europe against its proliferating crew of political enemies. Vigorous democratic development of the social market economy will be decisive in determining the future of the European Union.

The fundamental European right to information and consultation makes employees in Europe into 'citizens in the workplace'. The ECJ has determined, in its ruling on the TUI case that German codetermination conforms to EU law. Workers' voice is considered among the the social goals that the EU has set itself.

Employees deploy 'workers' voice' by means of information, consultation and codetermination in the workplace, in companies and in company supervisory and administrative boards. Approaches differ in the various member states but the goal is the same: companies operate on behalf of society, not just to enrich their shareholders and top managers. To that end we need European laws that establish fair standards for all EU member states on dependent employment, democratic corporate governance and social responsibility of private investors, workers' codetermination in the development of sustainable companies, company taxation, improved creditor and consumer protection and regions fit to live in.

The Hans Böckler Foundation and the European Trade Union Institute hereby invite you to a discussion on how workers' voice can be brought decisively to policymakers' attention in Brussels – as driver and practical guarantor of the Social Europe of the future.

We would be delighted to welcome you!



Michael Guggemos
Managing Director of the
Hans-Böckler-Foundation

PROGRAMME

Thu, 26 April 2018

Chair: Melinda Crane, Deutsche Welle TV, Berlin

11:30 **Registration and light refreshments**

12:30 **Opening and Welcome**

Michael Guggemos,
Managing Director of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation

12:45 **Keynote speech**

Philippe Etienne, Diplomatic adviser to French President Emmanuel Macron (tbc)
following discussion

14:30 **Coffee break**

15:00 **Parallel workshops – Please see descriptions below**

Workshop 1

Struggling for a social Europe – Link to workers' voice in company orientation

Workshop 2

Workers' Voice as the future for Europe

16:30 **Coffee break**

17:00 **Parallel workshops** (continuation)

18:30 **Reception and dinner**

WORKSHOP 1

Struggling for a social Europe – Link to workers’ voice in company orientation (15:00 – 18:00)

European policies on company law and market creation pose challenges for workers’ voice. This is why the Hans-Böckler-Foundation established its European Expert Group on Workers’ Voice and Corporate Governance.

Based on its findings the workshop will address the following questions:

How can the current, mainly financial market-driven legal regime for companies be changed?

How to give workers’ voice a stronger role in company decision-making and monitoring?

How can workers’ voice be linked to the current debate on the best supportive institutional and political settings for a future social Europe?

Chair: Norbert Kluge, Maxi Leuchters, Hans-Böckler-Foundation, Düsseldorf

15:00 **First findings of the European expert group workers’ voice of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation**

Input by:

Anke Hassel, The Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI) within the Hans-Böckler-Foundation, Düsseldorf

15:15 **Workers’ voice for CSR and sustainable companies**

Input by:

Pierre Habbard, Trade Union Advisory Committee/OECD, Paris
Albert Krufft, European Works Council, Solvay, Brussels
Lucia Peveri, European Works Council Unicredit, Milano

Resumee by:

Gabriele Bischoff, Economic and Social Committee, Brussels

16:30 **Coffee break**

17:00 **Workers' voice for better corporate governance**

Input by:

Udo Rehfeldt, Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales

Robbert van het Kaar, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced
Studies, Amsterdam

Evelyn Regner, Member of European Parliament, Brussels (tbc)

Resumee by:

Aline Hoffmann, European Trade Union Institute, Brussels

WORKSHOP 2

Workers' Voice as the future for Europe (15:00 – 18:00)

Everyone has a role to play in shaping Europe's future!

But what role is being played by codetermination in this? In what areas is more codetermination needed? What sort of foundations do we need? What is the stance of the European Union on this issue? And in the age of startups and digitalisation don't we need new forms of codetermination to get Europe ready to face the future?

We would like to discuss these and other questions. Of course we seek answers, but it is also important to develop forward-looking questions and identify other important topical areas.

Chair: Ali Aslan, Deutsche Welle TV, Berlin

15:00 **Input & situation analysis**

Max Hofmann, studio manager, Deutsche Welle Brussels

15:45 **Discussion panel**

- Codetermination 4.0: digital codetermination as an opportunity?!
Michael Hirdes, Chaos Computer Club, Hamburg (tbc)
- Does Europe need a common economic policy?
Sotiria Theodoropolou, European Trade Union Institute, Brussels (tbc)
- The role and future of codetermination in startups.
Adeline Michaux, European Startup Network, Brussels
- Specifically: How might cross-border representation work in multinational companies?
Sophie Rosenbohm, University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg

16:30 **Coffee break**

17:00 **Closing Panel**

Viktória Nagy, Youth Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation, Brussels
Max Hofmann, studio manager, Deutsche Welle Brussels
Eve Päärendson, European Economic and Social Committee, Estonia

PROGRAMM

Fri, 27 April 2018

Chair: Melinda Crane, Deutsche Welle TV, Berlin

09:00 **Paint a picture of Social Europe – graphic recording summary of the workshops**

09:15 **Priorities for Social Europe**

Maria Jepsen, European Trade Union Institute, Brussels

Introductory remarks

09:30 **Strengthening workers' voice in EU company law – is it on the agenda of the EU company mobility package and the REFIT programme?**

Panel discussion

Peter Scherrer, European Trade Union Confederation, Brussels

Isabelle Schoemann, European Commission, REFIT Score Board, Brussels

Renate Nicolay, European Commission DG Justice, Brussels

10:45 **For a social Europe: societal benefits for Europe:**

Taming digital capitalism

Tax justice, financial market regulation and labour law

Panel discussion

Markus Meinzer, tax justice network, Chesham

Udo Bullmann, Member of European Parliament, Brussels (tbc)

12:15 **Looking forward to the EP elections 2019: Social Europe – strengthening workers' voice**

How to proceed?

Final remarks

Norbert Kluge, Hans-Böckler-Foundation, Düsseldorf

12:30 **End of the conference and lunch**

INFORMATION

- Host of the event** Hans Böckler Foundation in conjunction with the European Trade Union Institute
- Event location** The Egg
Rue Bara 175
1070 Brussels
Belgium
Around 10 minutes walk from Gare du Midi
- Closing date for registration** **29 March 2018**
Registration is binding and will be confirmed along with the travel instructions after the closing date for registration.
- Organisation/ registration** Hans-Böckler-Foundation
Events
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- Please note** No registration fees are charged for the conference. The organiser will bear all costs of accommodation and board during the conference. Travel costs are to be borne by the participants.
- Registration is no guarantee of attendance.
After the closing date for registration you will receive a reply stating whether you can attend the conference.
- Please note that the accommodation costs of early arrivals are very high owing to a major trade fair in Brussels (Seafood Fair). The Hans Böckler Foundation cannot assume such costs.**

INFORMATION

Languages

The conference languages are English, German, French

**Photos, film and
Sound recordings**

Photos may be taken and film and sound recordings made during the conference that may be used for PR and documenting the conference. The recordings can be published both in print media and on the Internet and social media. The recordings may also be made available to print media, television and radio stations for further use. By attending the conference, participants hereby declare that they are in agreement with this.

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