

## **Luxembourg Presidency Conference on *Taking Forward the EU Social Inclusion Process***

Luxembourg City, 13 and 14 June 2005

In the context of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU), the Luxembourg Government has instigated a project in the field of social inclusion. The project consists of two parts: an independent Report prepared by Tony Atkinson, Bea Cantillon, Eric Marlier and Brian Nolan; and a High-Level Presidency Conference organised with the support of the European Commission. Both parts are linked in that the background document for the whole Conference will be the independent Report which will be emailed to all Conference's participants on 1 June.

At their 22-23 March 2005 meeting, EU Heads of State and Government have stated that "It is essential to relaunch the Lisbon Strategy without delay and re-focus priorities on growth and employment" (par 5 of Presidency conclusions). At the same time, they have reaffirmed that "Social inclusion policy should be pursued by the Union and by Member States, with its multifaceted approach, focusing on target groups such as children in poverty" (par 36). The aim of the Report and the Conference discussion is to consider the possibilities for advancing the Social Inclusion Process (at both national and EU levels) in this new context. As such, it is hoped that the Report and the Conference will provide useful input into the evaluation by the European Commission and the Member States of the operation of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in the field of social policy, which is taking place this year as part of the *mid-term review* of the Lisbon Strategy. It will help ensure that the focus of the Process is placed more strongly on implementation of goals, delivery of targeted outcomes and evaluation of results in the light of the set national and EU objectives.

All Conference sessions will be plenary sessions. In each of the four sessions A-D, one of the authors of the independent study will introduce the key points of one of the four main chapters (20 minutes). Each discussant will then have 7 minutes to comment on the relevant chapter (on both the general approach presented in it and the suggested recommendations). For each session, with up to 7 discussants and a total duration of 105 minutes, this should allow at least 20 minutes for discussion from the floor. The Commission and the Presidency as well as the Conference's participants very much value these discussions; speakers have therefore all been asked to strictly stick to their allocated time.

There will be up to 250 participants at the Conference, from all 25 EU Member States as well as from acceding and candidate countries. Participants will include European Commission representatives, members of the European Parliament, members of the EU Social Protection Committee and its Indicators Sub-Group, members of international organisations, members of the scientific community, representatives of EU social partners, and representatives of social Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) at national and EU levels.

Participation will be solely on personal invitation by the Luxembourg Presidency. Given their limited number, participants have to be national or international experts working in the specific fields covered by the Conference.

Interpretation services will be provided in English, French and German.

Conference venue: Hemicycle of the European Parliament  
Kirchberg Plateau – 1, rue du Fort Thüngen  
L - 1499 Luxembourg

For more information on the Conference, please contact: Eric Marlier (International Scientific Coordinator), CEPS/INSTEAD, Luxembourg. E-mail: [social-monitoring@ceps.lu](mailto:social-monitoring@ceps.lu).

The final Conference Report, in which the authors will correct any errors and will refer to work drawn to their attention by Conference participants, will be available at two addresses: one at CEPS/INSTEAD ([www.ceps.lu/eu2005\\_lu/inclusion](http://www.ceps.lu/eu2005_lu/inclusion)) and one at the Luxembourg Ministry for Family and Integration ([www.fm.etat.lu](http://www.fm.etat.lu)).



## Sunday, 12 June 2005

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Arrival of most Conference's participants at the hotel where all reservations have been made by the Presidency:  
Hotel Hilton  
12, rue Jean Engling  
L – 1466 Luxembourg  
Tel: + 352/ 437.81

16.00-22.30 Registration

20.00-22.30 Dinner (buffet)

## Monday, 13 June 2005

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9.30 Transfer from hotel to Conference venue (for participants arriving on the Sunday)

9.00 to **10.15**  
Registration (for participants who could not register at the hotel on the Sunday)  
Tea and coffee

10.30 to 11.15

### Opening of Conference

Chair: Tom Mulherin, *Chair of the EU Social Protection Committee (SPC)*  
Speakers: Marie-Josée Jacobs, *Luxembourg Minister in charge of Family and Integration*  
Vladimír Špidla, *Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*  
Tony Atkinson, *Nuffield College, UK (to outline the Conference programme)*

11.15 to 13.00

### Session A: Poverty and Social Exclusion in the European Union

Poverty and social exclusion remain a major challenge to the EU, and we need to consider what lessons can be drawn from the evidence assembled in the EU social indicators.

Chair: Jérôme Vignon, *DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*

Speakers: Bea Cantillon, *University of Antwerp, Belgium (Chapter 3 of the independent report)*  
Jonathan Bradshaw, *University of York, UK*  
Denis Crowley, *DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*  
Michel Dollé, *Council for Employment, Income and Social Cohesion (CERC), France*  
Robert Erikson, *SOFI, Stockholm University, Sweden*  
Gilda Farrell, *Council of Europe*  
Dagmar Kutsar, *Tartu University, Estonia*  
Irena Topińska, *University of Warsaw, Poland*

13.00 to 14.30 Lunch

14.30 to 16.15

**Session B: Strengthening Policy Analysis**

Learning “what works” is the key to policy development, and we need to consider how to make use of scientific research on policy analysis at both the national and the EU levels.

Chair: Richard Hauser, *University of Frankfurt, Germany*

Speakers: Tony Atkinson, *Nuffield College, UK* (Chapter 4)

Jutta Allmendinger, *Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany*

Daniela Bobeva, *Bulgarian National Bank, Bulgaria*

Mireille Elbaum, *DREES, France*

Georg Fischer, *DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*

John Hills, *STICERD, London School of Economics, UK*

Mark Pearson, *Social Policy Division, OECD*

Holly Sutherland, *University of Essex, UK*

16.15 to 16.45

Tea and coffee

16.45 to 18.30

**Session C: EU Indicators for Poverty and Social Exclusion**

The EU social indicators have developed significantly since Laeken, but a number of areas need to be reviewed in the light of experience and their applicability to a more diverse Union.

Chair: David Stanton, *Chairman of the Indicators Sub-Group of the EU Social Protection Committee*

Speakers: Brian Nolan, *ESRI, Ireland* (Chapter 5)

Andrea Brandolini, *Bank of Italy, Italy*

Michel Glaude, *Eurostat, European Commission*

Magda Mercader, *Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Spain*

Heinz-Herbert Noll, *ZUMA, Germany*

Tomáš Sirovátka, *Masaryk University, Czech Republic*

István Tóth, *TÁRKI, Hungary*

Edmunds Vaskis, *Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, Latvia*

18.45 Transfer from Conference venue to hotel

20.00 Departure to Bourglinster Castle for Conference Dinner

## Tuesday, 14 June 2005

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8.15 Transfer from hotel to Conference venue

9.00 to 10.45

### **Session D: Taking Forward the EU Social Inclusion Process**

In order to maintain post-Lisbon momentum in the social field, in the new context set by the March 2005 European Council, we need to consider how the Social Inclusion Process can best be streamlined, examining the potential role of target setting and restructured National Action Plans on social inclusion, and the ways in which the Process can be embedded in national policy-making.

Chair: Jos Berghman, *Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), Belgium*

Speakers: Eric Marlier, *CEPS/INSTEAD, Luxembourg (Chapter 6)*  
Hugh Frazer, *DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*  
Paolo Garonna, *University LUISS G. Carli of Rome and Chief Economist of Confindustria, Italy*  
Anton Hemerijck, *Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy, Netherlands*  
Erika Kvapilová, *United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Regional Office for CEE, Slovakia*  
Edmundo Martinho, *Institute of Social Security, Portugal*  
Martin Potůček, *Charles University, Czech Republic*  
Chiara Saraceno, *University of Turin, Italy*

10.45 to 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 to 11.30: Conclusions of Sessions A-D by Tony Atkinson, *Nuffield College, UK*

11.30 to 12.45

### **Panel on "The Way Forward"**

Chair: Frank Vandenbroucke, *Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), Belgium*

Panel: Thérèse de Liedekerke, *Union of Industrial and Employers Confederations of Europe (UNICE)*  
Fintan Farrell, *European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN)*  
Zsuzsa Ferge, *Eotvos University, Hungary*  
Anna Hedborg, *Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden*  
Pierre Jaeger, *Ministry of Family and Integration (MIFA), Luxembourg*  
Józef Niemiec, *European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)*  
Odile Quintin, *DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*  
Gabriele Zimmer, *Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

12.45 to 13.00 **Concluding Remarks by Incoming UK Presidency: James Plaskitt MP,**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions, UK*

13.00 Lunch