

Lunch time debate – Progressive Structural Reforms to reduce Inequalities and to promote Jobs, Growth and Social Investment

1 December 2015, 12.00-15.00 European Parliament (Reading room of the Library)

Lunch will be provided

Despite the European Commission's continued promise to earn a **social AAA rating**, necessary reforms to achieve a meaningful shift towards upward social convergence, social investment and equality are absent. This event is meant to **enhance the debate between policy makers, academia and civil society** about alternative European structural reforms that help to rebuild our Social Europe.

Two years after the launch of our tool for monitoring social progress at national level, the **SOLIDAR Social Progress Watch 2015** (SPWI) shows once more the drastic impact of **one-sided policy reforms** focused on budget discipline and fiscal consolidation at national and regional level. Not only Greece, Portugal and other Troika-ridden countries have **reached the limit of what is left of their social welfare states**. But also economically prospering countries report declining situations for workers, unemployed, youth and other groups.

The edited volume **“Progressive Structural Reforms. Proposals for European reforms to reduce inequalities and promote jobs, growth and social investment”** presents the results of the **SOLIDAR Social Progress Lab 2015** – a thinking space for academics, policy-makers and civil society about necessary strategies and policies to achieve a more social and inclusive Europe. It collects the analysis by **10 academic scholars** from across Europe with a focus on identifying and targeting inequalities, shaping social investment and European policies affecting social safeguards, and thereby seeks to enrich the policy debate at European and national level about alternative structural reforms.

Registration starts at 11.15 at the EP's entrance in Rue Wiertz 47

<p>12.00</p>	<p>Opening Conny Reuter, Secretary General SOLIDAR</p> <p>Welcome and key note speech MEP Maria João Rodrigues, Vice-President S&D Group Economic and Social Policies</p>
<p>12.30</p>	<p>Major trends in Europe – findings of the SOLIDAR Social Progress Watch 2015 Joß Steinke, SOLIDAR board member, AWO Germany</p> <p>Spot light on: the Netherlands (A. Hudepohl, Humanitas), France (D. Lopez, La Ligue de l'Enseignement) and Hungary (G. Scheiring, Progressive Hungary Foundation)</p>
<p>13.00</p>	<p>“Progressive proposals for structural reforms to reduce inequalities and promote jobs, growth and social investment”</p> <p>Presentation of the edited volume Bregt Saenen</p> <p>Discussions around 3 thematic clusters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying and Targeting Inequalities Inputs by: Rémi Bazillier, Lorenza Antonucci

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social Investment Inputs by: Amandine Crespy, Menno Soentken - Social Safeguards Inputs by: Ferdi De Ville, Florian Ranft <p>Discussions with the participation of Georgi Pirinski (MEP, S&D), Philippe Lamberts (MEP, Greens/EFA), Esther Lynch (ETUC Confederal Secretary) and Agnes Jongerius (MEP, S&D)</p>
14.45	Conclusions and outlook Lieve Franssen

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