KEEPING THE UNION TOGETHER – STRENGTHENING EUROPE´S SOCIAL DIMENSION

7–8 February 2017, Steigenberger Hotel Berlin – City West, Los-Angeles-Platz 1, 10789 Berlin

PROGRAMME

Tue, 7 February 2017

15:00 **Registration**

16:00 **Welcome**
Thomas Fischer, Member of the Executive Board of the Hans Böckler Foundation; Head of the Department for Political Strategy and Planning, DGB Executive Board, Berlin

16:15 **Keynote**
Roger Liddle (Lord Liddle), Member of the House of Lords, London

17:00 **Panel:**
What Keeps Europe Together? Requirements for a Social Europe

Stefaan Hermans, Head of Cabinet of EU Commissioner Marianne Thyssen, Brussels

Reiner Hoffmann, President of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB); Chairman of the Executive Board of the Hans Böckler Foundation, Berlin

Professor Dr. Gustav A. Horn, Research Director of the Macroeconomic Policy Institute (IMK) of the Hans Böckler Foundation, Düsseldorf

Maria Loheide, Member of the Executive Board in charge of Social Policy of Diakonie Deutschland (Social Welfare Organisation of Germany´s Protestant Churches), Berlin

Jutta Steinruck, Member of the European Parliament, Brussels

Professor Dr. Rolf Rosenbrock, Chairman of Paritätischer Gesamtverband
(Confederation of German Welfare Organisations), Berlin

Chairman: Harald Schumann, Editor, Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin

18:30 **Reception**

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Weds, 8 February 2017

09:00 **Registration**

10:00 **Opening remarks**
Harald Schumann

10:30 **Expert Forums I and II (in parallel)**

Export Forum I:
A New Economic Policy in Europe – For Stability and Prosperity
The EU's economic policy is dominated by supply-side programmes. The focus on „structural reforms" for raising competitiveness has led to declining wages. Moreover, domestic demand has been depressed by public spending cuts. The results are weak economic growth and a pan-European investment backlog in education and infrastructure that the new European Fund for Strategic Investments has failed to overcome so far. The direction of travel in European Economic Governance still reflects this misguided policy. The panel will discuss which economic policy and economic governance would be required in the EU and Eurozone to create jobs, investment and growth and, over the long term, preserve the stability and sustainability of the European economic and monetary area.

Panel:
Professor Dr. Peter Bofinger, Member of the German Council of Economic Experts, University of Würzburg

Sian Jones, Policy Co-ordinator, European Anti-Poverty Network, Brussels

Stefan Körzell, Member of the Managing Board of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB), Berlin

Karl Pichelmann, Senior Adviser, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission, Brussels

Harald Wolf, Member of the Berlin House of Representatives, former Senator

Chair: Fabian Lindner, Head of Unit Economic Policy, Macroeconomic Policy Institute (IMK) of the Hans Böckler Foundation, Düsseldorf

Expert Forum II:
An Internal Market Policy for Employees, Consumers and Entrepreneurs – (Re-)Regulation, Industrial and Structural Policies
The EU is more than simply a free trade area and internal market. The market needs a regulatory framework – to protect the environment, consumers and employees. Even so, the required regulations are primarily considered as bureaucratic obstacles to completing the single market and subordinated to the implementation of its basic freedoms. At the same time, an active European industrial policy is, at best, rudimentary and current EU structural policies fail to meet the goal of upward economic convergence. The panel will discuss what changes of course in internal market policies are required to achieve a sustainable and balanced economic development throughout Europe that promotes technological innovation, guarantees secure and good jobs and thereby sets clear limits to the market for the benefit of employees, consumers and the environment.

Panel:
Eva Belabed, Economist, University of Linz

Claudia Dörr-Voß, Head of the European Policy Department, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Berlin

Dr. Manja Schreiner, Head of the Department for Organisation and Legal Affairs, German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH), Berlin

Linn Selle, Policy Officer, Team Law and Trade, Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband (Federation of German Consumer Organisations - vzbv), Berlin

Professor Dr. Hubert Weiger, Chairman of Friends of the Earth Germany, Berlin

Chair: Dr Christel Degen, Head of Division Structural & Regional Policy, SME, DGB Executive Board, Berlin

12:00 **Lunch**

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13:30 **Expert Forums III and IV (in parallel)**

Expert Forum III:
Strengthening the Social Dimension – For a Europe of Social Equity and Security

Europe is stuck in a social crisis: More than 21 million people are unemployed, youth unemployment in many places surpasses 50 per cent. Income inequality is on the up, wage-dumping and poverty are omni-present in the rich EU: 122 million people in Europe are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Generally speaking, the goal of social equity has a shadowy existence in today's European Union. Social goals – as set out by the EU 2020 Strategy – are subordinated to fiscal and economic policy. Current national bargaining systems such as co-determination and participation rights for employees are more and more impaired by Europe's austerity and liberalisation agenda. The panel will discuss how Europe can use effective mechanisms of fair reconciliation of interests and buttressing of the social acquis to help bring about more social justice, social security and co-determination. Here the focus will be on current initiatives of the European Commission, particularly its proposals for a European Pillar of Social Rights.

Panel:
Gabriele Bischoff, President of the Workers' Group in the European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels

Hannelore Buls, Board Member of the German Women's Council, Berlin

Lutz Mühl, Managing Director for Economic Affaris, Social Policy and Europe, German Federation of Chemical Employers Associations (BAVC), Wiesbaden

Stefan Weinhofer, Chairman, TUI Europe Forum, Vienna

Gabriele Zimmer, Member of the European Parliament, Brussels

Chair: Bernd Hüttemann, Secretary General, European Movement Germany (EBD), Berlin

Expert Forum IV:
Reform of the Institutional Architecture – Social Democracy for Europe

Europe needs the prospect of a genuine democratisation. Without fundamental institutional reforms of the power relations between European Parliament, Council of Ministers and Commission this will not be possible – and this applies equally to the EU as a whole and to the eurozone. In the current state of affairs the interests of member state governments are dominant. But the sum of national interests brings no European common good. Domestically, national government representatives regularly evade their responsibilities while making Europe the scapegoat for decisions to which they contributed in the Council. The panel will discuss which democratic reforms we need to ensure that the leadership and staff of EU institutions are, in future, dedicated to all European voters and not primarily their respective home countries and/or parties.

Panel:
Elmar Brok, Member of the European Parliament, Brussels

Katja Lehto-Komulainen, Deputy Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Brussels

Professor Dr. Ingolf Pernice, former Director of the Walter-Hallstein-Institute for European Constitutional Law, Humboldt University, Berlin

Dr. Daniela Schwarzer, Otto Wolff Director of the Research Institute of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin

Chair: Henning Meyer, Editor-in-Chief, Social Europe Journal, London

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15:00 **Concluding Debate**
The Future World of Work: What Kind of Social Europe Do We Need?

Panel:
Reiner Hoffmann, President of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB), Chairman of the Executive Board of the Hans Böckler Foundation, Berlin

Robert Misik, Journalist and Book Writer, Vienna

Professor Dr. Gesine Schwan, President of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Plaform, Berlin

Chair: Ulrike Herrmann, Economics Correspondent, taz, Berlin

16:00 **Conference End**