100 years ago the start of the First World War, 75 years ago the start of the Second World War, 25 years since the end of the Cold War, 10 years of the eastward enlargement of the EU: European integration and the widespread expansion of social democracy are replies to the world wars in Europe. With the resolution of the East-West conflict in 1989/90 they have acquired an additional peacemaking dimension, which currently faces a major challenge. European integration is the peacemaking political consequence of the devastating world wars. So far it has managed to ensure peace, at least on the continent of Europe, with the exception of the war in Yugoslavia. The establishment of peace in Europe is associated with the development of an internally differentiated social model that has allocated a substantial role to the social partners, employers’ associations and trade unions. The historic anniversaries give cause for working on the process of European integration, the evolution of the concept of Europe, the development of social democracy in the 20th century and for discussing further prospects of the European integration process.

Distinguished historians and leading European politicians and trade unionists will address these issues and open up discussion on them.

Reiner Hoffmann
Chairman of the DGB

Prof. Dr. Stefan Berger
Inst. for Social Movements
Ruhr University Bochum

Dr. Wolfgang Jäger
Director of the Hans Böckler Foundation
Thursday 20th November 2014

17.00 h  **Musical contribution from students of the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts directed by Prof. Uwe Lohse**
Songs from “Schweyk in the Second World War” by Bertolt Brecht/Hanns Eisler; sung by Luisa-Charlotte Schulz, Benjamin Vinnen, Jonathan Kutzner

17.15 h  **Welcome and introduction**
Reiner Hoffmann, Chairman of the Confederation of German Trade Unions, Chairman of the Board of the Hans Böckler Foundation

17.30 h  **Keynote speech**
*Progress in Europe? The catastrophes of the 20th century and our present time*
Prof. Dr. Andreas Wirsching, Director of the Institute of Contemporary History Munich-Berlin

18.15 h  **Keynote speech**
*Europe in the 21st century*
Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament

19.00 h  **Discussion**
*Chaired by* Jürgen Zurheide

19.45 h  **Musical contribution**
Bertolt Brecht/Hanns Eisler: “Ein Pferd klagt an” and “Die Pappel vom Karlsplatz”; Jacques Brel: “The Devil”; songs from “Der Frieden” by Peter Hacks/Andre Asriel

20.00 h  **Reception**

Friday 21st November 2014

9.00 h  **Introduction**
Prof. Dr. Stefan Berger, Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr University Bochum

9.15 h  **The Europe debate and social democracy after the First and Second World War**
*Input speeches followed by discussion*
Prof. Dr. Ute Daniel, Braunschweig Technical University
PD Dr. Jörg Echternkamp, University of Halle-Wittenberg

*Chaired by* Prof. Dr. Stefan Berger

11.00 h  **Coffee break**

11.30 h  **Keynote speech**
*A social Europe as a reply to the European failure in the first half of the 20th century*
Reiner Hoffmann

11.50 h  **Panel**
*Prospects of European integration*
Jan Guz, OPZZ Poland
Reiner Hoffmann, DGB Germany
Leslie Manasseh, TUC Great Britain
Bernadette Ségol, ETUC
Josef Středula, ČMKOS Czech Republic

*Chaired by* Jürgen Zurheide

13.30 h  **Lunch**
**Organizer:**
Hans Böckler Foundation and the Institute for Social Movements in conjunction with the Confederation of German Trade Unions (DGB)

**Venue:**
Turbinenhalle der Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG
Höher Weg 100
40233 Düsseldorf

**Registration Deadline:**
17th Oktober 2014
Registration is binding and will be confirmed with arrival details after the registration deadline.

**Organization/Registration:**
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**Note:**
Conference fees are not charged. The organizer covers the costs for accommodation and food during the conference. Travel expenses can not be covered.

**Translation:**
The conference languages are German and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

**Arrival:**
For an environmental friendly and inexpensive journey to and from the conference within Germany we recommend the Deutsche Bahn event ticket (“Veranstaltungsticket” from EUR 99,00 for second-class return). You will be sent more information on this with the confirmation of registration.