Dear Sirs, Dear Colleagues,

Sluggish mass purchasing power on the one hand, wealthy investors only too ready to take risks on the other: growing inequality was a major cause of the international financial and economic crisis. The crisis in the eurozone and a misguided orientation of financial and economic policy have further widened the gap between rich and poor, stable and fragile economies in Europe.

Our aim with the European Dialogue 2015 is to discuss the following issues:
Can Europe free itself from this vicious circle? How will the inequality of incomes, wealth, taxation and access to education and training develop? Is European politics a part of the problem or part of the solution?

We thank Prof. Paul Krugman, Princeton University and winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2008, for making the keynote speech that opens up the debates.

In the individual workshops, issues relating to prosperity and growing inequality will be looked at from different perspectives and strategies discussed.

Finally, László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion 2010 –2014, Reiner Hoffmann, Chairman of the German Confederation of Trade Unions, and Maria João Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament (requested), will focus on the question of whether the European unemployment insurance can be a way to more justice and stability.

This year we are organising the European Dialogue in conjunction with the European Trade Union Institute.

We look forward to seeing you.
Thursday, 16 April 2015

11.30 hours
Welcoming snack

12.30 hours
Greeting and introduction
Michael Guggemos, Spokesman for the management of the Hans Böckler Foundation
Prof. Dr. Maria Jepsen, Director of the Research department of the European Trade Union Institute

Chaired by: Michael Brocker, radio journalist, WDR Cologne

13.00 hours
Keynote speech
Paul Krugman, Professor of Princeton University and Nobel Prize winner 2008

14.30 hours
Parallel Workshops 1–3

Workshop 1:
European wage policy under the conditions of the economic crisis and risks of deflation

Chaired by: Dr. Reinhard Bispinck, Head of Department at the Hans Böckler Foundation’s Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI)

The development of wages and collective bargaining systems under the conditions of the European economic crisis
Dr. Torsten Müller, European Trade Union Institute
Dr. Thorsten Schulten, Department at the Hans Böckler Foundation’s Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI)

What wage policy does Europe need?
Roman Zitzelsberger, District Manager IG Metall Baden-Württemberg
Prof. Dr. Özlem Onaran, University of Greenwich

Workshop 2:
Strong worker participation – competitive, sustainable companies

Worker participation as a component of sustainable corporate governance in Europe

Chaired by: Dr. Norbert Kluge, Head of the Co-determination Department, Hans Böckler Foundation
Lucia Peveri, Chair of the UILCA Deutsche Bank Italy, UILCA International Area and UNI Europa expert of the Unicredit European Works Council
Hermann Soggeberg, Chairman of the Unilever European Works Council
Anne-Marie Kortas, research fellow of the “Inequality and Social Policy” unit, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)
Dr. Roby Nathanson, Director of MACRO – Center for Political Economics (Tel Aviv)

The EU Commission’s “REFIT for Growth” agenda – sounds good, but fatal consequences for Europe’s workers
Isabelle Schömann, Senior Researcher, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

Requirements of future policy in European company law
Séverine Picard, Legal Advisor European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
New ways in the EU Commission and European Parliament: What opportunities are there for stronger workers’ rights and sustainable corporate management

Chaired by: Dr. Aline Hoffmann, Coordinator of the European Worker Participation Competence Center (EWPCC) at the ETUI
Gabrielle Bischoff, Head of the Europe Policy Department, DGB Federal Executive Board
Dr. h.c. Jan Cremers, Senior Researcher, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS) and former Member of the European Parliament
Claudia Menne, Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation

Workshop 3:
Inequality – a threat to economic stability, a threat to Europe?
Empirical analysis and theory of the correlation between inequality, growth and stability

Chaired by: Andrew Watt, Head of Department at the Hans Böckler Foundation’s Institute of Macroeconomics and Economic Research
Prof. Dr. Till van Treeck, University of Duisburg-Essen
Jonathan Ostry PhD, Deputy Director of the International Monetary Fund Research Department
Tom Palley, PhD, Economist, Washington DC

Challenges for the policy of Europe

Chaired by: Melinda Crane, Deutsche Welle TV
Lars Andersen, Managing Director of The Economic Council of the Labour Movement
Paul Krugman, Professor of Princeton University and Nobel Prize winner 2008
Pierre Moscovici, EU Commissioner Economic and Monetary Affairs (requested)

Bernadette Ségol, General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation
tba, European Parliament
Prof. Frank Vandenbrouke, University of Leuven, Antwerp and Amsterdam

18.30 hours
End of the Workshops

from
19.30 hours
Reception

20.00 hours
Dinner

Friday, 17 April 2015

8.30 hours
Parallel Workshops 4–6

Workshop 4:
Growing economic inequality – results, assessments and implications for economic policy

Chaired by: Ulrike Herrmann, Economics Editor of taz

Inequality of income and wealth in Europe
Andrea Brandolini PhD, Banca d’Italia
Miriam Rehm, PhD, Vienna Chamber of Labour

Possibilities for action against inequality
Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Herr and Bea Maria Ruoff, University of Economics and Law Berlin
Prof. Dr. Lorenz Jarass, RheinMain University, Wiesbaden

What is a possible political solution?
Workshop 5:

**How can a democratic and social Europe be created?**

**Chaired by:** Michael Brocker, radio journalist, WDR Cologne

**The crisis of democracy and responsibility in Europe**

- Prof. Dr. Deirdra Curtin, University of Amsterdam and Berlin Institute for Advanced Study
- Prof. Dr. Yannis Papadopulos, University of Lausanne
- Prof. Dr. Brigitte Unger, Director of the Hans Böckler Foundation Institute of Economics and Social Sciences and the University of Utrecht

**What can Europe do in view of new technological challenges, increasing inequality and the high unemployment rate?**

- Dr. Henning Meyer, Editor of Social Europe
- Prof. emer. Dr. Alfred Kleinknecht, University of Delft
- Thorben Albrecht, Secretary of State at the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Workshop 6:

**Educational equality in higher education in times of economic crisis?!**

**Chaired by:** Bernd Kassebaum, Trade Union Secretary, Head of the Education and Skills Department IG Metall
- Dr. Kristina Hauschildt, “EUROSTUDENT” Project Manager, German Centre for Higher Education and Science Research
- Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin, Senior Analyst, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), OECD
- Jens Vraa-Jensen, Chairman of the Higher Education and Research Standing Committee (HERSC)
- Matthias Anbuhl, Head of the Education Policy and Educational Work department, DGB Federal Executive Board

12.30 hours

Snack

13.00 hours

**Closing panel**

**European unemployment insurance – a way to more justice and stability?**

**Chaired by:** Melinda Crane, Deutsche Welle TV
- László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion 2010-2014
- Reiner Hoffmann, Chairman of the German Confederation of Trade Unions and Chairman of the Board of the Hans Böckler Foundation
- Maria João Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament (requested)

followed by

Discussion

C. 15.00 hours

End of the event

The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union.
Host of the event:
Hans Böckler Foundation in conjunction with the European Trade Union Institute

Event location:
The Hotel
Boulevard de Waterloo 38
1000 Brussels – Belgium
www.thehotel.be

Closing date for registration:
2 April 2015
Registration is binding and will be confirmed along with the travel instructions.

Organisation/registration:
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Please note:
No registration fees are charged for the conference. The organiser will bear all costs for accommodation and board during the conference. Travel costs are to be borne by the participants.

Languages:
The plenary sessions and Workshops 1 and 4 will be translated into German, English, French and Spanish. Workshop 2, 3, 5 and 6 will be translated into German, English and French.