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

18:30  Reception

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
Expert 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
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 Affairs, Social Policy and Europe, German Federation of Chemical Employers Associations (BAVC), Wiesbaden
Stefan Weinhofer, Chairman, TUI Europe Forum, Vienna
Gabriele Zirrmer, 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
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 Platform, Berlin

Chair: Ulrike Herrmann, Economics Correspondent, taz, Berlin

16:00  Conference End