



## Assessing and Addressing Poverty in Europe: Challenges, Solutions and Opportunities

**"Today's agreement is a major breakthrough. For the first time ever, we have a concrete target to reduce those at risk of poverty and exclusion by at least 20 million by 2020. This sends a powerful message about Europe's genuine commitment to visible results for a more just and inclusive Europe."**

- László Andor, Commissioner Responsible for  
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, June 2010

The Silken  
Berlaymont Hotel  
***Brussels***

15 June 2011

*Organised by*



Centre for  
Parliamentary  
Studies



*An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in poverty reduction policies in Europe*

“Europe 2020 focuses on the key areas where action is needed: knowledge and innovation, a more sustainable economy, high employment and social inclusion. And upgrading, individuals' skills will contribute to all of these areas.”

**- László Andor, European Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, April 2010**

“There is a broad consensus that a new economic model is required, where economic growth needs to be smart - in other words, driven by knowledge and innovation; environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive - that means capable of fostering high levels of employment and social cohesion.”

**- László Andor, European Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, March 2011**

## Abstract and Programme

One of the main goals of the *Europe 2020 Strategy* is to reduce by 20 million the number of people living in poverty or social exclusion in the EU within the next 10 years. In order to achieve this ambitious target, clear and consistent terms of reference must be agreed upon, especially around the concept of poverty measurement.

Existing indicators, initiatives and good practices in Europe have varied across Europe as a result of Member States developing their own policies in the areas of social inclusion, welfare, pensions, healthcare and long term care. Despite a great deal of comparative policy discussion between different countries, more work needs to be done in order to complete the existing set of common indicators. Combined with ambitious EU social objectives, common indicators facilitate the development of mutual learning processes across Europe, with national governments translating these objectives into national plans which are assessed by the Commission and Member States.

This special International Symposium will bring together stakeholders across Europe to analyse the key parameters shaping existing indicators such as the EU 'at-risk-of-poverty' measure (adopted in 2001 at the Laeken European Council), and a threshold based on 'minimum budget standards'. In this respect, a recent EU study on measuring extreme poverty suggests that an EU measure of poverty combining income poverty and deprivation could provide a useful indicator.

The Symposium will discuss strategies for tackling poverty, especially child poverty, in order to create possible solutions and scenarios for the future. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore how to mainstream poverty reduction into a range of key EU and national policies.

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.



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**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011**  
**The Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels**

**09:00**      *Registration and Refreshments*

**10:00**      **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Eric Marlier**, International Scientific Coordinator, CEPS/INSTEAD  
Research Institute, Luxembourg (confirmed)

**10:10**      **Session One:**

**Mainstreaming Social Inclusion Goals into Economic and  
Employment Policies in Europe**

- Assessing and Addressing the Multi-Dimensionality of Social Inclusion
- The Social Dimension of Europe 2020: New Challenges and Opportunities
- Low Paid Work and In-Work Poverty
- Local Anti-Poverty Measures
- Good Practices in Europe and Future Recommendations

***Speakers:***

**Antonia Carparelli**, Acting Director – Europe 2020: Social Policies,  
European Commission (confirmed)

**Antonio Schizzerotto**, Deputy Chancellor for Scientific Research, University  
of Trento, Italy (confirmed)

**10:50**      **First Round of Discussions**

**11:20**      *Morning Coffee Break*

**11:40**      **Panel Session Two**

**The Horizontal Social Clause, Social Impact and Mainstreaming Social  
Goals – Challenges and Opportunities**

***Speaker:***

**Christoph Lechner**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)  
(confirmed)

**12:00**      **Second Round of Discussions**

**12:20**      **Session Three (Part I):**

**Child Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe**

- Fighting Child Poverty & Social Exclusion and Enhancing Child Well-being –  
Some Lessons to be Drawn
- Ensuring High Quality of Childcare
- Existing Dynamics and Dimensions
- Vulnerable Children and Children in Care
- Future Recommendations



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***Speakers:***

**Dominic Richardson**, Policy Analyst: Child Well-being, Social Policy Division, DELSA, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (confirmed)

**Jana Hainsworth**, Secretary General, Eurochild (confirmed)

**13:00**      ***Networking Lunch***

**14:00**      **Session Three (Part II):**  
**Developing a Comprehensive Policy Framework for Preventing and Reducing Child Poverty and Social Exclusion**

- Fighting Child Poverty & Social Exclusion and Enhancing Child Well-being – Some Lessons to be Drawn
- Ensuring High Quality of Childcare
- Existing Dynamics and Dimensions
- Vulnerable Children and Children in Care
- Future Recommendations

***Speaker:***

**Hugh Frazer**, Department of Applied Social Studies, NUI Maynooth, Ireland (confirmed)

**14:20**      **Third Round of Discussions**

**15:00**      ***Afternoon Coffee Break***

**15:15**      **Session Four:**  
**The Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty and Disadvantage and Measurement of Extreme Poverty**

- Parental Education, Occupation Background and Childhood Environment – Lessons Learned
- Existing Causal Variables and Dimensions – Some Good Practices
- Future Recommendations

***Speaker:***

**David Gordon**, Centre for the Study of Poverty and Social Justice, University of Bristol (confirmed)

**15:35**      **Fourth Round of Discussions**

**15:55**      **Chair's Closing Remarks**

**16:05**      ***Networking Reception and Refreshments***

**16:35**      ***Symposium Close***