

Conference Programme

***The Good Society***  
***Shaping the Future of Work – the Mission of Social  
Democracy***

November 21-22, 2017

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin, Hiroshimastr. 28, House 2, Conference Room 2

The European left faces the continuous challenge of developing ideas and exploring potential answers to the challenges of our era in order to gain support from citizens and voters. For many years the Good Society Conference has offered a platform for progressive think tanks and high-ranking politicians to discuss current trends in society and its implications for the state and the market.

Shaping the terms of work has always been the *raison d'être* for Social Democracy across Europe and beyond. As such, improving working conditions, creating full employment, upward social mobility via work and emancipation have been the centre-left's historical mission. The agenda represented by progressive parties and trade unions has been crucial in giving workers a share of the benefits of the past industrial revolutions.

Digitalisation is a megatrend that affects all spheres of life including the one of work and employment. As such it poses a common challenge for European centre-left parties. What is more, the future of work is closely connected with the future of its major political agents – and vice versa. What are the defining trends of digitalisation and of “work 4.0”? How can we shape the digital revolution and what objectives can we define from the perspective of the “digital workers”? What can the European level contribute? What implications does digitalisation have for the European centre-left?

The aim of this year's conference is to engage in debates from the vantage point of various countries as an important step in developing common programmatic positions and clarifying the European Social Democrat vision of a good society.

# Tuesday, November 21, 2017

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*Venue: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin, Hiroshimastr. 28, House 2, Conference Room 2*

11:15 Arrival, registration and light meal

12:00 Opening of the conference

*Welcome by **Roland Schmidt**, Managing Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Germany*

12:05 Session 1: The Future of Work and the Position of Trade Unions and Social Democracy  
- a Shared Fate?

Keynotes:

***José António Vieira da Silva**, Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, Portugal*

***Reiner Hoffmann**, President of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB), Germany*

Discussion:

***Reiner Hoffmann**, President of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB), Germany*

***José António Vieira da Silva**, Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, Portugal*

***Gesine Schwan**, President of the Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform, Germany*

***Irene Wennemo**, State Secretary to the Minister for Employment and Integration, Sweden*

Moderator:

***Alexander Petring**, Policy Advisor for Research & Analysis, Executive Committee, Social Democratic Party, Germany*

14:00 Lunch break

15:00 Session 2: Increased Insecurity in Workforces due to Automation and the Impact on Voting Behaviour

Inputs:

**Bettina Kohlrausch**, Professor of Sociology at Paderborn University, Germany

**Cornelia Koppetsch**, Professor of Sociology at Darmstadt University, Germany

**Marcus Roberts**, Director of International Projects at YouGov, Great Britain

Moderator:

**Michael Bröning**, Head of International Policy Analysis, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Germany

17:00 Coffee break

17:45 Session 3: The Future of Work and the Renewal of Social Democracy

Keynote:

**Andrea Nahles**, Chairperson of the SPD Parliamentary Group, Germany

18:15 End of session and transfer to the Representation of the State of Hamburg to the Federal Government

19:00 Dinner at the Representation of the State of Hamburg to the Federal Government

Welcome by **Wolfgang Schmidt**, Head of the Representation of the State of Hamburg to the Federal Government, Germany

Dinner speech by **Andrew Harrop**, General Secretary of the Fabian Society, Great Britain

Topic: "Insecurity, Brexit and Social Democracy in Britain"

22:00 End of dinner

# Wednesday, November 22, 2017

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*Venue: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin, Hiroshimastr. 28, House 2, Conference Room 2*

09:00 Beginning of day 2 of the conference

Welcome by **Thorben Albrecht**, *State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Berlin*

09:10 Session 1: Trade Union Perspectives on Digitalisation and the Future of Work – a European Perspective

Inputs:

**Han Busker**, *Chairman of the Trade Union Confederation (FNV), Netherlands*

**Susanna Camusso**, *Secretary-General of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL), Italy*

**Maja Fjæstad**, *Swedish Municipal Workers' Union (Kommunal), Sweden*

Moderator:

**Kajsa Borgnäs**, *Managing Director of the Stiftung Arbeit und Umwelt at the Trade Union for Mining, Chemicals and Energy (IG BCE), Germany*

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Session 2: Presentation of the Framework Paper by the Team of Authors of the Good Society Conference: “The Future of the Working Society and the Parties of Work”

Inputs:

**Kajsa Borgnäs**, *Managing Director of the Stiftung Arbeit und Umwelt at the Trade Union for Mining, Chemicals and Energy (IG BCE), Germany*

**Christian Kellermann**, *Managing Director of the Institute for the History and Future of Work (IGZA), Germany*

Short statements by:

**Håkan Bengtsson**, *Director of Arenagruppen, Sweden*

**Lord Maurice Glasman**, *House of Lords, Labour Party, Great Britain*

**Michał Syska**, *Director of the Ferdinand Lassalle Centre for Social Thought, Poland*

Moderator:

**Henning Meyer**, *Editor-in-Chief of the Social Europe Journal*

13:00 Closing remarks by **Thorben Albrecht**, *State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany*

13:15 Lunch

*End of conference*