

Making the European Pillar of Social Rights a reality for Europe's families: mind the gap

27th September 2016, Brussels

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Programme

9.45	Welcome Annemie Drieskens , President of COFACE Families Europe Kinga Joó , Member of the European Economic and Social Committee
10.00-11.00	Panel discussion 1: How to take the EU social rights pillar to the local level to both prevent and address the increasing vulnerability of families? Key instruments, challenges, opportunities Speakers : Tamás Meszerics , Member of European Parliament Alfonso Montero , European Social Network Antonia Torrens , COFACE Families Europe Greece Andor Urmos , DG REGIO, European Commission Bart Vanhercke , European Social Policy Network
11.00-12.00	Panel discussion 2: Mainstreaming social rights in other areas: how to take the Pillar beyond the EU social policy realm? Speakers : Jean-Bernard Audureau , European Consumer Consultative Group Miroslav Beblavý , Centre for European Policy Studies Allan Larsson , Special Adviser for the EU pillar of social rights Frank Sioen , European Network for Independent Living
12.00-12.30	Conclusions and next steps Liz Gosme , Director of COFACE Families Europe Luca Jahier , Member of the European Economic and Social Committee and Rapporteur for the EU social rights pillar

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Speakers

Annemie Driescens

Annemie Driescens is the President of COFACE Families Europe since 2012. Under her presidency, COFACE worked on the topic of Reconciling Work and Family Life, organised a European Employers Forum, published the European Reconciliation Package and focused on Families in vulnerable situations. In 2014 COFACE gained the UN consultative status. She represents COFACE at numerous conferences and meetings advocating for family policy and defending the interest of families in their diversity in Europe. She is e.g. member of the Societal advisory board of the JPI "More years better lives". She holds a Law degree, and is also the Vice President of Gezinsbond, the largest family organisation in Flanders (Belgium). As Vice President she is in charge of parental support and educational training.

Kinga Joó

Kinga Joó is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 2010. As a Committee member she is mainly active in the field of social policy, education and training as well as on labour market issues. Kinga Joó is working in the civil society sector since 2009 in Hungary for different social NGOs. In 2014 she was elected vice-president of the National Association of Large Families (NOE), the widest network of families in Hungary. NOE is a member of COFACE Families Europe since 2016.

Tamás Meszerics

Tamás Meszerics is a Hungarian historian and politician. Since 2014 he is a Member of the European Parliament, as part of the Greens–European Free Alliance. Mr Meszerics graduated at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, where he also earned his PhD in 2000 in contemporary history about Anglo-American foreign policy. After his graduation, he has been academic fellow with a number of prestigious universities, including the University of Leeds, the Central European University and the George Mason University. In 2009 he was founding member of the new green party 'Politics Can Be Different' (LMP) and he headed the party list at the 2014 European Parliament elections.

Alfonso Montero

Alfonso Lara Montero is Policy Director at the European Social Network, the European network of public social services, where he manages the research, policy and practice programme co-financed by the European Commission. Alfonso has more than seven years professional experience on various social policy issues, including mental health, children's social welfare, evidence and innovation, integrated care and the European Semester. He is the author and co-author of several publications and articles. His particular interest is in evidence-based social policy, the role of social services in integrated care and population-based approaches in public policy. He is currently advising the IESI project led by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre on ICT-enabled integrated social services. Before joining ESN in 2010, he worked on information management in the private sector. He has an MA in European Governance Studies from the College of Europe and an MSc in Public Policy from University College London.

Bart Vanhercke

Bart Vanhercke, PhD in Social Science, has been Director at the Brussels-based European Social Observatory since 2010. He is therefore in charge of the broad research strategy, the internal organization of the team, managing the budget, and overseeing the OSE communication strategy. He was appointed as Policy Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA Berlin) in November 2015. His current research focuses on the social dimension of the new European economic governance, a topic on which he also works as associate academic staff at the Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA) and the Centre for Sociological Research (CESO), the University of Leuven. He co-authored the recently published study of the European Social Policy Network (ESPN) on "Work-life balance measures for persons of working age with dependent relatives in Europe. A study of national policies".

Antonia Torrens

Dr Torrens holds a PhD and an MEd in educational psychology from the University of Sheffield (UK), as well as a BA in Greek and English Literature from the University of Athens. She is the Chairperson of KMOP since 2011 and has been devoted for over 20 years in policy formulation, design and provision of social services. Her professional experience spans over Europe, as well as over several developing countries and countries in transition, where she has assisted governments and non-state actors in improving the quality of life of people in need. She has also been guiding development aid interventions aimed at supporting socially vulnerable groups. Dr Torrens is Vice-President of COFACE Families Europe.

Andor Urmos

Andor Urmos is Policy Analyst at Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) at the European Commission. His main responsibility covers the thematic coordination of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programs, in particular measures supporting the inclusive growth pillar of the Europe 2020 strategy. It includes – amongst others – integration of migrants, Roma inclusion, healthcare, shift to community-based services, improving access to basic services by marginalised and disabled communities, measures responding to the demographic challenges. Preparation of thematic guidance in the respective thematic fields falls also to Andor Urmos's responsibilities. He was graduated as a medical doctor and economist. Before the current job, he was employed by the Government of Hungary, in the Ministry of Social Affairs, as Head of Department for Roma Integration.

Allan Larsson

Allan Larsson has had a career as a journalist, Undersecretary of Labour, Director General of the Swedish Labour Market Board, Finance Minister, Member of Parliament, Director General of the EU Commission, chairman of Swedish Television and Lund University and a member of international commissions and advisory boards. He is currently involved in local development projects in Stockholm, Gotland and Småland and in a think-tank, Global Utmaning, in Stockholm. Since the beginning of this year, he is the Special Adviser to President Juncker on the Pillar of Social Rights.

Frank Sioen

Frank Sioen was born in Perpignan (France) and his mother tongue is Dutch. The subject of disability rights has always interested him both professionally and during his studies. In 2012 he finished a master in European politics with a thesis on the evolution of European policy regarding disabled people. The year after he wrote a paper about the impact of the European equal treatment directive on the working conditions of disabled people to obtain a masters in European law. In 2015 Frank Sioen started working for the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) as advocacy and Communications Officer. The European Accessibility Act and the European Pillar of Social Rights have been two important areas of his work for ENIL.

Jean-Bernard Audureau

Jean-Bernard holds a degree in Law and Communication and a master in Auditing. He gave classes at University and worked as a consultant for a communication agency. He speaks French, Spanish and English and has developed numerous skills in communication strategies, media and public relations, internal communication, events, digital publications and community management. He is now Director of Communication and Spokesperson of the General Association of Consumers ASGECO-Confederación. He is active in several forums and platforms of civil society to promote consumer commitment and active participation, he intervenes at national and international conferences. He is Vice-President of COFACE-Families Europe and represents the COFACE as expert in the European Consumer Consultative Group of the European Commission.

Miroslav Beblavý

Miroslav Beblavý is a Member of the Slovak Parliament (since 2010) and a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies CEPS (since 2009). Until 2014, he was also the Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. Between 2002 and 2006, he was the State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Slovakia. His areas of interest include employment and social policy, education policy, fiscal policy, governance and corruption. He is one of the co-authors of the CEPS study: "A European Unemployment Benefits Scheme: The rationale and the challenges ahead".

Liz Gosme

Liz Gosme is the incoming Director of COFACE Families Europe, a network of 59 platforms across 23 countries promoting the well-being, health and security of families and their members in a changing society. She is an EU social policy analyst with thirteen years of experience in EU affairs representing the interests of civil society organisations. She has worked extensively with various EU institutions contributing to building a social policy architecture for Europe, monitoring key frameworks such as the EU social open method of coordination, the EU Semester, the European Structural and Investment Funds, EU public procurement legislation, the EU urban agenda, EU-SILC monitoring in preparation of the 2011 population and housing census, taking part in key stakeholder consultative groups for these different frameworks.

Luca Jahier

Being a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) since 2002 working with the SOC and ECO Sections, Luca Jahier is currently the President of Group III, Various Interests, of the EESC. Recent opinions which he has drafted as rapporteur include the implementation of Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union on participatory democracy; and the social dimension of reform of the EMU. He is co-rapporteur of the EESC opinion on the European Pillar of Social Rights.