

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS:

EUROPE IN A LONG-RUN PERSPECTIVE

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Hotel Silken Berlaymont

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Europe today has lost its momentum. Recent success stories, such as the integration of Central and Eastern European countries, have been overshadowed by negative developments throughout the economic crisis. Rising unemployment, North/South as well as East/West divides and significant output losses are among the most prominent **problems facing Europe in the short-run**. Alongside these, globalisation, demography and climate change pose further **long-run challenges**.

To overcome these obstacles, scientific analysis is needed in order to develop a congruent strategy that re-focuses on the **core European strengths**:

- **social inclusion**
- a **dynamic economy**
- environmental **sustainability** on all levels.

WWWforEurope aims to bring together **research** from all of these different dimensions and find **strategic answers** that might help Europe to become a role model implementing innovative economic policies stressing social cohesion and environmental sustainability.

The scientific work in WWWforEurope has already been successful by pointing out the potential existing within the European Union:

Investing in innovation, education, ambitious ecological standards and especially the welfare state have proven to increase competitiveness. Further recommendations call for new industrial policies and collaboration with other players both regionally and on the national and international level.

All these **policy strategies** need to take into account the heterogeneity across EU member states, issues of **governance** and the **political economy of reforms**. WWWforEurope deals with all these issues.

The symposium seeks to **tie together** the aforementioned **scientific analysis** in its diverse dimensions and create a **strategy towards a new European model** (a "high road strategy"). In panels focusing on the social dimension, resource use and growth as well as the interrelations between innovation, employment and the environment, experts and policy makers will discuss important aspects of such a model. By **exchanging ideas and receiving expert input**, stakeholders will gain a vision of the common path ahead to create a European Union that offers attractive employment within an innovative economic environment that is socio-ecologically sustainable.

Who should attend?

- European institutions and agencies
- Social partner organisations
- Trade unions
- Employers' confederations
- Economic development agencies
- Non-governmental institutions
- Economic, political and social science think tanks
- Media
- Environmental groups
- Academics and universities
- Women's interest groups and associations
- Youth organisations
- Local authorities
- International and regional organisations
- Employment agencies
- Social security institutions
- Social workers organisations
- Students
- Teachers
- and everybody interested in a new „European model“

“WWWforEurope is a unique research investment looking at the new growth path for Europe. Global changes, innovation, adaptation of jobs and beyond GDP require us to think differently to Welfare, Wealth and Work. A European socio-ecological transition is under way.”

Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero, European Commission, DG RTD

09.30 - 10.00 **Welcoming Remarks**



Karl Aiginger is the director of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) and project coordinator of WWWforEurope. He teaches at the Vienna University of Economic and Business Administration and is managing editor of the Journal of Industry, Competition and Trade (JICT).



Peter Dröll is in charge of the Innovation Union and European Research Area in the European Commission's Research and Innovation Department. This Directorate is about creating the conditions for excellent research and innovation throughout Europe.

Keynotes

10.00 - 11.00

The Need for a New "European Model"

Marianne Thyssen became European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility in November 2014.

She entered European Parliament in 1991 and was re-elected 5 times. During her almost 23 years as a member of European Parliament, she mainly focused on economic and social issues.



High Road for Competitiveness

Karl Aiginger (Project Coordinator of WWWforEurope)

The "European Model" and Global Long-run Development

Jeffrey D. Sachs serves as the Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals, having held the same position under former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He is Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Sachs is a member of WWWforEurope's Policy Board.



Participating via
live video feed

11.00 - 12.00 **The Short- and Long-run Policy Agenda in Europe:
The Social Dimension**

CHAIR: Kurt Kratena (WIFO)

Reconciling the Long- and Short-run Perspective



Roger Little is a UK Labour member of the House of Lords, chair of Policy Network and a pro-chancellor of the University of Lancaster. From 1997-2004 he was special adviser on European affairs to the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair. From 2004-2007 he served in the EC.

Labour Market Reforms for Europe After the Crisis



Atılım Seymen was researcher at the research group "Business Cycles and Growth" of the Center for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim from November 2007 to December 2013. He has been working at the Financial Stability Division of the Deutsche Bundesbank since 2014.



DISCUSSANT: Elena Flores is Director of Policy Strategy and Coordination, Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission since 2011. Previously, she was Director, Economies of Member States II (from 2007) and head of the unit for Public Finance in the Euro area and the EU (from 2002).



DISCUSSANT: Józef Niemiec is Deputy General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). He is responsible for: employment and labour market policy; Health & Safety; the Europe 2020 strategy: Sustainable Development; Energy and Climate Change; Industrial Policy and EU enlargement. Confederal Secretary of ETUC from 2003 to 2011.



COFFEE BREAK

**Policy Panel: The Future of the "European Model"
and the Aftermath of the Crisis**

12.30 - 13.30

CHAIR: Rene Höltzchi has been the economic and business correspondent for the Swiss daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ) in Brussels since 1999. Before assuming this position, he was based in Vienna and covered the economic transition of Central and Eastern Europe. Prior to becoming a journalist, he was a researcher at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.



Karl Aiginger (Project Coordinator of WWWforEurope)

Miguel Gil Tertre is a member of the Cabinet of Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness at the EC: His main task is to coordinate the investment initiative. A Commission official since 2007, Miguel Gil Tertre joined the private office of the Director General in charge of Economic and Financial from 2011 to 2014, during the so-called Eurocrisis.



Janneke Plantenga is Professor of Economics of the Utrecht University School of Economics (U.S.E.), the Netherlands. Her research interest focuses on labour market flexibilisation, the reconciliation of work and family and (European) social policy. She is Equality Manager of WWWforEurope.



André Sapir is University Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Senior Fellow of Bruegel, the Brussels-based think tank and Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR). Between 1990 and 2004, he worked 12 years for the EC. From 2005 to 2009 he was external member of President José Manuel Barroso's Economic Advisory Group.



Frank Vandembroucke was Minister for Social Security, Health Insurance, Pensions and Employment in the Belgian Federal Government (1999-2004), and Minister for Education and Employment in the Flemish Regional Government (2004-2009). He is now a full time professor at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven).



LUNCH BREAK

14.30 - 15.30

Long-run Growth and Absolute Decoupling of Resource Use



CHAIR: Kurt Bayer was economist at WIFO (1971-95); deputy director general for economic policy at the Austrian Ministry of Finance (1995-2008); board director at the World Bank Group (2001-2004) and at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (2008-2012). He is a member of WWWforEurope's Policy Board.



Labour and Carbon Productivity in Europe

Jeroen van den Bergh is ICREA Research Professor and deputy director for research of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He leads the research area "The Environmental and Biophysical Dimension" within WWWforEurope.



Global Resource Scenarios and a Resource Roadmap for Europe

Marina Fischer-Kowalski founded the Institute of Social Ecology in Vienna, where she teaches as professor of the Alpen Adria University. She was president of the International Society of Industrial Ecology, and currently she is President of the International Society for Ecological Economics.



Kurt Kratena is researcher at WIFO Research. Recently, he has published the description of a dynamic econometric input-output model for the EU 27 (FIDELIO) which is to be applied for economy/energy/environment policy analysis at the JRC/IPTS of the EC. Kratena is deputy coordinator of WWWforEurope.



DISCUSSANT: Monica Frassoni was elected a member of the European Parliament in 1999 for the Belgian Greens. In the European elections of June 2004, she was re-elected at the EP with the Italian Greens. From 2002 to 2009 Monica Frassoni was Co-President of the Green/EFA Group in the EP, together with Daniel Cohn-Bendit. From October 2009 she has been co-Chair of the European Green Party.



COFFEE BREAK

Innovation, Employment and the Environment

16.00 - 17.00

CHAIR: Kurt Bayer

Green Innovation and Employment

Georg Licht is head of the department of Industrial Economics and International Management at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim, Germany. He was a member of various expert groups advising the DG Research and Innovation, the OECD and the German ministry of education and research.



Innovation Policies for Ecological Transition: Powering the Green Innovation Machine

Reinhilde Veugelers is a full professor at KU Leuven, Belgium. From 2004-2008, she was on academic leave, as advisor at the EC (Bureau of European Policy Analysis). She currently serves on the ERC Scientific Council. She is a member of the RISE Expert Group advising the EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation.



DISCUSSANT: Kumi Kitamori is Head of Green Growth & Global Relations Division at the OECD Environment Directorate. During 2005-2006, she served as Advisor to the OECD Secretary-General. Prior to joining the OECD in 2000, Kumi was at the World Bank where she worked extensively in South and Southeast Asia on urban and environmental infrastructure projects.



DISCUSSANT: Thomas Wieser is the Brussels-based President of the Euro Working Group, and Chairman of the European Union's Economic and Financial Committee. Prior to that he was Director General for Economic Policy and Financial Markets of the Austrian Ministry of Finance, Vienna.



17.00

Closing Remarks

Karl Aiginger (Project Coordinator of WWWforEurope)