



WELFARE, WEALTH AND WORK:

A NEW STRATEGY FOR EUROPE

February 25th, 2016

Hotel Silken Berlaymont

Boulevard Charlemagne 11

Brussels



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 290647.

WELFARE, WEALTH AND WORK: A STRATEGIC EUROPEAN APPROACH

The European Union has demonstrated a tremendous **success story of** unification and implementation of a **joint currency** for 330 million people. Nevertheless, in the last years, the European project has shown the **need** for a consistent, **longer-term strategy, a vision** that again sparks enthusiasm and support for this project.

For the last four years **WWWforEurope** has worked on such a **strategic approach** in close communication with policy makers, the research community and stakeholders – the **results** of this research work and the policy conclusions are to be presented and discussed **at this symposium:**

WWWforEurope's overall vision is that by 2050 Europe will have become a role model for a **dynamic, open, and pluralistic** economic area characterised by **limited income differences**, absolute **decline of emissions** and resource use and positive spillovers to neighbours and the world at large.

In the **short and medium run** this will mean fostering dynamics and employment via **consolidation and reprogramming**, while in **the long run** Europe should become front-runner in a **socio-ecological transition** with high priority of sustainability and Beyond GDP goals.

For both these stages a pro-active strategy towards a **“high road of competitiveness”** is needed, based on strengthening capabilities in education, innovation, institutions, activating social policy, and ecological ambition.

In the foreseeable future the European economy is not prepared for slow growth. To tackle the problems of **unemployment, poverty and public debt** industrialised countries have to restart growth. But this **cannot be achieved by a business as usual approach** – instead, investment in change is needed, meaning reprogramming towards new, environmentally sustainable infrastructure, social innovation, and changing institutions.

In the long run a double decoupling is called for: a **decoupling of emissions from output** and a **decoupling of employment and social welfare from output growth**. This can be achieved by strengthening the capabilities in large realms: ecologically by striving for a low-carbon (and probably low-growth) economy, industrially by focussing on ecological and social innovation, socially by activation and equal opportunities, regionally by more involvement and integration of local stakeholders and, last but not least, governmentally by increasing **transparency and consistency of institutions**.

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“

WELFARE, WEALTH AND WORK: A STRATEGIC EUROPEAN APPROACH

FEBRUARY 25th, 2016

PROGRAMME

10.30 – 11.20 WELCOMING REMARKS

Karl Aiginger (Project Coordinator of WWWforEurope)



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.



Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero is Principal Administrator at the European Commission, DG for Research and Innovation. His themes of predilections deal with the New paths of economic growth; Global Europe; Socio-ecological transition; and Smart urban futures. He coordinates the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge on "Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies".



Kenneth Arrow won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics in 1972 and is recipient of the National Medal of Science. He is the author of numerous path breaking contributions to social choice theory and general equilibrium analysis. "Arrow's Impossibility Theorem" is his brain child. Today Kenneth Arrow is the Joan Kenney Professor Emeritus at Stanford University and member of the IPPC and the Scientific Board of WWforEurope.

11.20 – 11.45 SUMMARY OF MAIN RESULTS OF THE PROJECT



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).

COFFEE BREAK

12.00 – 12.25 HOW TO COMBINE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WITH DYNAMICS AND INNOVATION



Reinhilde Veugelers is a full professor at KULeuven, Belgium. From 2004 to 2008, she was on academic leave, as advisor at the European Commission (BEPA Bureau of European Policy Analysis). She was the President-Elect of EARIE (European Association for Research in Industrial Economics). 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.

12.25 – 12.50 SOCIAL INVESTMENT



Thomas Leoni is a senior researcher at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO). His research covers topics in labour economics, particularly health-related labour market issues, comparative social policy and industrial relations. He has been teaching at various Austrian universities and is currently affiliated with the Disability Research Center at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) in Boston.

12.50 – 13.15 REFORM RESISTANCE AND REFORM STRATEGIES



Friedrich Heinemann is head of the public finance department at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim as well as professor of economics at the University of Heidelberg. Friedrich Heinemann is board member of the Arbeitskreis Europäische Integration, Berlin, and member of the board of trustees of the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), Berlin. His research interests are empirical public finance with a special focus on issues of European integration, fiscal federalism, taxation and fiscal policies.

LUNCH BREAK

14.00 – 14.25 THE REGIONAL DIMENSION OF SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION



Thomas Sauer is Professor of Economics at the Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences in Jena, Germany since 2002. He is member of the American Economic Association, the International Society for Ecological Economics, the Regional Studies Association, the World Economic Association, and the Scientific Advisory Board of Attac Germany. His key qualifications as economic researcher are international and regional economics, economic systems, technological change, environmental economics, and the analysis of collective decision-making.

14.25 – 14.50 SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



Marina Fischer-Kowalski founded the Institute of Social Ecology in Vienna, Austria, 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. She is interested in social metabolism across history, on global, national and local scales, and investigates how it relates to social dynamics (quality of life, equity, division and quality of labour, time use) and to environmental change.

COFFEE BREAK

15.10 – 15.40 WRAP-UP



Franz Fischler is President of the think tank „European Forum Alpbach“. Between 1989 and 1994 he was Austrian Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry. From 1995 to 2004 Franz Fischler was European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries Policy. Furthermore, in 2014/2015 he was the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the EU's scientific programme for Expo Milano 2015 and since December 2015, he is the President of the Board of Trustees to the Austrian Institute of Advanced Studies (IHS).



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.

15.40 – 16.40 POLICY PANEL: CAN EUROPE TAKE THE LEAD?



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 WWFforEurope's Policy Board.

Karl Aiginger (Project Coordinator of WWFforEurope)



Anton Hemerijck is Professor of Institutional Policy Analysis at the VU University Amsterdam and Centennial Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics. Until February 2014 he was dean of the Faculty of the Social Science at VU Amsterdam, while also acting as vice-rector International Affairs. Over the past two decades he advised the European Commission and several EU Presidencies on numerous occasions on European social policy. Between 2012 and 2014 he was a member of Social Investment Package Expert Group of the European Commission.



Adam Posen is President of the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Previously, Adam Posen worked in finance in Germany following reunification and consulted for the UK Cabinet Office on the successful London G20 crisis summit of 2009. He is in his fifth term as an economic adviser to the US Congressional Budget Office. He has been a visiting fellow or consultant to over a dozen central banks in Europe and Asia, as well as to various departments of the IMF and the US government.

16.40 – 16.55 RESULTS OF OPINION SURVEY



Hans Pitlik is a senior researcher in public economics at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) and a lecturer at the University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany. He works on constitutional economics, fiscal federalism and on the political economy of market-oriented policy reforms. The focus of his recent research is on determinants of individual attitudes towards economic policies, and on the relationship of economic freedom, social trust and individual life satisfaction.

16.55 CLOSING REMARKS



Karmenu Vella is European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries since 2014 and responsible for implementing the new Common Fisheries Policy. He was a Member of the Maltese Parliament from 1976 to 2014 and held posts as Minister for Public Works, Industry, and Tourism and Aviation in Malta. Karmenu Vella holds degrees in architecture and tourism management.