



# *Traineeship Welcome Conference*

## **Thematic session 1:**

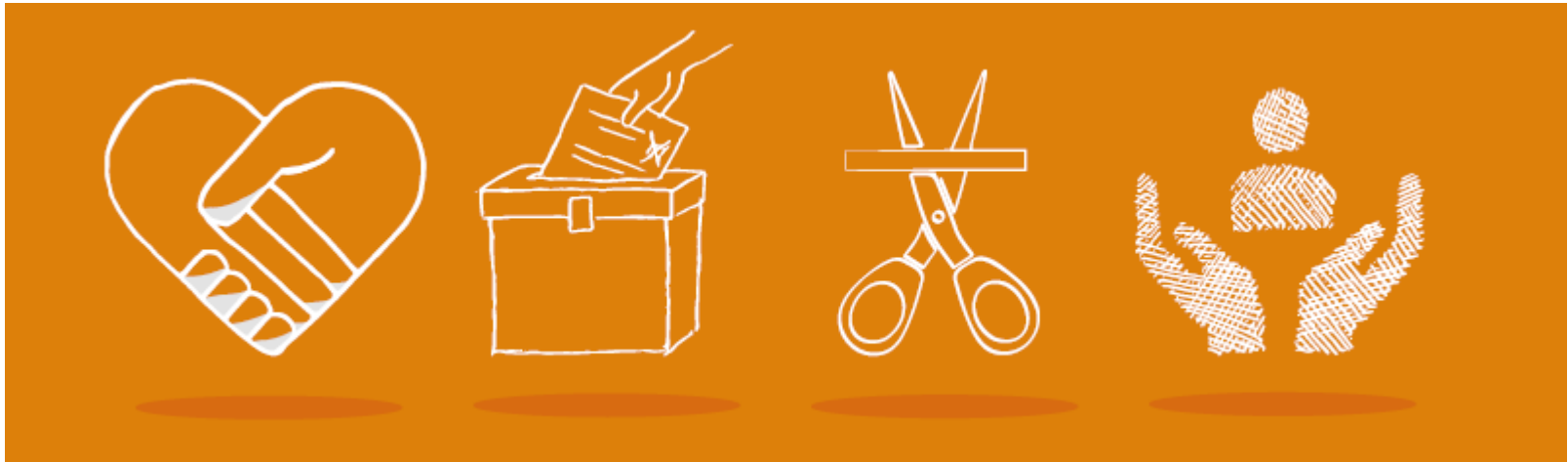
**"A social Europe, with equal rights for its citizens"**

***by Johan Ten Geuzendam, DG JUST***

**Moderator: Victor Aguilar  
Rapporteur: Karin-Liis Lahtmäe**

***Brussels, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017***

# A social Europe, with equal rights for its citizens



**Johan ten Geuzendam**  
*DG JUSTICE & CONSUMERS*

# A social Europe, what do we have?

*For example:*

- ***Coordination of Social Security***
- ***Occupational Health and Safety legislation***
- ***The European Social Fund***

# The EU Social Pillar

*3 main categories of the pillar:*

- Equal opportunities and access to labour market*
- Fair working conditions*
- Social protection and inclusion*

*Delivering on the principles and rights defined under the European Pillar of Social Rights is a **joint responsibility** of EU institutions, Member States, social partners and other stakeholders.*

# Equality and non-discrimination

***The EU combats discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and sex.***

# Gender equality: Strategic Engagement 2016-2019

- increasing female labour-market participation + equal economic independence of women / men;*
- reducing the gender pay, earnings and pension gaps and thus fighting poverty among women;*
- promoting equality between women and men in decision-making;*
- combating gender-based violence;*
- promoting gender equality across the world*

## What is EU citizenship?

Citizens of an EU Member State are also EU citizens. EU citizenship does not replace national citizenship, it **adds to it**.

EU citizens have rights, such as the right to free movement in the European Union, and the right to vote and stand as a candidate in municipal and European Parliament elections wherever one lives in the EU. Ensuring that EU citizenship rights are effective in practice is a priority for the European Commission.

# The EU Citizenship Report 2017 package

The package consists of:

- COM(2017)30 – "Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic change"
  - **Sets out 12 priorities for 2017-2019;**
  - **Reports on 2013 EU Citizenship Report actions (completed)**
    - such as e.g. the e-learning tool on free movement rules to train officials who welcome EU citizens in the different EU countries
- and COM(2017)32 – Article 25 Report, covering developments in the field of EU Citizenship for the period from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2016
  - **COM reports every three years on the application of the provisions of non-discrimination and Union citizenship.**



## Possible questions

*Is there a social Europe, is Europe really social?*

*During the crisis of 2008 and the following years, didn't the EU do much more to save banks than it ever did for any social objectives?*

*Is it useful to have European rules in the social area, or should they rather be left to the Member States?*

## Possible questions

*What is the (added) value of having European rules in the social area, for example on gender equality, LGBTI, non-discrimination?*

*Is there a link between equal rights for EU citizens and the Rule of Law?*

*What do you prefer: EU citizenship or national citizenship?*

***Thank you!***

## Practical information:

- **Do not forget to take all your personal belongings** (coat, luggage, etc.)
- **Lunch:** it is possible to eat in the European Parliament. 3 options: canteen/sandwicherie/*Les Filles* restaurant – all of them on level 0 (entrance floor level)

*How to get there?* Go across the footbridge next to the hemicycle ➡ take the escalators on the left ➡ descend two floors.