



# Conference on Restoring Socio-Economic Convergence in Europe

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organised by the European Commission, DG EMPL  
10 October 2013 – Hotel Bloom, 250 Rue Royale, Brussels

### **8:30** *Registration & coffee*

### **9:30 – 10:15** **Opening session**

Chair: László Andor (EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion)

Opening speeches: José Manuel Barroso (President of the European Commission) and Herman Van Rompuy (President of the European Council)

### **10:15 – 11:30** **Why does socio-economic convergence in the Economic and Monetary Union matter?**

Chair: László Andor

Panelists: Anton Hemerijck (University of Amsterdam)  
Kurt Hübner (University of British Columbia)  
Heikki Patomäki (University of Helsinki)

### *Short break*

### **11:45 – 13:00** **Detecting key employment and social imbalances and challenges in the EMU**

- **Presentation of the proposed scoreboard of key employment and social indicators relevant for the EMU's well-functioning**

Presentation: László Andor

Discussants: Enrico Giovannini (Minister of Labour and Social Policies, Italy)  
Sandra Polaski (Deputy Director-General, ILO)  
Mark Keese (Head of the Employment Analysis and Policy Division, OECD)

### *Lunch*

## **14:30 – 15:30 Strengthening employment and social policy coordination**

- **Deepening the involvement of the EPSCO Council and its committees' in the European Semester; development of policy benchmarks**

Chair: Algimanta Pabedinskienė (Minister of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania)

Presentation: Koos Richelle (Director-General, European Commission, DG EMPL)

Video message: Pedro Mota Soares (Minister of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security, Portugal)

Discussants: Tom Bevers (Chair of the Employment Committee)  
Thomas Dominique (Chair of the Social Protection Committee)

## **15:30 – 16:15 Social aspects in the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure**

Chair: Pablo Zalba Bidegain (Vice-Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, European Parliament)

Presentation: Anne Bucher (Director, European Commission, DG ECFIN)

Discussants: Guntram Wolff (Director, Bruegel)  
Marshall Auerback (Director of Institutional Partnerships, Institute for New Economic Thinking)

### ***Coffee***

## **16:45 – 18:00 Concluding roundtable with social partners**

Chair: László Andor

Roundtable: Thierry Repentin (Minister for European Affairs, France)  
Gunilla Almgren (UEAPME)  
Markus Beyrer (BusinessEurope)  
Valeria Ronzitti (CEEP)  
Bernadette Ségol (ETUC)