



*Employment and
Social Developments in Europe*

Sustainable growth for all:

*choices for the future of
Social Europe*

Programme



27 September 2019, Brussels

#ESDE2019

In cooperation with the

Social Europe



European Economic and Social Committee



European
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SUSTAINABLE GROWTH FOR ALL: Employment and Social

8:00 – 9:00	Registration & welcome coffee
9:00 – 10:45	<p>Welcome and opening session - Sustainable growth for all: choices for the future of Social Europe</p> <p><i>This session will introduce the topic of the conference and present the main findings and policy-relevant conclusions of the 2019 edition of the Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) review. The panel will discuss the broad policy implications of the main ESDE findings, with a focus on sustainable growth and just transition, the social dimension of sustainable development, and the role of investment, innovation, public policies and social dialogue.</i></p>
Moderator:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamsin Rose (<i>Senior Fellow, Friends of Europe</i>)
	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luca Jahier (<i>President, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)</i>) <p>Opening speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marianne Thyssen (<i>European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility</i>) <p>Highlights of ESDE 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Kauffmann (<i>Director for Employment and Social Governance, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</i>)
Panellists:	<p>Panel discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Hegarty (<i>Assistant Secretary, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation; Member of the National Competitiveness Council, Ireland</i>) • Lucas Chancel (<i>Professor, Sciences Po, Paris; Co-director, World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics; Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, Paris</i>) • Liina Carr (<i>Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)</i>) • Rebekah Smith (<i>Deputy Director for Social Affairs, BusinessEurope</i>) • Carina Autengruber (<i>President, European Youth Forum</i>)
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:15	<p>Thematic Session 1 - Economic sustainability: enabling sustainable and inclusive growth</p> <p><i>Planetary and other boundaries and new scarcities may require a re-design of economic growth, away from relying on the expansion of factor input, towards higher efficiency in the use of productive factors, notably through innovation and research. How can we foster innovation and promote faster diffusion of existing technologies? What role do social dialogue and social policies play for improving total factor productivity?</i></p>
Moderator:	Tamsin Rose
Introduction:	Main ESDE findings by authors
Panellists:	<p>Panel discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ilze Zvidrina (<i>Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare, Latvia; Chair of the Employment Committee, EMCO</i>) • Eric Bartelsman (<i>Professor, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; General Director, Tinbergen Institute</i>) • Ana Fontoura Gouveia (<i>Economic Research Department, Banco de Portugal; Universidade Nova Lisbon</i>) • Özlem Onaran (<i>Professor, Greenwich University; Director, Greenwich Political Economy Research Centre</i>) • Armando Garcia Schmidt (<i>Senior Project Manager 'Shaping Sustainable Economies' and 'Inclusive Productivity', Bertelsmann Foundation</i>)



12:15 – 13:30	Buffet lunch
13:30 – 14:45	Thematic Session 2 - Social sustainability: investing in people, essential services and housing
	<i>Social policies and social investment can raise activity, employment and productivity, while alleviating unfavourable social situations and enhancing sustainability and upward convergence. The session will discuss the role of investment in childcare and long-term care provision for equal opportunities and the labour market participation of women; the role of retraining and upskilling for managing labour market transitions and mobility; and the role of affordable housing and housing policies for sustainable growth and development.</i>
Moderator:	Tamsin Rose
Introduction:	Main ESDE findings by authors
Panellists:	<p>Panel discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rait Kuuse (Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia; Chair of the Social Protection Committee, SPC) • Maurizio Bussolo (Lead Economist, World Bank) • Anton Hemerijck (Professor, European University Institute (EUI), Florence) • Olga Strietska-Ilina (Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, Employment Policy Department, ILO) • Cédric van Styvendael (President, Housing Europe; Director-General, GIE La Ville Autrement, Lyon)
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:15	Thematic Session 3 - Environmental sustainability: mitigating social impacts of climate action
	<i>Climate action has an impact on the economy and on employment, income and skills, and the transition to a low-carbon economy is not inclusive by default. Climate-related investments bring long-term, universal benefits while having short-term, mainly concentrated costs. What are the policies that would have a beneficial impact on both the environment and people and help gain public support? How can related costs be shared fairly? How can risks be mitigated? How effectively have social dialogue and civil society actors helped to promote new, sustainable forms of production and consumption?</i>
Moderator:	Tamsin Rose
Introduction:	Main ESDE findings by authors
Panellists:	<p>Panel discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bjørn Hvinden (Professor, Oslo Metropolitan University; former Director, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)) • Piotr Lewandowski (President, Institute for Structural Research (IBS), Warsaw; Research Fellow, Institute of the Future of Labor (IZA), Bonn) • Domenico Campogrande (General Secretary, European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)) • Livia Spera (acting General Secretary, European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)) • Breda Kutin (President, Slovenian Consumers' Association)
16:15-16:45	Closing session/remarks - Sustainable growth for all: choices for the future of Social Europe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Schmidt (President, EESC Sustainable Development Observatory) • Joost Korte (Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission)



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Speakers' Biographies

Welcome remarks



Luca **JAHIER**

President, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Luca Jahier has been the President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) since April 2018. He has been a member of the EESC since 2002, where he has worked extensively on the European Union's social and cohesion policies, as well as on international issues. From 2008 to 2012, he was the President of ACLI's National Council (Associazioni Cristiane Lavoratori Italiani). He served as President of FOCSIV, the Italian Federation of non-Governmental Organization for the International Voluntary Service, from 1994 to 1999. Luca Jahier has previously worked with the CISV (Comunità Impegno Servizio Volontariato) and other Italian and European NGOs that are active in the field of international cooperation. He is a former journalist and an international political analyst, and he has numerous years of experience in social advancement development programmes in developing countries, mainly in Africa.

Opening speech



Marianne **THYSSEN**

European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

Marianne Thyssen is Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. Her portfolio includes overseeing European Union policy on employment, social affairs, vocational training, skills, labour market reforms and social inclusion, including workplace equality legislation. She is also responsible for the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat). She studied Law at the Catholic University of Leuven where she had her first job at the Law Faculty. Prior to her political career, she was working for UNIZO for more than 10 years (SME representative organisation). After that, she served as a Member of the European Parliament (1991-2014) and as Vice-Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. Marianne Thyssen was also the party leader of the Flemish Christian-Democratic Party (CD&V) and the First Vice-President of the EPP Group in the European Parliament. She was elected Vice-President of the European People's Party in October 2015.

Moderator



Tamsin **ROSE**

Senior Fellow, Friends of Europe

Tamsin Rose is a facilitator and trainer with more than 25 years of experience of European policies and programmes. A political science graduate with experience in communications and journalism, Tamsin has lived in Belgium, France and Russia. After reporting for Radio Maximum, Moscow she worked in the Press section of the EU Delegation in Moscow. Tamsin managed a multi-million Euro programme that twinned cities in Europe with their counterparts in the former Soviet countries. From 2002 until 2005 she was the Secretary-General of the European Public Health alliance. An independent consultant since 2006, Tamsin has worked for foundations, NGOs and EU institutions on a range of projects from strengthening human rights to scaling up e-health activities. A strong advocate, she has a particular interest in helping organisations to achieve positive change. Tamsin is a senior fellow at Friends of Europe.



Opening session - Sustainable growth for all: choices for the future of Social Europe



Barbara **KAUFFMANN**

Director of Employment and Social Governance, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Barbara Kauffmann is the director for employment and social governance at the European Commission (Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion). Her current responsibilities include analysis and the coordination of EU country surveillance in employment and social matters (European Semester, implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights) as well as Social Dialogue. She is also in charge of the support of Greece and Cyprus notably through the European Social Fund. Barbara Kauffmann studied economics at the University of Heidelberg and the University of Florida (Ph.D.). After working at the Kiel Institute of World Economics and the German Ministry of Finance, she joined the Commission (Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs) in 1991, where she was in charge of country analysis and macro programme implementation for various countries before taking over the coordination of EU economic and fiscal policy surveillance.



David **HEGARTY**

Assistant Secretary, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation; Member of the National Competitiveness Council, Ireland

David Hegarty is an Assistant Secretary at Ireland's Department (Ministry) of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and heads up the Department's Enterprise Strategy, Competitiveness and Evaluation Division. He works with other divisions in the Department and with other Government Departments with the aim of ensuring that public policy supports a strong, competitive enterprise sector in Ireland. The Division provides evidence-based support to the work of the Department and works across the Irish government to enhance the business environment in areas such as skills, taxation, essential infrastructures, competitiveness and productivity. In conjunction with the Prime Minister's Department (Department of An Taoiseach), the Division leads on the Government's Future Jobs Ireland initiative. Future Jobs Ireland is a multi-year framework focused on key economic challenges facing Ireland including increasing SME productivity and raising labour market participation. It is also about positioning Ireland's economy and society to deal with the challenges of digitalisation and the transition to a low carbon economy. An economist by profession, David previously worked in the Department of Finance.



Lucas **CHANCEL**

Professor, Sciences Po, Paris; Co-director, World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics; Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, Paris

Lucas Chancel is an economist, specialised in inequality and in environmental policy. His work focuses on the measurement of economic inequality, its interactions with sustainable development and on the implementation of social and ecological policies. Lucas Chancel is Co-Director of the World Inequality Lab, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and Lecturer at Sciences Po. He was coordinator of the World Inequality Report 2018 and is one of the main contributors to the UNDP's Human Development Report 2019.



Liina **CARR**

Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Liina Carr was re-elected ETUC Confederal Secretary in 2019, having first been elected in 2015. Her responsibilities at ETUC include macroeconomic policy, economic governance and the European Semester, the European Pillar of Social Rights, social protection, external relations, implementation of UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the EU and development cooperation, as well as human resources. Liina has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 2004. From 2015-2019 she handled a wide range of issues at ETUC including trade, mobility, posting of workers, the European Labour Authority, migration, social protection and development cooperation policies. Liina studied law and worked in the private sector in Estonia and Britain and worked in academia and the public sector in UK. In 2002 she started working for the Confederation of Estonian Trade Unions (EAKL) where she served as International Secretary from 2004 to 2015. During EU accession, she was part of the trade union team working with the Estonian government to implement EU social and labour legislation.



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Rebekah **SMITH**

Deputy Director for Social Affairs, BusinessEurope

Rebekah Smith is Deputy Director in the Social Affairs department of BUSINESSEUROPE, managing the following policy areas: Sustainability, CSR & Diversity; Industrial relations, labour law & working conditions; and social/employment aspects of digitalisation. She has been working at BUSINESSEUROPE for ten years and in the field of EU affairs for fifteen years. She is a member of the management committee of the platform on EU implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. She coordinates employer members of the European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions. Previously she was Policy and

Communications Manager for a Brussels-based consultancy specialised in assisting UK SME representatives to be active on EU policy, as well as working for the EU Representation office of a UK region. Rebekah has a Master's degree in European Studies and studied at Hull University in the UK and Osnabrueck University in Germany.



Carina **AUTENGRUBER**

President, European Youth Forum

Carina Autengruber is the President of the European Youth Forum and originally from Austria. Her academic background is in development studies, gender studies and political science and she has been working in a consulting company for more than 8 years. From 2014 to 2016 Carina was active in the Austrian National Youth Council as European Youth Delegate representing the voice of young people living in Austria on European level. In 2017 and 2018 Carina served as Vice-President of the European Youth Forum focusing on EU affairs.

Thematic Session 1 - Economic sustainability: enabling sustainable and inclusive growth



Ilze **ZVĪDRIŅA**

Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare, Latvia; Chair of the Employment Committee, EMCO

Ilze Zvīdriņa is the Chair of the EU Employment Committee since August 2017 and Deputy Director of the Labour Market Policy Department at the Ministry of Welfare of Latvia. She has more than 10 years of experience in public sector with having been involved in employment/labour market policies and analysis including active labour market programmes, impact evaluations, minimum wage, mobility/migration, undeclared work, VET, work based learning, labour market integration of groups at risk of social exclusion, employment protection legislation, social assistance, benefits, and others. She designed and steered crisis

related active labour market policy measures during the financial, economic crisis in Latvia. She has studied at the BA School of Business and Finance and at the Institute for European Global Studies of the University of Basel.



Eric **BARTELSMAN**

Professor, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; General Director, Tinbergen Institute

Eric Bartelsman is Professor of Economics at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) in Amsterdam and General Director of the Tinbergen Institute. He holds a BS from MIT and a PhD from Columbia University. Prior to his appointment at VU in 2000, he served as economist at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington DC, as advisor to CPB Netherlands, and as Head of Economic Research at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands. In 2007 and 2008 he was a member of the Netherlands Council of Economic Advisors (REA), in 2012-13 and in 2018-19 he was non-resident Fellow of DG ECFIN and from 2013-17 he was a

Research Visitor at the ECB. His teaching ranges from first-year lectures to PhD seminars. His research interests are in the area of productivity growth, both from a micro and macro vantage point, and have led to publications in top journals.



Ana **FONTOURA GOUVEIA**

Economic Research Department, Banco de Portugal; Universidade Nova Lisbon

Ana Fontoura Gouveia holds a PhD in Economics from Nova School of Business and Economics and her research focuses on public policy and political economy. In 2018, she joined the Economics and Research Department of Banco de Portugal. Ana is also an invited Assistant Professor (Adjunct) at Nova SBE, where she is a member of the Economics for Policy research center. From 2015 to 2017, Ana was at the Portuguese Ministry of Finance, being responsible for the setting up of a new unit tasked with the ex-ante and ex-post assessment of structural reforms. She has also worked at the Portuguese Ministry for the Economy (2015), the European Central Bank (2008-2014) and Banco de Portugal (2004-2008). Over the years, Ana participated in different international fora focusing on public policy such as the Steering Group of the OECD Global Forum on Productivity (as co-chair, 2016/2017), the OECD Working Party number 1 on macroeconomic and structural policies analysis (2016/2017), the European Commission LIME Working group on structural policies and quantitative tools (2016/2017) and the European Commission Economic Policy Committee (2014).



Özlem **ONARAN**

Professor, Greenwich University; Director, Greenwich Political Economy Research Centre

Özlem Onaran is Professor of Economics at the University of Greenwich and the co-director of the Institute of Political Economy, Governance, Finance and Accountability. She is member of the Policy Advisory Group of the Women's Budget Group. She has more than eighty articles on issues of inequality, wage-led growth, employment, fiscal policy and gender. She has directed research projects for the UN International Labour Organisation, UNCTAD, ESRC Rebuilding Macroeconomics, the Institute for New Economic Thinking, the Foundation of European Progressive Studies, and Unions21.



Armando **GARCIA SCHMIDT**

Senior Project Manager 'Shaping Sustainable Economies' and 'Inclusive Productivity', Bertelsmann Foundation

Armando Garcia Schmidt has worked for the Bertelsmann Stiftung since 2001. The Bertelsmann Stiftung is a German foundation and think tank. Armando has conceived and led many initiatives of the Bertelsmann Stiftung on European and economic policy issues and sustainability policy. He is currently responsible for the "Productivity for Inclusive Growth" project. Armando is a trained historian and social scientist. He studied in Bielefeld, Madrid and Grenoble.

Thematic Session 2 - Social sustainability: investing in people, essential services and housing



Rait **KUUSE**

Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia; Chair of the Social Protection Committee, SPC

Mr. Kuuse has been working since 1999 in the public sector of Estonia, starting his career as a probation officer, moved in 2001 to the Ministry of Justice to deal with criminal justice reforms with focus on community sanctions and measures. Since spring 2014, he is working as a deputy secretary general on social policy in the Ministry of Social Affairs. He is responsible for the overall coordination and development of social policy of Estonia. He has been responsible for many statewide reforms, for example: pension reforms, workability reform and preparation of the new framework for the long-term care. He also directed several legislative and administrative changes in the area of social protection, child protection and equality policies and is responsible for EU funds use in his area of responsibility. Mr. Kuuse has been active internationally throughout his career, contributed actively to the projects of many international organisations and holds currently position of the Chair of EU Social Protection Committee. He has higher education in social work, graduated MBA programme on European studies at the Tartu University and is currently preparing a doctoral thesis at the University of Tallinn on the subject of deinstitutionalization.



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Maurizio **BUSSOLO**

Lead Economist, World Bank

Maurizio Bussolo, lead economist in the Chief Economist Office for South Asia, has been working on quantitative analyses of economic policy and development with research interests spanning both micro and macroeconomic topics. At the World Bank, he also worked in the Chief Economist Office for Europe and Central Asia and in the Development Economics Prospects Group; and he led operational teams in the aftermath of the 2008-09 crisis negotiating with Latin American and Caribbean governments the implementation of reforms to shield the most vulnerable. Before joining the World Bank in 2003, Bussolo worked at the OECD, at the

Overseas Development Institute in London, and at Fedesarrollo and the Los Andes University in Colombia. He has extensively published in peer-reviewed journals on trade, growth, poverty and income distribution. Some of his recent publications include 'Toward a New Social Contract', 'Golden Aging: Prospects for Healthy, Active, and Prosperous Aging' and 'The Impact of Macroeconomic Policies on Poverty and Income Distribution'. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Warwick.



Anton **HEMERIJCK**

Professor, European University Institute (EUI), Florence

Anton Hemerijck joined the EUI, as Professor of Political Science and Sociology, in January 2017. Trained as an economist at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, he took his doctorate from Oxford University. In his capacity of Dean of the Faculty of the Social Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, together with Jonathan Zeitlin, he founded with the University of Amsterdam, the Amsterdam Centre for Contemporary European Studies (ACCESS EUROPE). He also directed the Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR), the principle think tank in the Netherlands, while holding a professorship in Comparative European Social Policy at the

Erasmus University Rotterdam. Between 1996 and 2000 he was senior researcher at the Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne. In addition, he has held numerous visiting appointments, ranging from MIT to the University of Lisbon, the University of Antwerp, the Collegio Carlo Alberto of Turin University. Between 2014 and 2017, Anton Hemerijck was Centennial Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Over the past decade he frequently served as an advisor on social policy, social investment and the welfare state for the European Commission. Key publications include *Changing Welfare States* (2013) and *The Uses of Social Investment* (2017), both published with Oxford University Press.



Olga **STRIETSKA-ILINA**

Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, Employment Policy Department, ILO

Olga is a leader of the team which focuses on anticipating skills needs for the Future of Work. She works on skills for trade and economic diversification, skills for environmental sustainability, and skills for technological change. Before 2008, she worked on skills forecasting for Cedefop; she was Head of the Czech National Observatory of Employment and Training and taught International Relations at the Central European University. Olga holds degrees in Economic and Social Sciences, Sociology, and History. She published extensively on future skills, education, training, and broader social and cultural issues.



Cédric **VAN STYVENDAEL**

President, Housing Europe; Director-General, GIE La Ville Autrement, Lyon

Cédric Van Styvendael holds a master's degree in political science and a postgraduate degree in business training. After a first experience in the public education sector in charge of urban policy issues, he joined the consulting firm Habitat et Territoires Conseil focusing on issues of Urban Management, Urban Renewal and Strategy, Management and organization. In 2009, he became General Director of Est Métropole Habitat. In 2019 he took over the management of the GIE "LA Ville Autrement", which brings together 4 operators of social and affordable housing. He joined the Board of Housing Europe in 2015. Since June 2017 he is the

President of Housing Europe, the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing.



Thematic Session 3 - Environmental sustainability: mitigating social impacts of climate action



Bjørn **HVINDEN**

Professor, Oslo Metropolitan University; former Director, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)

Bjørn Hvinden is a sociologist and social welfare researcher at the NOVA Institute at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway. He has previously worked at the universities of Oslo, Trondheim and Tromsø and has been Professor of Sociology since 1995. He has been Visiting Scholar at a number of universities in Denmark, Finland, Japan, Germany, Sweden and United Kingdom. He acted as Head of Research at NOVA (2006-16) and Director of the same institute (2016-2018). He has been Coordinator of a Nordic Centre for Welfare Research (NordForsk 2007-2012), a FP7 EU project DISCIT on Active citizenship for Persons with Disabilities (2013-2016) and a Horizon 2020 project NEGOTIATE on Overcoming Early Job Insecurity in Europe (2015-2018). He has since 2014 coordinated a comparative European project on Sustainable Welfare Societies in Europe, funded by the Research Council of Norway. He has published a number of books and articles on social policy, welfare, employment, disability, youth unemployment, sustainability, climate policy and social protection. He has been Co-Chair of the ESPAnet (European Social Policy Analyst Network) 2014-2019.



Piotr **LEWANDOWSKI**

President, Institute for Structural Research (IBS), Warsaw; Research Fellow, Institute of the Future of Labor (IZA), Bonn

Piotr Lewandowski is a labour economist, a President of the Board at Institute for Structural Research (IBS), Warsaw, Poland, and a Research Fellow at IZA, Bonn, Germany. In the past he collaborated with Warsaw School of Economics and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in Poland. His research interests include the impact of technology on jobs, wage polarization, labour market segmentation, minimum wage, energy poverty, and the labour market effects of climate and energy policies.



Domenico **CAMPOGRANDE**

General Secretary, European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)

Domenico Campogrande was born in Italy and lives in Brussels. Holds a Master degree in Economics from the University of Louvain-La-Neuve (Belgium) and attended the University of Bologna (Italy) in the framework of the Erasmus programme. He started his career in the IT sector and joined FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation) in 1994, where until 2007 he was responsible for Economic and Legal matters dealing with issues such as statistics, public procurement, fiscal matters, development and financing of infrastructure, etc. From 2007 until June 2019 he has been the Director for Social Affairs covering 3 main areas of activities : education and training, occupational health and safety, employment and labour law issues. These topics, together with various other specific initiatives/projects, are also addressed in the EU Social Dialogue committee for the construction industry in which FIEC represents the employers. From July 2019 he is the Director General of FIEC.



Livia **SPERA**

acting General Secretary, European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)

Livia Spera studied Labour sociology at the university 'La Sapienza' and then obtained Master's in European Labour studies at the University of Milan and the University of Warwick. She joined the ETF in 2005 as political assistant and in 2011 became political secretary for the Dockers and Fisheries Sections. In May 2019 she was nominated ETF Acting General Secretary.



Breda **KUTIN**

President, Slovenian Consumers' Association

Breda Kutin is the founding member of the Slovene Consumers Association - ZPS and its President since 1990. She is the editor of the only consumer magazine in Slovenia, ZPSstest. She is one of the founder of the International Consumer Research Institute and since 1993 its director. She is a consumer advocate for 30 years and EU expert on consumer policy and capacity building of consumer NGOs. She has been a member of the Executive of BEUC since 2004, and was its Vice-President for three mandates. She was a Council member of Consumers International from 1994 to 2007 and its Treasurer from 2003 to 2007. From 2008 to 2014 she was a member of the Steering Committee of the TACD and EU chair in 2013/2014. Since 2004, she has been Slovenia's consumer representative to the European Consumer Consultative Group. She is member of several bodies in Slovenia, representing consumer interest.



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Closing session/remarks - Sustainable growth for all: choices for the future of Social Europe



Peter SCHMIDT
President, EESC Sustainable Development Observatory

Born in 1962, Peter Schmidt's first occupation was cheesemaker. Later on he was a regional officer of the NGG trade union (Food and Catering Union, affiliated to the DGB) for 27 years, in charge of dairy industries and bakeries. Since 2014 he has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)'s Group II (Workers). From 2015 to March 2018, he was the president of the EESC's Permanent Study Group on Sustainable Food Systems. Since April 2018, he has been the president of the EESC's Sustainable Development Observatory and one of the three EESC members steering the work of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, a joint initiative by the EESC and the European Commission.



Joost KORTE
Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Joost Korte was appointed Director General on the 16 March 2018. Joost Korte was Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Trade Department on January 1, 2017. Previously, the Dutch national served as Deputy Director-General in the Agriculture and Rural Development Department as well as in the Enlargement Department. Furthermore, Mr. Korte spent several years in the Commission's Secretariat General as Director responsible for the relations with the Council of Ministers and gained extensive experience in the Private offices of Sir Leon Brittan, Chris Patten and Danuta Hübner. These professional experiences within the European institutions allowed him to develop a profound understanding of EU decision-making. A lawyer by training, Joost Korte joined the Commission in 1991, following eight years of academic work on European law at the Universities of Utrecht and Edinburgh.



Key
messages



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue:

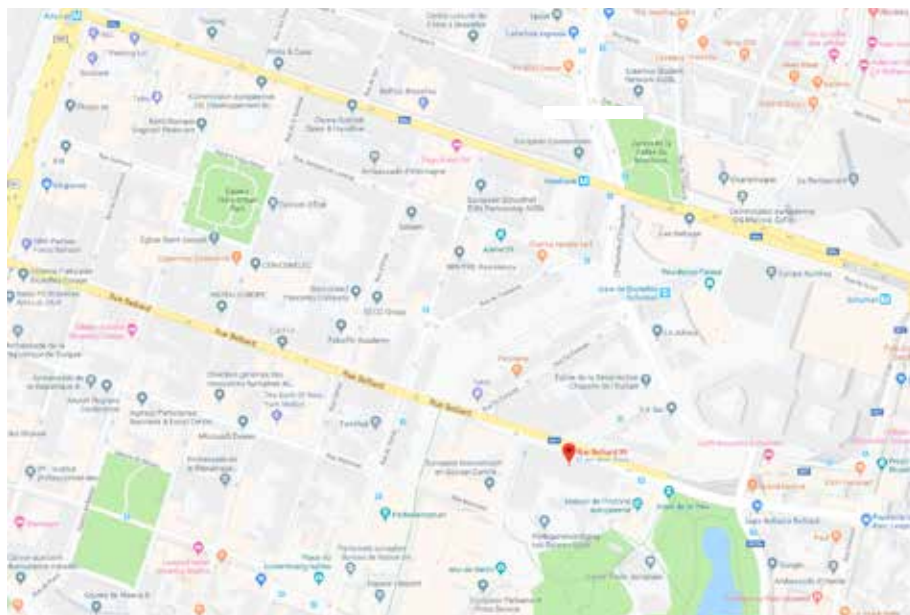
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Interpretation:

EN-FR-DE (speak and listen)

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