

Briefing file for President Jahier

Opening speech

***ESDE 2019 high-level conference: Sustainable growth for all:
choices for the future of Social Europe***

27 September 2019

EESC, JDE 52

CAB member responsible: Stefano Martinelli (8265)

Speaking slot: 10 minutes

Steering

- The conference is organised by the European Commission – DG Employment and Social Affairs in cooperation with the EESC, for the 3rd year and will take place in the EESC building (plenary room JDE 52). The event will bring together around 200 participants from EU and international organisations, Member States, social partners, academia and civil society.
- The **moderator** will first take the micro to precise the rules of interpretation and will invite you to take the floor from the **lectern**. You will be **opening the conference** with welcoming remarks.
- Your speech will precede the intervention by Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen
- In addition to the opening and closing panels, the conference will feature thematic panels on the main dimensions of sustainability: (1) economic sustainability: enabling sustainable and inclusive growth; (2) social sustainability: investing in people, essential services and housing; (3) environmental sustainability: mitigating social impacts of climate action
- The focus of the conference will be on the main findings of the review and policy implications of the Commission's 2019 edition of its annual review "Employment and Social Developments in Europe" (ESDE). This year's edition focuses on the topic of **sustainability** in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, including an assessment of **employment and social impacts of climate change policies**.

Lines to take:

- Welcome the conclusions of the ESDE report and the recognition that the **social dimension is inextricably linked to the economic and environmental dimensions** of sustainability.
- Congratulate Commissioner Marianne Thyssen for her work, thank her for the excellent cooperation with the EESC and welcome the political guidelines presented by Commission President-elect von der Leyen and highlight that the announced **European Green Deal** should also include the social dimension – it should be a European Green **and social** Deal.
- Stress the **importance of the sustainability agenda** for your Presidency and the EESC as a whole. The **implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offers a unique opportunity** to achieve the paradigm shift and systemic change that are urgently needed to face the unprecedented environmental, social and economic challenges that the EU and the world are facing today.
- Mainstreaming the SDGs in all EU internal and external policies should therefore become the top priority for the new Commission, which should adopt **an overarching strategy on sustainable development** reconciling the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability.
- All three dimensions are essential for the achievement of the SDGs :
 - **Economic sustainability** – we have to go beyond GDP growth policies
 - **Social sustainability** – it is vital to link sustainable development with social policy, investing in people, essential services and housing, and the European Pillar of Social Rights
 - **Environmental sustainability** – we must address the urgency of environmental challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, air pollution etc. while mitigating the social impacts of the transition

Speech

- Distinguished speakers, ladies and gentlemen,
- Dear Commissioner Thyssen,
- It is a pleasure for me to open this conference today. For the third year, the European Commission is organising this event to launch the review "Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE)" in cooperation with the EESC, and we are honoured to host it in our premises – the house of organised civil society.
- The focus of this year's report – "**Sustainable growth for all: choices for the future of social Europe**" – is particularly close to my heart. I believe that we cannot end poverty and build a much fairer society while leaving our planet at the mercy of exploitation. **Sustainable development is the answer** to address in a systemic way today's challenges – this is why I made it the top priority of my Presidency, stressing that we need to "dare a sustainable Europe".

- World leaders have met this week in New York for the United Nations Climate Action Summit to boost ambition and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Collective national political ambition is growing and there are massive movements in the real economy in support of the agenda. Youth are strongly engaged and demand immediate action to stop climate change. **The momentum is high to step up global and EU's efforts on sustainable development.**
- As pointed out by many experts and also by Enrico Giovannini, the founder of AsVis, an extremely efficient network that gathers employers, trade unions and several other key players fighting for a sustainable future "Today we are consuming more than what the planet can afford: we should bear in mind that we are only guests of the planet earth, nothing more. So, fighting for sustainable development is no longer an option, it is an imperative and, moreover, an imperative that cannot be postponed".

- The **social dimension is fully linked to the economic and environmental dimensions** of sustainability – and the ESDE report clearly demonstrates this. We must ensure that the transition to a circular and climate-neutral economy **leaves no one behind**.
- All European, national and subnational institutions should build up **support for the transition**. The transition towards a more environmentally sustainable society is as an **opportunity** for a transition towards a more democratic and fair society.
- This is why Europe needs a **social pact for the transition to a climate neutral economy**, to be agreed by the EU, Member States, regions, cities, social partners and organised civil society. This is an essential feature to ensure positive citizen engagement.
- The transition to a climate neutral economy is an **opportunity** to eradicate energy poverty and improve **quality of life, social inclusion and job creation**.
- The figure that struck me most in the ESDE report was that "by 2030 the transition to a climate-neutral economy is

expected to create an additional 1.2 million jobs in the EU, on top of the 12 million new jobs already expected". The **skills of the workers** of a climate neutral economy can significantly differ from the skills that many workers have today. It is thus important to adapt education and training, to help European develop new talents and adapt Europe's workforce in a swift way.

- The transition to a climate-neutral economy is also a great **opportunity for businesses**. European companies have to take the lead, be at the source of collaborative innovation, riding the wave of the digital revolution to create sustainable business practices and new standards.
- There are already **leaders within the business community on integration of sustainability**. Many companies are actually ahead of the policies and have already committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 or sooner. These companies represent a growing movement on increased corporate climate ambition. They include more-than 50 companies which have a combined market cap of more than \$2.2 trillion and that have also pledged to do their part to keep warming to less than 1.5 degrees.

- Yes, let's face it: the real competitiveness battle will take place, at global level, in the sectors linked to the Sustainable Development Agenda: green mobility, electric cars, renewable energies, plastic processing and batteries.
- In sum, **sustainable development is a win-win strategy** for all – for business, for workers and for society as a whole. **It is all but an elitist agenda, it is a people-centred project.**
- The current Commission, with the **impetus given by Madam Commissioner Thyssen**, has managed to **bring back the social in our policies** and to demonstrate that Europe works for its people and invests in them.
- The **next Commission** has to make sure that what was decided under this mandate is implemented. I believe that the Commission presented by Ms von der Leyen is well equipped to deliver on the clear and ambitious policy guidelines set by the President-elect, including a Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, a Green Deal, gender equality, better opportunities for all and fundamental rights – an agenda that is very close to the priorities of the EESC.

- I also welcome the fact that, in line with what the EESC proposed since a long time, there is now a dedicated Executive Vice-President in charge of the European Green Deal; I am sure that Frans Timmermans will deliver.
- The European Green Deal is indeed the way forward. It should include the social dimension more prominently - it should be a **European Green and Social Deal**.
 - To achieve "*Sustainable growth for all*", the EU needs a **strong social and employment policy**. The transition requires investment in effective, inclusive and integrated social protection systems, including quality and accessible services such as health and long-term care. **Social and environmental inequalities are closely connected**: the poorest and most vulnerable are also the ones most affected by environmental threats, such as air pollution and extreme temperatures.
 - Useful synergies could be achieved by combining even more the SDGs and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and by developing a more coherent framework for social and sustainability indicators. In fact, several SDGs are linked to the social dimension of the European project and could well pave

the way for a Social contract of the 21st century, aimed at reducing social inequalities.

- To achieve "*Sustainable growth for all*", **Europe also needs a paradigm shift and a new model of growth** - one that is qualitatively different from what we have had so far, that is more socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable, and able to encourage and accompany convergence of the digital and ecological transitions in our countries and societies. The EESC calls for moving **beyond GDP growth policy**, because GDP is a measure of prosperity that ignores important elements of social and environmental costs and benefits.
- The European Green **and Social** Deal should be part of an **overarching, long-term strategy on sustainable development** with a **clear implementation plan and adequate financing**. At the EESC, we have been urging for years for such a strategy to be adopted.

I am more optimistic today: at the institutional level, **the momentum is high to move forward with the sustainable development agenda**.

The new Commission (but also the current one!), the new Parliament and certainly also the current Finnish Presidency, seem to be on the same page although efforts are still

needed to reform EU governance mechanisms for the implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs across policies towards an equitable and sustainable Europe.

- To conclude, it is necessary to embrace a fully integrated development path (**better, "integral", to use the words of Pope Francis**) that knows how to deal transversally with the themes of poverty, sustainability, social inclusion and food safety.
- **At the EESC, we know that sustainability is a forward-looking process** which must be driven by strong political resolve and has to be fully supported.
- **This is what** the European civil society has done and will continue to do, since we are convinced that sustainability is the way forward and we want to make sure that Europe becomes the world leader on sustainable development. We owe it to ourselves and to our children!
- And before passing the floor to **Madam Commissioner, Ms Marianne Thyssen** - let me **warmly thank her and congratulate her** - because she has been able through her hard work and professionalism to put again the social policy on the political agenda, notably through the adoption of the

European Pillar of Social rights. We all know that the Pillar has generated a positive and well-needed momentum for a focus on fairness, jobs, and growth. And I would like also to thank Ms Thyssen because the cooperation between the European Commission and the EESC has been excellent.

Words count 1400 = 10,5 minutes

Annex I: Background and EESC position

1. Key points of the 2019 ESDE report

- The annual Employment and Social Developments in Europe review provides up-to-date economic analysis of employment and social trends in Europe and discusses related policy options. It is the European Commission's analytical flagship report in the area of employment and social affairs.
- The **social dimension of sustainable growth and development** is the focus of the 2019 ESDE edition. The 2019 report shows that tackling climate change and preserving employment growth go hand in hand. It sets out a number of policy options that are able to preserve the EU's competitiveness, sustain growth and spread its benefits to the entire EU population and future generations, while pursuing an ambitious transition to a climate-neutral economy.
- It confirms the continued expansion of the EU's economic activity, with new record levels in employment and an improving social situation.
- By 2030 the transition to a climate-neutral economy is expected to create an additional 1.2 million jobs in the EU, on top of the 12 million new jobs already expected. The transition could mitigate the ongoing job polarisation resulting from automation and digitalisation by creating jobs also in the middle of the wage and skill distributions, particularly in construction and manufacturing.
- The impacts of the transition will vary across countries and sectors. The transition to a low-carbon economy will have adverse effects on some sectors and regions. Job losses will be concentrated in a few sectors, including fossil fuel extraction and processing. Job gains will come in construction and manufacturing of renewable and energy-efficiency equipment as well as from ICT and other service sectors. Much of the expected employment creation will be in middle-skilled, middle-income jobs, notably in construction and in services. Therefore countries must prepare for this transition to make sure that people in occupations, sectors and regions that are still linked to high-carbon models are not left behind. **Workers and sectors need support to adjust to new production technologies and skill requirements.**

- The review shows that to continue economic growth, the EU will need to invest in people's skills and innovation. It also finds that social investments, such as access to childcare and early childhood education, make people more productive and increase their well-being. Affordable and adequate housing enables Europeans to fulfil their potential on the labour market and participate in society.
- **The review identifies the following policy options to achieve a climate-neutral economy that benefits all**
 - Strengthening productivity and innovation
 - Investing in people's skills
 - Addressing energy poverty

2. Relevant EESC opinions

NAT/760 Opinion on the Reflection Paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030"

(Section opinion to be adopted at the 25-26 September plenary)

- Sustainable Development is about the future of people; the economy should, within the planetary boundaries, work for society to deliver prosperity and equity, now and for future generations. The Agenda 2030 is a people-centred project designed to leave no one behind.
- Attempts to address problems by forcing costs on those already struggling and feeling disenfranchised and excluded is leading to a clear rejection of political solutions (e.g. climate policies, and many environmental policies), and manifesting itself in an expression of extremism and an insular anti-migration message.
- The transition requires investment in effective, inclusive and integrated social protection systems, including quality and accessible services such as health and long-term care, by practicing the social dialogue. Research shows that investment in education and healthcare have long lasting positive effect on social mobility, however Member States have tended to reduce investment in both areas over the past decade. The cost of transition to a low carbon sustainable economy, must be met by those who can most afford to pay, and should be subsidised with public money.
- The EESC calls on the Commission to move beyond GDP growth policy. The use of GDP as a measure of prosperity ignores important elements of social and environmental costs and benefits.

- Europe needs a paradigm shift and a new model of growth, one that is qualitatively different from what we have had thus far, that is socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable, and able to encourage and accompany convergence of the digital and ecological transitions in our countries and societies.
- GDP is an indicator of economic development in financial terms but ignores important elements of individual and social wellbeing and does not properly take into account the costs of natural capital (climate, depletion of natural resources, negative impact on ecosystem services like clean air, fresh water, fertile soils and liveable cities and landscapes).
- The EESC supports the line in the Reflection Paper that transition to sustainability should be seen as an opportunity to enhance employment and prosperity. European businesses have a chance to take the lead, be at the source of collaborative innovation, riding the wave of the digital revolution to create sustainable business practices and new standards. The SDGs have the potential to define growing markets for companies that can deliver innovative solutions and transformative change.
- The EESC recognises that there are leaders within the business community on integration of sustainability. Many businesses are actually ahead of the policies. Policy needs to create the stable environment and certainty to ensure best practice becomes common practice. This will make business capable of delivering sustainable solutions.
- While the need for linkages between economic and environmental spheres and the economic and social areas has been fully recognised, it is often still not given due consideration. The link between environmental and social concerns also has to be developed further. For instance, the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) should serve to promote people's well-being and should significantly contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Although there is much common ground between the 17 SDGs and the 20 principles of the EPSR, a proposal to better combine the two in practice in order to achieve useful synergies in the implementation should be put forward by the Commission.

SC/51 Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction

- The EESC thus strongly supports the objective of making the EU a climate neutral economy by 2050 in a socially fair and efficient manner. Such a transition is possible and beneficial for Europe.
- The EESC stresses that the transition to a climate neutral society must be implemented through a competitive, socially fair and multilateral approach and that appropriate tools must be put in place to achieve full involvement and acceptance of civil society, including all citizens, businesses and organisations. This includes conception and implementation of carbon pricing taking into account its effects on businesses and citizens.
- The EESC considers that Europe needs a **social pact for the transition to a climate neutral economy**, to be agreed by the EU, Member States, regions, cities, social partners and organised civil society, in order to ensure that the transition leaves no-one behind. For that purpose, the European Social Fund and the European Globalisation Fund should be properly designed and funded. The transition to a climate neutral economy is also an opportunity to eradicate energy poverty and improve quality of life, job creation and social inclusion, and ensure equal access to basic energy services for all Europeans.
- The EESC believes that all European, national and subnational institutions should build up support for the transition to a climate neutral economy. Legitimate concerns raised by coal workers in many EU countries, and the recent social movements in France have further emphasised this need to show that the transition toward a more environmentally sustainable society, should also be a transition towards a more democratic and socially fair society.
- The EESC believes that the European Union needs to provide proper funding to support workers at risk of losing their jobs as a result of the transition to a climate neutral economy. For that purpose, the EESC calls on the European Commission, Parliament and Council to ensure that the European Social Fund and the European Globalisation Fund are properly designed and funded to address the challenges of the transition to a climate neutral economy. This would signal Europe's will to ensure that no-one is left behind.

- The EESC considers that the skills of the workers of a climate neutral economy can significantly differ from the skills that many workers have today. It is important to adapt education and training programmes to make sure that future and current workers and training services can include the transition to a climate neutral economy in their training choices. This will enable a swifter adaptation of Europe's workforce and help Europeans to develop new talents.
- The EESC considers the transition to a climate neutral economy to be the opportunity to provide jobs for young Europeans, including young unemployed people.
- The EESC firmly believes that **drafting a social pact for a transition to a climate neutral economy is an essential feature** to ensure positive citizen engagement in favour of tangible actions in favour of this transition.

SOC/584 - For a European Framework directive on a Minimum Income

- Introducing a binding European framework for a decent minimum income in Europe, enabling minimum income schemes in the Member States to be extended across the board, supported and made "decent" (adequate), would (...) be a significant initial European response to the serious and persistent problem of poverty in Europe. It would be fully in line with the "social triple A for Europe" as announced by President Juncker, and would send a clear message to citizens that the Union really is there for them.
- It could take the form of a directive defining a reference framework for the establishment of an adequate minimum income, tailored to the standard of living and way of life of each country and taking account of social redistribution, taxation and standard of living factors based on a reference budget whose methodology would be determined at European level.

SOC/597 - European Social Fund+

- Europe needs a sound mix of economic, investment and social policies to remain competitive in the global economy and to ensure quality employment, quality education and training universally available and accessible, as well as equal access to health services, social inclusion and active participation in society. An EU budget is required that can respond to major challenges such as youth unemployment, the skills mismatch, long-term unemployment, a fast-changing labour market and the impact of new forms of labour on people, challenges which create new social exclusion of marginalised groups, combined with persistently high poverty rates in some countries.

- The EESC is highly critical of the proposal because it provides for a financial cut in EU cohesion policy. With specific reference to the ESF+, there is a 6% decrease in real terms. Furthermore, the EESC does not agree with the elimination of the minimum share (currently set at 23.1%) of cohesion policy funding under the ESF+. Bearing in mind that the ESF+ is the main funding instrument for implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), the EESC calls for 30% of total resources for economic, social and territorial cohesion policies to be allocated to the ESF+, and within the ESF+ for 30% of resources to be earmarked for social inclusion measures.
- The merging of different funds and programmes under the new ESF+ "umbrella" should be implemented with care, taking account of any potential increase in their effectiveness and efficiency compared to separate delivery frameworks. The EESC asks the Commission to further simplify the rules of the ESF+ for both managing authorities and beneficiaries, while ensuring that projects comply with EU values. The enabling condition of active inclusion, under which Member States must have national strategies against poverty and social exclusion in order to qualify for funding under the ESF+, should continue to apply to all Member States during the next MFF funding period.
- The European Union should make full use of the experience and capacity of the social partners and other civil society organisations (CSOs) operating at local, national and European level by involving them, alongside service users and according to their different roles, in the tasks of programming, implementing, monitoring and evaluating EU funding. Social partners and the other CSOs are crucial players in the European democratic project. In the ESF+ context, this means that public authorities should facilitate their access to the available resources. The EESC supports the revision of the composition of the ESF+ Committee as described in Art. 40 (2) of the Regulation, in accordance with Article 6 (1) (c) of the Common Provisions Regulation and respecting the principles of the ECCP (European Code of Conduct on Partnership).
- An adequate portion of available resources should be earmarked for projects driven by small local organisations, as well as for re-granting, in order to support the activities of locally active organisations. In-kind contributions should be dealt with on an equal footing with financial contributions.
- The EESC deems it important to establish a high level of funding for key action fields for the future of Europe and its population. These would include: quality youth employment, gender equality initiatives, inclusion and employment of vulnerable groups, lifelong learning and up-skilling in the context of a fast-changing, digitalised labour market, strengthening public services of general interest, as well as capacity-building of the public administration, of the social partners – with a dedicated approach to strengthening social dialogue and undertaking joint activities – and of other CSOs, including their participation in the fund's management to ensure better governance.

SOC/581 - Access to social protection

- The EESC, in accordance with fundamental international instruments, believes that each person should have **the right to a decent life, social protection** and protection against all major risks at work and throughout life, including healthcare and the right to a dignified retirement in old age. A proper coverage of workers in non-standard forms of work and the self-employed would contribute to this objective in line with the principles outlined by the European Pillar of Social Rights which now have to become reality. Their access and contribution towards healthcare, maternity and parental, handicap and old age benefits should be guaranteed.
- The EESC recalls that **access to social protection systems** is a key element for fairer societies and a fundamental component of a productive, healthy and active workforce. Restoring **social sustainability** as a principle in the definition and implementation of EU policies, with the broader objective of creating a level playing field in the social area, where everyone under the same rules and at comparable conditions can enjoy access to social protection, should be a shared objective of institutions at all levels, organised civil society and social partners.
- **Age and gender** play a significant role in the exclusion of people from social protection schemes: these factors should be particularly taken into account when defining actions in the spectrum of the Recommendation.

SOC/564 - Impact of the social dimension & the European Pillar of Social Rights on the Future of EU

- Growing inequality, poverty and social exclusion call for further efforts aimed at defining common principles, standards, policies and strategies on better convergence of wages, establishing or increasing minimum wages, minimum income for all, and the increase of social cohesion and social investment.
- It will be important to reach a consensus on who should do what in the area of social policy, coupled with more transparency and accountability including for the failure to act. Reforms and political initiatives have to make societies and economies fit for the future.
- All relevant representative civil society organisations have to be duly involved, while recognising the specific role of social partners. Promoting collective bargaining and social dialogue at all levels will be important in providing well-functioning labour markets, fair working conditions, increased productivity and sustainable social security.

SOC/542 - European Pillar of Social Rights

- The discussions on the Pillar are taking place in parallel with other key debates at EU and global level, notably on the Future of Europe and the Future of Work. (...) (The Pillar) should also be linked to an overarching EU strategy¹ to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015, with its Sustainable Development Goals. These set out an agenda for global transformational change to end poverty, protect the planet, ensure protection of human rights including the human rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which EU and Member States are obliged to implement, and guarantee prosperity for all. At EU level, effort must also be made to ensure that all EU anti-discrimination and gender legislation is implemented.
- The changes in the world of work should be used to "promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all". This goal should be addressed by the EU, the Member States and the Social Partners in their different roles. Civil society organisations representing people distanced from the labour market should also be involved. The preconditions for the creation of more and quality jobs are unevenly distributed among and within the Member States. The EESC urges the institutional actors of the Member States to move rapidly towards a "high-road" strategy combined with an active labour market policy. This should be supported by a revamped and inclusive European Employment Strategy and a coherent and ambitious European Industrial Strategy.
- Climate change presents major environmental and social challenges for Europe and the rest of the world. The future of work will also be shaped by the urgent need to transform our economies, industries and jobs to safeguard the planet. The EESC welcomes the EU's ratification of the Paris Agreement and has called for a coalition of civil society and subnational authorities to deliver on the COP21 commitments. Delivery of these commitments must be in line with EU commitments to reduce poverty. Supporting just transition, decent work and employability will require investment in resources to support communities and workers in sectors that are already being affected by this transition, as well as to anticipate and facilitate future restructuring and transition into a greener and more sustainable economy. The Investment Plan for Europe should support projects in line with the COP21 commitments.

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was agreed by all Member States of the United Nations in 2015. As such the attainment of these goals is an obligation for the Member States of the European Union. The EESC believes that the Pillar could significantly contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, especially concerning the goals 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).
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Annex II: Programme

Sustainable growth for all: choices for the future of Social Europe

Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2019 Dissemination Conference

27 September 2019, Brussels

European Economic and Social Committee, rue Belliard, 99, Brussels (room JDE 52)

*draft programme – 26 August (speakers marked with *: participation to be confirmed)*

8:00 – 9:00	Registration & welcome coffee
9:00 – 10:45	Welcome and opening session Sustainable growth for all: choices for the future of Social Europe <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 panellists 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>
Moderator:	Tamsin Rose (Facilitator; Senior Fellow, Friends of Europe; Director, Tamarack)
	Welcome remarks [10'] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Luca Jahier* (EESC President)
	Opening speech [10'] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marianne Thyssen (European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility)
	Highlights of ESDE 2019 [15'] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barbara Kauffmann (Director for Employment and Social Governance, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion)
Panellists:	<u>Panel discussion and Q&A</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presidency representative* (“Sustainable Europe, Sustainable Future”)• David Hegarty (Assistant Secretary, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation; Member of the National Competitiveness Council, Ireland)

- Lucas Chancel (Professor, Sciences Po, Paris; Co-director, World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics; Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, Paris)
- Esther Lynch*(Deputy General Secretary, ETUC)
- Rebekah Smith (Deputy Director for Social Affairs, BusinessEurope)
- European Youth Forum representative*

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:15

Thematic Session 1

Economic sustainability: Enabling sustainable and inclusive growth

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?

Moderator: Tamsin Rose

Introduction: Brief introduction based on **ESDE findings** by authors [10']

Panellists:

Panel discussion and Q&A

- Ilze Zvidrina (Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare, Latvia; Chair of the Employment Committee, EMCO)
- Eric Bartelsman (Professor, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; General Director, Tinbergen Institute)
- Ana Fontoura Gouveia (Research Department, Banco de Portugal; Universidade Nova Lisbon)
- Özlem Onaran (Professor, Greenwich University; Director, Greenwich Political Economy Research Centre)
- Armando Garcia Schmidt (Senior Project Manager ‘Shaping Sustainable Economies’ and ‘Inclusive Productivity’, Bertelsmann Foundation)

12:15 – 13:30 Buffet lunch

13:30 – 14:45

Thematic Session 2

Social sustainability: Investing in people, essential services and housing

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.

Moderator: Tamsin Rose

Introduction: Brief introduction based on **ESDE findings** by authors [10']

- Panellists:
- Panel discussion and Q&A**
- 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-Illina (Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, Employment Policy Department, ILO)
 - Housing Europe representative*

14:45 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 16:15 **Thematic Session 3**
Environmental sustainability: mitigating social impacts of climate action

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, largely universal benefits while having short-term and largely concentrated costs. What are the policies that would have a beneficial impact on both the environment and people, and 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?

Moderator: Tamsin Rose

Introduction: Brief introduction based on **ESDE findings** by authors [10']

- Panellists:
- Panel discussion and Q&A**

- Ian Gough* (Emeritus Professor of Social Policy, University of Bath; Associate, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, LSE)
- 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)

16:15-16:30 **Closing session/remarks**
Sustainable growth for all: choices for the future of Social Europe

- Joost Korte (Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission)

Annex III: CVs of speakers in the same panel

	Moderator: Tamsin Rose (Facilitator; Senior Fellow, Friends of Europe; Director, Tamarack)
	<p><i>Marianne Thyssen (European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility)</i></p> <p>Having completed law post-graduate studies at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), Marianne Thyssen firstly worked for the Belgian organisation UNIZO and the women's network Christelijke Middenstands-en Burgervrouwen (CMBV) now Markant. From 1986-1988 she also acted as legal adviser to the state secretary for public health and disability policy.</p> <p>In 1991, she became a Member of the EP for Flanders with the CD&V party. From 1995-2008 she served as municipal Councillor for Oud-Heverlee, and became First Alderman in 2001. In 2008 she was elected leader of the CD&V. From 1999-2014 she served as leader of the European People's Party's (EPP) Belgian delegation and from 2004-2009 was elected first vice-president of the EPP. In 2014, she was appointed to the EC as Commissioner in charge of Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility.</p>
	<p><i>Barbara Kauffmann (Director for Employment and Social Governance, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission)</i></p> <p>Barbara Kauffmann studied economics at the University of Heidelberg and the University of Florida (Ph.D.). After working for four years in Germany (Kiel Institute of World Economics and Ministry of Finance), she joined the EC (DG ECFIN) in 1991. She was in charge of units dealing with non-EU as well as EU member states (including macro adjustment programmes) and with the coordination of country surveillance (notably fiscal and European semester activities). She joined DG EMPL on 1 October 2015 and she is now director for employment and social governance, dealing among other things with the European semester, social dialogue and analysis.</p>

	<p>Janne Kankänen (Head of EU and International Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finland; EU Presidency - motto “Sustainable Europe, Sustainable Future”)</p> <p>Janne Kankänen has worked in demanding expert and management positions over a period of 20 years, both internationally and in a national (Finnish) context, at the EC and the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Finland).</p> <p>Currently, he serves as the head of EU and international affairs at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (Under Secretary for State for EU and International Affairs). He is also the Chair of the European Council High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth, where he advocates for a strong focus on sustainability. He has a deep knowledge of the interface between the private and public sector and has strategic level understanding of regulatory and industrial policy issues affecting businesses operating in Finland, in Europe and globally.</p>
	<p>David Hegarty (Assistant Secretary, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation; Member of the National Competitiveness Council, Ireland)</p> <p>Graduated in Economics from the University College Dublin, David Hegarty has over 25 years of experience working as an economist, evaluator and policy adviser in various public sector capacities in Ireland. He also has extensive consultancy experience in Ireland as well as in several countries in Central and Eastern Europe.</p>
	<p>Lucas Chancel (Professor, Sciences Po, Paris; Co-director, World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics; Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, Paris)</p> <p>Lucas Chancel holds a PhD in Economics from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales / Paris Sciences Lettres Research University, an MSc in Economics and Public Policy from Sciences Po and Ecole Polytechnique, an MSc in Energy science from Imperial College London and a BSc in Physics and social sciences from Paris VI and Sciences Po.</p> <p>He is now codirector of the World Inequality Lab and of the World Inequality Database (WID.world) at the Paris School of Economics, which he joined in 2015. He lectures at Sciences Po in the Master of Public Policy on the economics of inequality and sustainable development. He is also senior</p>

	<p>research fellow at the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations since 2011, where he conducts research on the social dimension of sustainable development.</p>
	<p><i>Esther Lynch (Deputy General Secretary, ETUC)</i></p> <p>Graduated from the Dublin Institute of Technology in BSc Management and Law, Esther Lynch was elected ETUC Deputy General Secretary at the Vienna Congress in May 2019, after four years as Confederal Secretary. She has extensive trade union experience at Irish, European and international levels. Before coming to the ETUC, she was the Legislation and Social Affairs Officer with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), where she took part in negotiations on Ireland's National Social Partner Agreements. Esther's responsibilities as Deputy General Secretary include social dialogue, collective bargaining and wage policy, trade union rights, gender equality and Brexit.</p>
	<p><i>Rebekah Smith (Deputy Director for Social Affairs, BusinessEurope)</i></p> <p>Rebekah Smith has a Master's degree in European studies and studied at Hull University in the UK and Osnabrueck University in Germany. Firstly, 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. She progressively became Deputy Director in the Social Affairs department of BUSINESSEUROPE, managing the following policy areas: sustainability, CSR and diversity; industrial relations, labour law and 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.</p>
	<p><i>European Youth Forum representative</i></p>