

# Have your say on reinforcing Social Europe - submit your contribution

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Thank you for expressing your views on the implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#). Please reply to the questions below and submit your contribution in one of the following ways:

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- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an **organisation**?

**\* Name of organisation**

**\* Type of organisation**

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- Civil society
- Industry
- Social partner
- Think tank
- University
- Other

**\* Your organisation is operating at:**

- EU level
- national level
- regional level
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**\* Your contribution is:**

- input for new initiatives at EU, national, regional or local level
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Advanced economies have been confronted by a decline in their growth rates since the 1970s. Such trends have exerted downward pressures on real wages, social protections, and taxation. These developments have also affected the financing of certain public policies whose aim it is to guarantee equal opportunity, including education and training. Moreover, the decline in living standards for specific populations and regions, together with complications in public financing, has often fuelled extremist movements across Europe ultimately weakening political systems and national unity. To achieve a fairer, more dynamic, and more sustainable growth, the contract between European nations needs to be reexamined and reinforced. To leave to individual nation states alone to manage the social consequences of the ongoing changes, whether the real or imagined products of European policies, might constitute a threat to the European project as a whole. It is neither realistic nor desirable that the chief responsibility for social policies be reattributed to the European Union. But supranational action is justified where it is more effective. Additional European-level activity would prove advantageous in four major fields: avoiding lowest common denominator outcomes in the realms of labour laws, taxes and wages; better targeted support for individuals, industries and regions subject to the stresses of structural change; encouraging geographic mobility; and, finally, facilitating other joint actions when effectiveness requires.

In the latest Eurobarometer opinion surveys, 81% of European Union citizens consider social inequalities to be a problem requiring immediate attention. A large majority, 64%, also consider that this situation will not improve soon. While the challenges facing European nations extend beyond the realm of social issues, the widespread perception of lingering inequalities breeds mistrust in national political systems and in the European project, itself. And this despite an unprecedentedly strong adherence to European Union membership. Indeed, the European project will enjoy a high measure of success providing that it manages to secure resources for social systems by curtailing tax evasions while effecting more fully the European Pillar of Social Rights. Moreover, the European project must assist peoples suffering from economic changes. And it must launch a Social Investment Plan, together with expanding the mobility of workers and young people. And not least it must imperatively address long-standing problems of the most marginalized populations. These goals are formidable in their conception and implementation. But without such an ambitious agenda, without the determined realization of these stated goals, European peoples across the continent may renounce broader perspectives to retreat within national boundaries. Such a scenario would endanger the model of more open society, and spell the end of European integration.

Concrete proposals are formulated in the following policy brief: <https://www.strategie.gouv.fr/sites/strategie.gouv.fr/files/atoms/files/note-analyse-75-gb.pdf>.

These proposals could be readily accommodated by the budgetary framework now under discussion for European policies, and it could be shaped to avoid putting increased demands on the European taxpayer.

**3. You can also [submit your contribution by email](#) to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.**

## Contact

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