



Countdown to Europe 2020: Towards 'Appropriate Indicators' to Measure Poverty Reduction in the EU

"To tackle poverty, we need to give a voice to those who are excluded and we need to understand the causes of poverty. At the same time, we must propose practical solutions that work."

- László Andor, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, April 2010

"84 million Europeans – or 17% of people across the EU – currently live below the poverty threshold. According to a recent Eurobarometer survey on attitudes to poverty, a large majority of Europeans (73%) consider poverty to be a widespread problem in their country, with 89% calling for urgent action by their government to tackle the problem. While most people consider their national government as primarily responsible, 74% also expect the EU to play an important role."

- Europa Press Releases Rapid, October 2009

The Silken Hotel
Brussels

29th June 2010

Organised by



Centre for
Parliamentary
Studies



"An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in poverty reduction policies in Europe"

"Europe 2020 focuses on the key areas where action is needed: knowledge and innovation, a more sustainable economy, high employment and social inclusion. And upgrading, individuals' skills will contribute to all of these areas."

- *László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, 8 April 2010*

"The main objective of this Year is to **raise awareness. Citizens awareness, stakeholders awareness, decision makers awareness.** Only with the combined commitment of all can we bring people together to fight poverty and social exclusion.

The Year will also explain how the European Union contributes to finding mid- and long-term solutions to poverty and social exclusion. How the EU legislates and coordinates social policy, provides targeted funding, and exchanges good practice amongst Member States.

Above all, it aims to breathe new life into existing partnerships and create new ones at European, national, regional and local level. Because fighting poverty is not only an issue for Governments. It is for civil society too.

Ultimately, the European year will create new momentum amongst policy makers. I am confident that a renewed commitment from the Union's heads of State or Government at the end of this year will help to launch a new phase in the building of a social Europe."

- *László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, 18 February 2010*

Abstract and Programme

The *Centre for Parliamentary Studies* is pleased to contribute to the **2010 European Year on Poverty** with an international high level capacity building symposium on poverty reduction indicators which seeks to raise awareness of poverty reduction as a key policy objective in Europe. The symposium has the following aims:

- Highlight the key challenges and European Commission's expectations from including poverty reduction as an important element in the Commission's new '**Europe 2020**' strategy from March 2010
- Gather comparative analytical knowledge to promote poverty reduction as a measurable goal in Europe
- Provide input for 'Appropriate Indicators' which can be politically relevant for future policy initiatives in the field of poverty
- Highlight useful comparative case studies which will add value to the definition of 'Appropriate Indicators' for measuring poverty reduction in Europe
- Providing recommendations to policy makers at regional level

The *Centre for Parliamentary Studies* welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.



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Tuesday 29th June 2010
The Silken Hotel, Brussels

09:15 *Registration and Morning Refreshments*

10:00 **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Prof. Dr. C.L.J. Koen Caminada, University of Leiden (confirmed)

10:15 **Delegate Introductions**

10:30 **Session One: Europe 2020 and Reducing Poverty in Europe**

- European Commission's New Perspectives for the Future in the Light of Poverty Reduction
- Commission's Reasons for Including Poverty Reduction in Europe 2020
- Emerging Challenges
- Mind Mapping for Future Initiatives

Speaker:

*Ms. Isabelle Engsted-Maquet, Policy Analyst, DG EMPL,
European Commission (confirmed)*

10:55 **First Round of Discussions**

11:30 *Morning Coffee Break*

11:50 **Session Two: Conceptualising Poverty Reduction in Europe –
Bringing Comparative Knowledge Together**

- Definition, Challenges and Existing Complexities in the Sector
- Applying Theoretical Knowledge into the Political Arena
- Practical Implication Challenges
- Recommendations for Future Policy Actions

Speaker:

*Mrs. Anne-Catherine Guio, Institut Wallon de L'évaluation,
de la Prospective et de la Statistique, Belgium (confirmed)*

12:15 **Second Round of Discussions**

12:50 *Networking Lunch*



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**13:50 Session Three: Reducing Poverty through Innovative Social Inclusion
– Facing the 21st Century Realities**

- Creating Long Term Targets
- Applying and Combining Social Inclusion Knowledge
- Multi-level Action Approaches

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. C.L.J. Koen Caminada, University of Leiden (confirmed)

***Mrs. Tricia Jenkins MBE, Head of Educational Opportunities,
Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Liverpool (confirmed)***

14:40 Third Round of Discussions

15:10 *Short Coffee Break*

**15:20 Session Four: Case Studies in Measuring Poverty Reduction in
Europe – Sharing Best Practices**

- Applying Comparative Experiences from Different Member States
- Using Multidisciplinary Approaches
- Identifying and Overcoming Relevant Policy Challenges – Some Recommendations

Speakers:

***Dr. John McKendrick, Co-Director, Scottish Poverty Information
Unit, Glasgow Caledonian University (confirmed)***

Mr. Fintan Farrell, Director, European Anti-Poverty Network (tbc)

15:45 Fourth Round of Discussions

16:15 Chair's Summary and Closing Remarks

16:20 *Networking Reception and Refreshments*