



EUROPE

The age of responsibility



5th European Social Week

Belgium, Oostende, 23rd-25th of January 2014





*Jaap Smit
Chairman of the Initiative Committee
of the 5th European Social Week*

EUROPE

The age of responsibility

A future for Europe. We are all aware of the need for new choices. Choices leading to policies that offer perspectives for all European citizens. Nowadays, 25% of young people in the EU are unemployed and uncertain about their future. The European economic crisis has only worsened their situation. The number of men and women living below the poverty line is ever-increasing. European policy responses have thus far proved insufficient. During the Fifth European Social Week, we seek to combine credible visions and political choices in three substantive parts.

The first part will investigate **which European Social Model** is best suited to overcome the actual challenges in society. The expansion of the world market over the last decades has led to more investments, more jobs, more innovation and more responsible ways of meeting human needs. However, despite this, we are stranded in a global economic, social, and financial crisis, which clearly indicates the limits and the inadequacies of such an extensive globalisation process.

How can we integrate solidarity and participation into a social model for the future on both the economic and social level?

How can we define the terms “solidarity” and “participation” and make them more relevant to contemporary challenges? How do we ensure these concepts, which were defined in the socio-economic context of the past decades, continue to have value and provide answers to contemporary challenges?

In the second part, we set out a vision for **an economy based on human capital in enterprises and business sectors**. Work ethics have changed worldwide. Increased competitiveness and flexibility increase pressure on workers. Those who cannot keep up with the pace of work and the knowledge levels, feel the threat of exclusion.

The relation between employees and employers requires re-evaluation. How do employers deal with the dilution of the rationalisation context, where employees are 'valued' based on their usefulness to guarantee the maximum profit for the shareholders? And how do employees and employers deal with the need for new flexibility, while it becomes more and more obvious that clinging to the image of the competitor as an 'enemy' will only lead to each other's downfall?

We recognise the need for new approaches and choices on this level. We want to discuss and share these with one another and defend our opinions.

It's my conviction that we live in a period of huge changes and new paradigms.

In this search we have to find a new and healthy balance between my own responsibility and our common responsibility.

In the third and final part, we will explore the **sustainable development of Europe in the world**. We do not consider Europe in isolation from the rest of the world. European choices must go hand in hand with: global human rights; conventions to fight climate change; requirements for healthy living standards; and ethical requirements for solidarity among all people. In this respect, we often clash on the classic contradictions between the economic and the political discourses. Economically, we accentuate the necessity of constant growth. In the debate on sustainability however, we reflect on reorientation and reduced consumption, which in turn leads to reduced growth. What are the essential individual and communal opportunities for us to seize?

In each of the three parts an introduction speech is followed by three approaches. Firstly: are there any additional elements in the analysis and what are options for the future? Secondly: the exploration of concrete models for action. Finally: what have Christian social traditions to offer as a source of inspiration for each of these three parts?

This European Social Week also wants to offer a platform to meet, debate, reflect and motivate all players of the Christian social field in Europe. The final goal is shaping a community where love, care, solidarity, creativity, responsibility, leadership, fairness and closeness prevail.

Program

5th European Social Week

VENUE: ROYAL ASTRID HOTEL OOSTENDE

WELLINGTONSTRAAT, 15 - 8400 OOSTENDE - BELGIUM

Thursday 23rd
of January 2014

3 pm Arrival and registration of the participants.

3.30 pm Opening session of the fifth European Social Week:

Welcome by Jaap Smit, Chairman of the Initiative Committee of the 5th ESW and President of CNV (The Netherlands).

4.00 pm **Herman Van Rompuy**

"Europe - together we can do more!" Opening speech by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council.

The citizens of the 28 member states of the European Union aim to live in healthy and quality living conditions. They are becoming increasingly disappointed in a Europe where competitiveness and flexibility dominate life as a whole. Which future Europe does the President of the Council offer us?



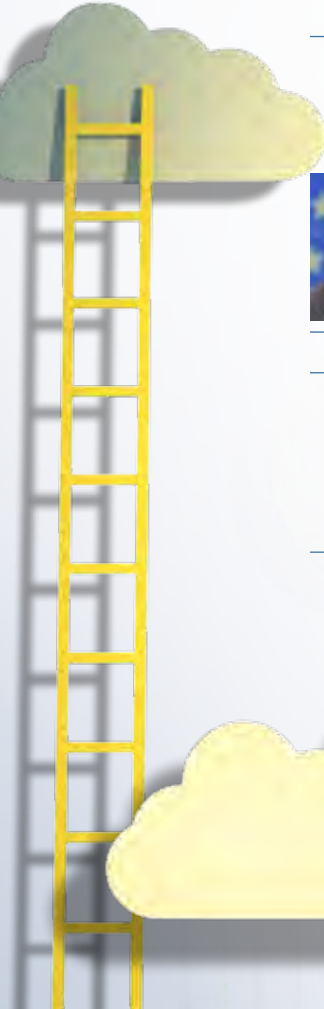
4.30 pm Musical Interlude.

4.45 pm **Cardinal Peter Turkson**

"Christian social ethics as guidelines for the current challenges?" Opening speech by Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace



5.15 pm Questions and Answers for Herman Van Rompuy and Cardinal Peter Turkson



6 pm Information market in the designated area of the hotel.

7 pm Dinner.

8.30 pm **Shilana**



Musical evening with Shilana, a choir from Antwerp in the Theatre hall of the hotel.

Friday 24th of January 2014

SESSION 1. The European social model: which way to go?

Chair of the session: **Bartho Pronk** (The Netherlands), President of EZA.

The expansion of the world market can potentially lead to more investments, more innovation, more jobs and more responsible ways of meeting human needs.

However, the big question is whether this huge evolution would in practice also lead to a more harmonious world with more opportunities for humanity, for solidarity and fairness in cultures and civilisations. This is rarely the case.

Solidarity between rich and poor, between the strongest and the most vulnerable, is being replaced by 'the right of the strongest', resulting in a Europe where the rich became richer and the poor became poorer. There is a tendency towards the abolition of the social security systems, without taking into consideration the vulnerable position of many people.

Additionally, we have to face the broad cultural evolution of Western civilisation. The quality of our Western civilisation is under pressure, because self-interests and consumerism often dominate an attitude of responsibility and participation. And yet these are precisely the characteristics which give heart to the democracy and the economy.

And what about Europe as a Union in this context? In this age of crisis we're in, it is not guaranteed that a true Union will be established with 27 national States having their own language and history, with their own political and participative traditions and legal frameworks and with their different welfare systems. In an age of crisis, all these elements reduce the willingness for solidarity and cross-border redistribution.

09.00 am Introduction to the first session by **Bartho Pronk**, President of EZA.

09.30 am



Keynote speech: **“The European Social Model – Which way to go?”** by **Jérôme Vignon** (France) Chairman of the French Social Week.

10.00 am Additional analysis.



“The European Social Model and the South of Europe”.
Georges Dassis (Greece), President of the Workers group of the Economic and Social Committee.

10.20 am Questions and Answers.

10.50 am coffee break.

11.20 am **“The need for solutions - which policies for a decent social model?”**

Bea Cantillon (Belgium), Professor at the University of Antwerp and President of the Centre for Social Policy Herman Deleeck.



11.40 am



“The Future of Europe: Solidarity or merciless Competition?”

Bernhard Emunds, Professor in Social Philosophy and Director of the Oswald von Nell-Breuning-Institut, Frankfurt.

12:10 pm Questions and Answers.

1 pm Lunch.

SESSION 2. In search of a new relation between enterprises and workers in a context of social dialogue.

Chair of the session: **Patrick Develtere** (Belgium), President ACW

The post-war “Rhineland” model is and remains a capitalist model, adapted by bargaining, which does not necessarily address the undemocratic structure of enterprises. Its implosion by a combined financial, economic, social and ecological crisis we are facing today clearly indicates the boundaries of this system. Shouldn't we mitigate it with a concept where the value of individual initiative is given a new boost? How do we make this concrete?

2 pm Introduction to the second session by **Patrick Develtere** (Belgium) President of ACW.

2.15 pm



Introductory skype session to the topic
“young, sustainable and participative enterprising” by **Huibrecht BOS** (the Netherlands) of MoveNext

2.30 pm



Keynote speech: **“The call for a new industrial policy. New relations between enterprises and workers.”**
by **Pierre Defraigne** (Belgium). Professor in Economy and Director of Madariaga Foundation and at the College of Europe in Bruges.

3 pm

Additional analysis: **Business ethics, entrepreneurship and social dialogue**
Fritz Neugebauer (Austria), second President of the Parliament of Austria and President of GÖD.



3.20 pm

Questions and Answers.

3.50 pm

coffee break.

4.15 pm

“The need for concrete steps and examples”



Two good practices of enterprises who took concrete steps for a new relation between the head of enterprise and employees
- **Duco Sickinghe** (The Netherlands) Belgian Manager of the Year 2011, Founder and Director of Fortino
- **Kai-Uwe Hemmerich** (Germany) General Works Council President of Clariant GmbH



5.00 pm



“The economy, a community to build”
By **Elena Lasida** (France), Professor at the Catholic Institute of Paris in social economy, sustainable development and the relation between economy and theology.

5.20 pm

Questions and Answers.

6.00 pm

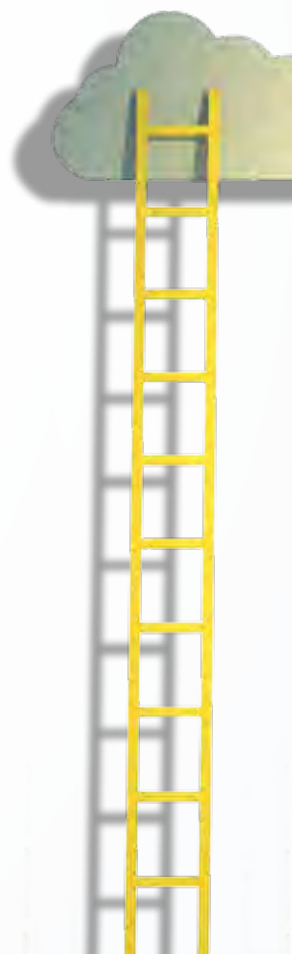
End of the afternoon session.

6.30 pm

Transport by bus to Bruges.



Welcome and reception at the historical Provincial Court of Bruges held by the Governor **Carl Decaluwé**.



Saturday 25th
of January 2014

SESSION 3: Sustainable development:

“Options that take into account the social context, human rights and a decent living environment.”

Chair of the session: **Jaap Smit** Chairman of the Initiative Committee of the European Social Week.

Everywhere in Europe, we are pleading for economic growth as a key instrument to combat unemployment and poverty. At the same time, experts say that with an average growth of 3% in the western countries of Europe, the combined Gross National Product of the countries will be doubled after 25 years. Add to this the explosive growth rates of the BRIC countries, and imagine the catastrophic consequences this will have for the climate, the living environment and the scarce resources. What are the limits of this growth? How big is the need for restricting western consumer behaviour without compromising quality of life?

9.00 am Musical introduction of the third and last day.

9.15 am Keynote speech on **“Sustainability and growth - conflict between theory and practice.”**

by **Dirk Messner** (Germany), Professor in Political Science and Director of DIE (German Institute for Development Aid Policy)



09.50 am Additional analysis:

“The power of consumers”

by **Nuria Chinchilla** (Spain) Professor IESE Business School University of Navarra



10.10 am Questions and Answers.

10.40 am coffee break.

11.15 am **“Concrete models of policy and consumer behaviour”**

Two good practices by



Reinhard Stransfeld (left),
(President of Regionaler Aufbruch, Germany)
Jan van Betten (right),
(Nudge, the Netherlands)

12.00 am **“Does Christian social ethics offer us guidelines?”**



By **Paul Zulehner** (Austria), theologian and Catholic priest and member of the Austrian and European Academy of Sciences.

12.30 pm Synthesis report on the three sessions:

“Reshape Christian social traditions.”



by Prof. **Johan Verstraeten** (Belgium), Professor at the Catholic University of Leuven and Director of the Centre for the studies of the social doctrine of the church

1 pm **perspectives for the 6th European Social Week** by **Jaap Smit** Chairman of the ESW Initiative Committee.



★ Important Information

Participants' fee: 120 euro.

Under special conditions, discounts can be requested.

Fee for a second person who comes to Ostend but will not participate at the conference: 250 euro. (= price for room, meals, visit to the city of Bruges etc.).

Travel expenses for participants coming from abroad will be reimbursed to a maximum of 300 EUR/person.

For any further practical questions, please contact: linda.demeester@acw.be.

Please send the registration to: ACW

Linda Demeester

Haachtsesteenweg 579

B 1030 Brussel

Belgium

Simultaneous translation will be provided in French, Dutch, German and English.



Registration 5th European Social Week 23rd, 24th, 25th January 2014 in Oostende - Belgium

1 Person 2 Persons

Name: Mr/Mrs _____ Forename: _____

Date of birth: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of the organization, professional address and country: _____

Function in the organization: _____

Personal address: _____

Participation:

I will attend the 3 days

I will only attend the marked days: Thursday January 23rd Friday January 24th Saturday January 25th

For 2 persons, please complete below the registration for the second person.

Name: Mr/Mrs _____ Forename: _____

Date of birth: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of the organization, professional address and country: _____

Function in the organization: _____

Personal address: _____

Participation:

I will follow the 3 day's

I will only follow the marked day's: Thursday January 23rd Friday January 24th Saturday January 25th

I/We will arrive by: air train car

Please reserve following room: single room double room

Planned time of arrival: (day) _____, (date) _____ at _____ am/pm

Flight no: _____

Planned time of departure: (day) _____, (date) _____ at _____ am/pm

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Secretary-General of the European Social Weeks

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More informations on the 5th European Social Week:

<http://www.esw5.eu>



This event is realised with the support of the European Commission