



Which Social Dimension for the European Union? Normative, Political, Legal and Economic Perspectives

A Euroforum conference, with evening lectures by
Loukas Tsoukalis and Herman Van Rompuy

Tuesday 16 September 2014, 1 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. / 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

[Euroforum KU Leuven](#)



Within the 'Euroforum' framework, KU Leuven academics present policy papers on aspects of the European Union, in interaction with European policymakers and international experts.

This year's conference will focus on the concept of a European Social Union, which would support national welfare states on a systemic level in some of their key functions and guide the substantive development of national welfare states via general social standards and objectives, leaving the ways and means of social policy to Member States themselves.

Six policy papers will be presented that address questions of legitimacy (both empirically and normatively), legal pathways, convergence, and the need for macroeconomic stabilization at the EMU level.



Programme Conference (2 parallel sessions)

Venue: Hogenheuvelcollege (Faculty of Economics), Naamsestraat 69, Leuven

	Chair: Jos Berghman	Chair: Erik Schokkaert
1 p.m.	Catherine Barnard (Cambridge University) & Geert De Baere , 'Towards a European Social Union: Achievements and Possibilities under the Current EU Constitutional Framework'	Marc Hooghe & Soetkin Verhaegen , 'The Democratic Legitimacy of the EU and Support for Redistribution within Europe'
	Response by Marc Lepoivre (Director of the Egmont Institute)	Response by Jean-Claude Barbier (CNRS Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne)
2 p.m.	Steven Van Hecke, Johan Lievens, Stefan Sottiaux & Wouter Wolfs , 'A Social Compact for a Social Union?'	Toon Vandeveld , 'Ethical Justifications of Social Europe'
	Response by Sophie Vanhoonacker (Maastricht University)	Response by Philippe Van Parijs (Université catholique de Louvain)

3 p.m. Coffee break

3.30 p.m. **Paul De Grauwe**, 'How to Conduct Macroeconomic Policies in the Eurozone?'

Response by **Iain Begg** (London School of Economics) and **Georg Fischer** (Director for Analysis, Analysis, Evaluation and External Relations, DG Employment, European Commission)

Frank Vandenbroucke, 'The Case for a European Social Union'

Response by **Elsa Maria Fornero** (University of Turin & former Italian Minister of Labour, Social Policies and Equal Opportunities) and **Jan De Bock** (Former Belgian Ambassador to the EU, Italy and Spain)



Evening Lectures

Venue: Promotion Hall, Naamsestraat 22, Leuven

5 p.m. Welcome by Frank Vandenbroucke

Loukas Tsoukalis, President of the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy: 'Does Europe Need a New Grand Bargain?'

5.30. p.m. **Herman Van Rompuy**, President of the European Council: 'Building a More Social Europe, One Step at a Time'

6 p.m. Reception



7 p.m. *Dinner with the speakers, D'Artagnan restaurant, Naamsestraat 72*