

SOCIAL RIGHTS: BUILDING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DEMOCRATIC STABILITY

5 June 2025

Brussels, Belgium



CONCLUSIONS

Event organised by the Council of Europe in Co-operation with the European Economic and Social Committee

On **5 June 2025** the event “[Social Rights: Building Social Justice and Democratic Stability](#)” was organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the European Economic and Social Committee. The event emphasised the importance of integrating social rights - such as access to employment, healthcare, and education - into policy frameworks to strengthen democratic institutions, promote social justice, and support sustainable development. It also aimed to align efforts across international frameworks committed to social justice and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, fostering collaboration and accelerating progress in view of the United Nations Second World Summit for Social Development. The event brought together representatives of Council of Europe and EU institutions, national authorities, NHRIs, CSOs, Trade Unions and youth.

The main objectives of the event

- Highlight the fundamental role of social rights within the human rights framework and their contribution to social justice.
- Emphasise the link between social rights, democratic stability, and sustainable development.
- Explore effective strategies for integrating social rights law standards into national and regional policies.
- Align efforts towards the UN Second World Summit for Social Development by fostering partnerships and innovative strategies.

Key conclusions of the event

- **Social rights**, as provide by the European Social Charter **are fundamental to democracy, peace, and resilience**. They are not secondary entitlements, but the very substance of human dignity and civic trust.
- **Social justice is the cornerstone of democratic stability**. Access to healthcare, education, housing, decent work, and social protection builds social cohesion and trust in institutions.
- **Localised implementation and inclusive dialogue are key**. Youth voices, local authorities, trade unions, civil society, and financial institutions all highlighted that policies are most effective when developed with those closest to the communities they serve.
- **Social investment is smart economics**. High-quality social services enhance productivity, attract sustainable investment, and are key to green and digital transitions.
- **Europe must lead globally**, particularly as we move towards the UN Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha in November 2025. Human dignity and social rights should be at the heart of the global development agenda.