



MONTAIGNE CENTRE
for Rule of Law and
Administration of Justice



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Understanding the Impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis on Social Rights

Date: 16 September 2025

Time: 13:30-17:30

Location: Utrecht University, Department of Law
Alex Brenninkmeijerzaal, Johanna Hudiggebouw
Achter Sint Pieter 200, 3512 HT Utrecht, The Netherlands

The Montaigne Centre for Rule of Law and Administration of Justice of Utrecht University (with the support of the Department of Social Rights of the Council of Europe) warmly invites you to a half-day expert discussion focused on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on social rights in Europe, drawing in particular on the recent review on this topic by the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), published in March 2025. The event will also include a session on significant recent decisions under the collective complaints mechanism case-law of the ECSR.

Please register through [this link](#) by 9 September.

*For more information, please contact the Montaigne Centre at
montaignecentrum@uu.nl*



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In response to the severe socio-economic effects of the crisis across Europe, the ECSR—Europe's leading economic and social rights monitoring body — conducted a review of how States Parties to the European Social Charter have responded to the cost-of-living crisis. Published in March 2025, the review examines key areas such as social protection, housing, employment, energy and food, and the situation of groups particularly affected by the crisis. It provides a framework for understanding how Charter obligations apply in times of economic crisis and offers detailed recommendations to ensure that social rights are upheld when household costs increase much faster than average incomes. The review will be the subject of the first part of the expert discussion.

Reflecting growing general interest in the ECSR's case-law which directly addresses key issues in social rights enjoyment in contemporary Europe, the second part of the event will centre on the European Social Charter collective complaints mechanism. It will highlight important recent decisions of the ECSR in areas ranging from housing rights to energy, to labour rights, to the rights of disabled people, older persons and children and young people.

This event brings together scholars, officials, civil society representatives, social partners, and national human rights institutions to discuss how the ECSR's findings can inform rights-based policymaking and advocacy.

We hope you will join us for this important and timely exchange.

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Programme

13:30-13:45

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Miriam Kullmann, Member of European Committee of Social Rights

13:45-14:00

Presentation

Review of Ad Hoc State Reports on Social Rights and Cost-of-living Crisis

Miriam Kullmann, Member of European Committee of Social Rights

Speakers:

- Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights
- George Theodosis, Vice-president of the European Committee of Social Rights

14:00-14:45

Panel Discussion I (followed by Q&A)

Using the Cost-of-Living Review as a Tool for Rights-Based Advocacy and Policymaking

Miriam Kullmann, Member of European Committee of Social Rights

Speakers:

- Krista Janssen, Policy Advisor Netherlands Institute for Human Rights
- Freek Spinnewijn, Director FEANTSA (the European Federation of Organisations Working on Homelessness)
- Yvette Kalden, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of International Affairs, Directorate of International Relations, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, member of the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security
- Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights
- George Theodosis, Vice-president of the European Committee of Social Rights

14:45-15:10

Q&A

15:10-15:45

Coffee Break



Programme

15:45-16:05

Presentation

Recent Highlights from the ECSR's Case-law

Speakers:

- Miriam Kullmann, Member of European Committee of Social Rights
- Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights

16:45-17:15

Panel Discussion II (followed by Q&A)

Using the Collective Complaints Procedure and ECSR Case-Law

Chair: George Theodosis, Vice-president of the European Committee of Social Rights

Speakers:

- Stefan Clauwaert, European Trade Union Confederation
- Rafael Cid, Lawyer and Co-founder of Gentium
- Nikolaos Papadopoulos, Academic Researcher
- Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights
- Miriam Kullmann, Member of the European Committee of Social Rights

17:15-17:30

Q&A

17:30

Closing Remarks

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