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ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE
Service public fédéral
**Affaires étrangères,
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Laboratoire

Droit, religion, entreprise et société | DRES

de l'Université de Strasbourg

et du 



EU Delegation to the
Council of Europe

Social rights in the digital age: challenges and opportunities

Strasbourg, 9 December 2021 09:00 – 13:30 CET

Council of Europe, Palais room 9

Presentation of speakers

(per order of appearance in the programme)



Ambassador Mr. Jean-Cédric Janssens de Bisthoven
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the Council of Europe

A career diplomat, Jean-Cédric Janssens de Bisthoven is Permanent Representative of Belgium to the Council of Europe since August 26th 2020. His previous assignments include New York and Washington DC.



Ms. Mélanie Schmitt
Professor in Social Law – University of Strasbourg - framing of the subject

A full professor of Labour Law at the University of Strasbourg and Deputy Head of the Research Centre UMR 7354 DRES – Law, Religion, Business and Society). Her research interests comprise Workers' Fundamental Rights, focusing particularly on Transnational Trade Union Rights, and the legal dimension of the European social model.



Mr. Marco Rocca
Researcher CNRS, UMR 7354 DRES, University of Strasbourg - framing of the subject

A CNRS researcher at the University of Strasbourg (UMR 7354 DRES - Droit, religion, entreprise et société). His research focuses on the regulation of labour mobility in Europe and on the impact of European economic governance on social rights.



Mr. Joseph Faber
Chairman of the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security

Chairman of the Governmental Committee of the Social Charter of the Council of Europe (mandate until 31/12/2021). President of the 'Caisse de secours mutuels des sportifs'. President of the Court of Appeal of the Luxembourg Football Federation. Lecturer at the 'Institut National d'Administration Publique' (labour law and employment contracts in the Luxembourg civil service; micro-computing) (official mandate).



Mr. Stefan Gran
Senior Policy Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

A Senior Advisor at the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). His main areas of work are workers' participation and digitalisation, currently especially the regulation of Artificial Intelligence. Before joining the ETUC, he headed the Brussels office of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB). As a trained social security clerk, he studied economics at the Hamburg University of Economics and Politics and later European Studies (MA) at the University of Hamburg. After his studies, he worked as a Parliamentary Assistant to MEP Udo Bullmann (S&D) in Brussels.



Mr. Luis Rodrigo Morales
Senior Adviser, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

A Senior Advisor at the International Organisation of Employers. His practice focuses on industrial relations, international labour standards, the future of work and social protection. From 2013 to March 2019, he served as Minister of Labour Affairs in Europe for the Government of Mexico at the Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva, Switzerland. As such, he was responsible of providing legal advice on international labour regulation and policy. Also, he represented the government in various international forums such as the ILO; OECD, WTO, IOM, and the G20, among others. He served as regional coordinator for the Group of the Americas in the ILO (2015-2016) and as President of the Government Group of the ILO (2016-2017). Luis Rodrigo holds a law degree from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Mexico and a master's degree in international business law (LL.M.) (cum laude), at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, School of Law, Leuven, Belgium.



Ms. Teresa Maria de Moura Anjinho
Deputy Ombudswoman of Portugal

Graduated in Law at the University of Coimbra in 1997 and Master in Human Rights and Democratisation at the University of Padua, Italy (1998). Deputy Ombudsperson of Portugal since December 2017, she was Member of Parliament, Secretary of State for Justice of the XX Constitutional Government, Deputy of the Municipal Assembly of Coimbra and Member of the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination. She has dedicated her academic and professional life to the study, teaching and advocacy of human rights, with an emphasis on women's' rights and the right to equality and non-discrimination.



Mr. Patrick Penninckx
Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe

He has spent the last 30 years of his career with the Council of Europe, contributing to the transformation processes of the organisation and developing partnerships with international and national institutions.

Currently heading the Information Society Department under the DG Human Rights and Rule of Law, Patrick coordinates standard setting and cooperation activities in the fields of media, internet governance, data protection, cybercrime and artificial intelligence. His professional focus encompasses areas such as freedom of expression, safety of journalists, sound internet governance, international standards in the data protection, action against cybercrime and the impact of AI on human rights.



Mr. Guiseppe Palmisano
General Rapporteur of the European Committee of Social Rights (ESCR)

PhD in International Law, University of Milan, former President and current General Rapporteur of the European Committee of Social Rights, is Professor of International Law and International Human Rights Law at the University of Roma Tre, where is also member of the Executive Board of the International Research Centre on "Law and Globalization". From 2012 to 2018 he was the Director of the Institute for International Legal Studies of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR).



Mr. Max Uebe
Head of Unit Future of Work and Youth Employment, European Commission

Max is head of unit "Future of Work, Youth Employment" in the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion since July 2021. The unit supports the fair and sustainable development of European labour markets by anticipating change and identifying policy responses to new and emerging trends in the world of work. It currently focuses on platform work, telework, the right to disconnect and artificial intelligence and continues its work on youth employment and active labour market policies.

He joined DG Employment in 2012 after having spent more than 6 years in the Cabinets of Commissioners László Andor and Vladimír Špidla (both Commissioners for Employment and Social Affairs).



Ms. Rita Skrebiskierne
President of the European Platform for Social Cohesion (PECS)

Chief Advisor to the Horizontal Policy and Projects Management Group of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour since 2020. Until then, from 2002, she worked as a Director of International Affairs Department.

She develops international and European Union partnership, participates in ensuring proper implementation of requirements arising from membership of Lithuania in the European Union, Council of Europe, Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, in the process of developing cooperation with international organisations and foreign states.

For years she is the representative of Lithuania to the European Social Cohesion Platform (COE), to the Social Protection Committee (EU); to the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (OECD).



Mr. Tim De Meyer
Senior Advisor on Standards Policy, International Labour Office (ILO)

Senior Adviser on Standards Policy with the International Labour Standards Department of the International Labour Office (HQ) in Geneva. Standards policy has several objectives: to enhance the relevance of international labour standards through a standards review mechanism and regular standard-setting; to consolidate tripartite consensus on an authoritative supervisory system; and to improve the outreach to constituents through technical assistance, technical cooperation and capacity building. From 2014 to 2018, he served as Director of the Country Office for China and Mongolia. He managed Decent Work Country Programmes for China and Mongolia, promoting more and better jobs for women and men, social protection, social dialogue with employers and workers and respect for fundamental principles and rights at work.



Mr. Joost Korte
Director General - Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission (visio)

Joost Korte was appointed Director-General of Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion on the 16 March 2018. Previously, the Dutch national served as Deputy Director-General in the European Commission's Trade Department, in the Agriculture and Rural Development Department as well as in the Enlargement Department. Furthermore, Mr. Korte spent several years in the Commission's Secretariat General as Director responsible for the relations with the Council of Ministers and gained extensive experience in the Private offices of Sir Leon Brittan, Chris Patten and Danuta Hübner. These professional experiences within the European institutions allowed him to develop a profound understanding of EU decision-making. A lawyer by training, Joost Korte joined the Commission in 1991, following eight years of academic work on European law at the Universities of Utrecht and Edinburgh.



Mr. Christophe Poirel
Director Human Rights, Council of Europe

Director of Human Rights of the Council of Europe since July 2018. Responsible for the departments in charge of supervising the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, social rights and the implementation of the European Social Charter, intergovernmental co-operation in the fields of human rights and Bioethics as well as Council of Europe's activities concerning the independence and functioning of judicial systems. Previously served as Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe between 2010 and 2018, with particular responsibility for political and human rights issues, having held various positions in the human rights field since 1989.