

FOOD AID & SOCIAL POLICY IN EUROPE

THE TENSION BETWEEN 'COLD' AND 'WARM' SOLIDARITY

How may warm and cold solidarity reinforce one another in enhancing the social dimension of the European project?

Does the recently introduced European Pillar of Social Rights offer new opportunities for a more structural European approach in social policy?

THE TENSION BETWEEN 'COLD' AND 'WARM' SOLIDARITY AND THE ROLE OF EUROPE

'Cold solidarity' refers to structural redistribution mechanisms for social security and taxation of public authorities to limit inequality and reduce poverty, which are mainly organized at the national level. Europe's role is limited to coordination and regulation. The EU however seeks to promote actions among the member states to combat poverty and social exclusion, and to reform social protection systems on the basis of policy exchanges and mutual learning. This policy is known as the social protection and social inclusion process. It underpins the Europe 2020 strategy. Recently, the *European Pillar of Social Rights* (EPSR) sets out a number of key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems.

'Warm solidarity' refers to the many local, small scale social initiatives that deliver direct aid to people in need (e.g. homework support for vulnerable children, shelters for the homeless, social restaurants, food banks and the social economy). Through the Social Funds the EU has since long taken a prominent role in supporting 'warm solidarity' within member states. More recently, by launching the *Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived* (FEAD) and promoting the so-called 'social innovation agenda', the European Commission confirms itself in an apparently paradoxical position in the social policy field. Its impact is limited to 'warm solidarity' bypassing the nation state level.

Programme

Lectures by: **Laszlo Andor**

Former EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Frank Vandenbroucke

Professor Economic and Social Policy at the University of Amsterdam & Holder of the Chair 'Herman Deleeck' at the University of Antwerp

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Johanna Greiss & Bérénice Storms

Centre for Social Policy Herman Deleeck, University of Antwerp

Alexandre Lesiw

President a.i. Federal Public Planning Service Social Integration PODMI

Panel with: **Caroline Van der Hoeven**

Coordinator of the Belgium Anti-Poverty Network BAPN

Anne Van Lancker

Policy Coordinator European Minimum Income Network EMIN

Thijs Smeyers

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator Caritas Belgium & Chair of the Social Inclusion and Integration Action Group of Caritas Europa

Edmond Grace sj

Secretary for Justice and Ecology, Jesuit European Social Centre

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INFO

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