

About the Forum

The Foundation Forum is a biennial event which provides an arena for an open and lively debate on critical issues facing the EU. By invitation-only, the Forum brings together the top-level thinkers and actors from Europe's economic and social fields. They include policy-makers, economists, government officials, MEPs, NGOs, employer organisations and trade unionists.

In this third Foundation Forum, the discussion focuses on the theme of how to increase competitiveness and, at the same time, maintain and improve the European social model. Taking place over two days, the Forum comprises plenary sessions, parallel debates and informal opportunities for maximum interaction among the participants. Stakeholders are invited to play a full role in this important debate and to contribute to the task of finding answers to some of the most pertinent questions facing the EU today.

Exhibition

An exhibition of Foundation activities related to this year's Forum theme is featured at the event.

Forum Team

Forum Manager: **Brid Nolan**

Conference Officer: **Bernice Turner**

Secretariat: **Alexandra Burgholz, Janka Robinson**

The Foundation is pleased to acknowledge the continued support of the Forum by the Irish Government

To find out more about the Foundation, its work programmes and its publications, visit: www.eurofound.europa.eu

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions is a tripartite EU body, whose role is to provide key actors in social policy-making with findings, knowledge and advice drawn from comparative research. The Foundation was established in 1975 by Council Regulation EEC No. 1365/75 of 26 May 1975.



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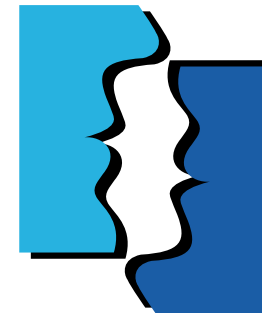
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European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

Competitive Europe – Social Europe

Partners or Rivals?



**FOUNDATION
FORUM 2006**

1–3 November, 2006

Dublin Castle,
Dublin, Ireland

Competitive Europe – Social Europe Partners or Rivals?

1–3 November, 2006

**Dublin Castle,
Dublin, Ireland**

Competitiveness – it's the non-negotiable in the revised Lisbon strategy.

But what's its impact on the European Social Model? Will it sustain or shatter it? Is competitiveness the way to finance and maintain the European Social Model? Or must the Model be compromised to sustain competitiveness?

The future of the European Union may depend on how these questions are asked and addressed.

Foundation Forum 2006 is where key opinion-leaders and decision-makers debate these issues and propose road signs for finding the path forward.

The Forum brings together:

- Decision-makers in the EU Institutions – responsible not only for formulating policies but also for ensuring that citizens' confidence in the European Union is maintained
- Government ministers who must deliver on the targets in the Member States and then face the voters
- Employees and employers – working together to stay one step ahead of the competition in today's global marketplace
- NGOs – the voice of less privileged groups in an increasingly competitive society

WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2006

18.30-20.00 **Opening reception at Dublin Castle**
Hosted by
Micheál Martin TD, Minister for enterprise, trade and employment, Ireland

THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2006

08.15 **Registration and coffee**

08.45 **Participants gather in the Plenary hall**

09.00-09.30 **Welcome and formal opening**
Chair: Willy Buschak, Deputy Director of the Foundation

09.00-09.10 **Opening remarks**
Jorma Karppinen, Director of the Foundation

09.10-09.30 **A competitive Ireland in a social Europe**
Bertie Ahern TD, Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Ireland

09.30-13.00 **The Lisbon competitiveness goal – feasible, appropriate or even desirable?**

- **Europe can still get it right**
Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation on economic trends, USA

10.30-10.50 **Europe and the new division of labour**
Hans-Werner Sinn, Professor of economics and public finance, University of Munich, Germany

10.50-11.10 **Question time**

11.10-11.30 **Break**

11.30-11.45 **The Lisbon goals: why are we not on target?**
The workers' view
Maria H el ene Andr e, Deputy General Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation, Belgium

11.45-12.00 **The Lisbon Goals: why are we not on target?**
The employers' view
Th er ese de Liedekerke, Director of the social affairs department, UNICE – The voice of business in Europe, Belgium

12.00-12.20 **Question time**

12.20-12.50 **The Lisbon goals: why are we not on target?**
The governments' view

- Denmark – Minister Claus Hjort Frederiksen
- Greece – Minister Savvas Tsitouridis
- Slovenia – Minister Janez Drobni 

12.50-13.10 **The Lisbon goals: why are we not on target?**
The people's view
Poul Nyrup Rasmussen MEP, President of the Party of European socialists and former Prime Minister of Denmark

Discussion

Lunch

Parallel debates

Introduction to the parallel sessions – breakout debates

Forum moderator: Willis Goldbeck, Board member, Institute for alternative futures

Move to debate rooms

Parallel sessions – breakout debates

Each session comprises two parts. First, a debate takes place on a given proposition. This is followed by a discussion on actions that could support this proposition. The participants then define two to three such actions which will be fed back to the plenary session the following morning by the Forum moderator.

Debate propositions

Flexicurity is the path to better European competitiveness

Moderator: Lorenzo Bordogna, University of Milan, Italy

Protagonist: Raul Eamets, University of Tallinn, Estonia

Antagonist: Isabel da Costa, Centre d' tudes de l'emploi, France

Convener: Timo Kauppinen

Regional profiling can make every region a winner

Moderator: Ray Wild, Ray Wild and partners, UK

Protagonist: Saxon Brettell, Cambridge econometrics, UK

Antagonist: Karen-Margrethe Hansen Bager, Regional municipality of Bornholm, Denmark

Convener: Barbara Gerstenberger

Sustainable competitiveness needs social partnership

Moderator: Alain Chouraqui, French national centre for scientific research, France

Protagonist: Manfred Weiss, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Germany

Antagonist: Constantin T. Gurdgiev, Trinity College, Ireland

Convener: Stavroula Demetriades

Promotion of diversity is a tool for competitive advantage

Moderator: Ute Drewniak, Diversity consultant, Germany

Protagonist: Jane Pillinger, Independent researcher and policy advisor, Ireland

Antagonist: John Halloran, European social network, UK

Convener: Rob Anderson

17.15-17.30 **'Puzzle' for Part 2**
Forum moderator: Willis Goldbeck

17.30 **Transfer to hotel**

19.30 **Transfer back to Dublin Castle**

19.30-20.00 **Pre-dinner reception in Portrait Gallery**

20.00-22.15 **Forum dinner**
Hosted by
Tony Killeen TD, Minister for labour affairs, Ireland

22.30 **Transfer to hotel**

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2006

08.15 **Transfer to Dublin Castle**

08.30-09.00 **Registration and coffee**

09.00-09.15 **Report from workshops and introduction**
Forum moderator: Willis Goldbeck

09.15-11.10 **EU social policy: what is the business case?**

- **Where does EU social policy meet business?**
Nikolaus van der Pas, Director General for employment, social affairs and equal opportunities, European Commission, Belgium
- **Can Member States compete with each other for business without undermining EU social policy?**
P eter Kiss, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of social and labour affairs, Hungary

09.45-10.00 **Question time**

10.00-10.45 **Conducting business in Social Europe**

- **Social model vs competitive economy: Is this the only choice for business in the new Member States**
Maciej Mataczynski, Chairman of the supervisory board of PKN ORLEN, Poland
- **Is social policy the luxury of big business?**
SMEs – Peter Pelgrims, President of SOMATI group, Belgium
- **EU social policy: help or hindrance in the global marketplace?**
International business – Catherine Glickman, Director of human resources, Tesco, UK

10.45-11.10 **Discussion**

11.10-11.30 **Break**

11.30-13.00 **Competitive Europe, Social Europe: moving together towards a sustained quality of life?**

Plenary debate among all participants

Forum moderator: Willis Goldbeck

Seated in their respective groups, all participants contribute to the final wrap-up debate as part of the unique interactive structure. Moving dynamically among the different groups, the moderator seeks to stimulate an innovative and exciting discussion based on the reflections of the two-day event.

13.00-13.15 **Final remarks**
Jorma Karppinen
Director of the Foundation

13.15-14.45 **Lunch**

15.00 **Transfer to Dublin airport**