

NEWSLETTER

July – December 2004

Modernizing the European Social Model

"For the sake of our common future, we need to create a 21st century social model based on opportunity, inclusion and sustainability – a model that will protect individuals, while helping them succeed and realise their personal potential."

- Excerpt from *A Social Contract for the 21st Century*, a manifesto signed by reform leaders from seven countries

On 28 September 2004, the Lisbon Council launched the **Modernizing the European Social Model Initiative**. To kick off a broad public discussion, the Lisbon Council convened an eclectic group of pro-reform civil society leaders, government officials, media representatives, economists, private sector thought leaders, civil servants and diplomats from seven countries throughout the EU. The discussion culminated in the signing of **A Social Contract for the 21st Century** – a concrete set of four proposals for modernizing and preserving the European Social Model. Among those who took part in the discussion and debate were Martin Jahn, the 34-year old deputy prime minister of the Czech Republic, and Berglind Asgeirsdottir, deputy secretary general of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.



Martin Jahn, 34, deputy prime minister of the Czech Republic



Global demography expert Berglind Asgeirsdóttir, deputy secretary-general of the OECD



Panel discussion on a social model for the 21st century

European Parliamentarians host Young Leaders for Lisbon

"Much of the legislative work in the coming years will focus on the Lisbon Agenda and European competitiveness. It is therefore a great pleasure to welcome pro-reform citizen groups and advocacy tanks to the European Parliament."

- Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Member of the European Parliament

Silvana Koch-Mehrin, a German Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chairwoman of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in Europe (ALDE), hosted a policy discussion and reception for the **Young Leaders for Lisbon** in the European Parliament on 28 September, 2004. In a room filled with MEPs from several parties and factions, the reform leaders described their work in respective EU member states and presented their **Social Contract for the 21st Century**.



MEPs and Young Leaders for Lisbon



Edit Herczog, Socialist MEP from Hungary, and Margarita Starkeviciute, Liberal MEP from Lithuania, describe their vision of the Lisbon Agenda

Chairman of Competitiveness Council Describes His Vision of a Social Europe

"Reforms are no free lunch. They require all stakeholders involved to show leadership, communicate clearly and take full responsibility for modernizing the social model."

-Laurens Jan Brinkhorst in lecture to the Lisbon Council

On 7 October, Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, Minister of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands and the serving Chairman of the Competitiveness Council of the European Union, delivered **The 2004 Jean Jacques Rousseau Lecture** to the Lisbon Council. In his remarks and in the subsequent discussion, Minister Brinkhorst laid out his vision for a social Europe – a Europe in which structural growth, greater competitiveness and sound public finances restore and sustain social cohesion.



International Media, Consultations and Speeches

Since its founding in August 2003, the Lisbon Council has either published or been quoted in over **75 newspapers worldwide**. Our message of economic renewal and our calls for dynamic change have resonated with the media and policy makers alike. Today, the Lisbon Council is frequently consulted by political leaders and senior civil servants on issues ranging from innovation and social sustainability to citizen outreach and structural-reform timing.

"[The Lisbon Council] has had up to now an above-average exposure in the media and with policy makers compared to other think tanks..."

- From *Europe and Its Think Tanks*, a study conducted by Notre Europe, the think tank of former European Commission President Jacques Delors



-- Publications and other media where the Lisbon Council has recently appeared --

In September, the Danish government invited the Lisbon Council to Copenhagen for a day-long brainstorming on reform strategy. Together with senior Danish diplomats and the Danish social partners, the Lisbon Council analysed and critiqued the Danish government's submission to the High-Level Working Group on the Lisbon Agenda, chaired by Wim Kok. In November, Executive Director Ann Mettler was invited by Roland Koch, Minister President of the German state Hessen, to give a speech on **Drivers of Economic Growth** to a top audience of German decision makers.



Executive Director Ann Mettler at *Rheingauer Impulse*, Roland Koch's policy gathering



Roland Koch, Minister President of Hessen, Germany

“A system of Idea Management transforms creative potential into creative action. It awakens the formidable force that usually sleeps inside enterprises.”

- Isaac Getz, writing in his seminal study of Innovation, *Vos Idées Changent Tout*

Innovation Forum

On 23 November 2004, the Lisbon Council invited Dr. Isaac Getz, Professor of Idea, Involvement and Innovation at the Paris-based ESCP-EAP European School of Management, to kick off a debate on the policies that encourage innovation – and the solutions available to individuals, companies and governments to meet the challenges they face.



Professor Isaac Getz



Structural Reform Initiative

“The old age dependency ratio in Europe is projected to increase from about 25% in 2005 to...more than 50% in 2050. This population profile will not only put pressures on the sustainability of welfare systems, but also negatively influence potential output growth – unless remedial actions are taken.”

- Lucas Papademos, ECB Vice President

On 9-10 December 2004, 17 top economists, strategists and thought leaders came together in Brussels for the **Structural Reform Initiative**, an intensive brainstorming on the policies it will take to make our society “fit for the future,” and the timing and scope of successful reform strategies. Lucas Papademos, vice-president of the European Central Bank kicked off the debate with **The 2004 Ludwig Erhard Lecture**. In his Lecture, Mr. Papademos eloquently described the challenges facing European society – and the measures that need to be taken to raise competitiveness and preserve the European social model.



ECB Vice-President Lucas Papademos delivers the 2004 Ludwig Erhard Lecture

The Education Initiative: the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

“OECD member states spend on average 6% of their GDP on education. We don’t have enough information about how we are doing.”

- Andreas Schleicher, PISA project director



Andreas Schleicher, author of the PISA study (left)

On 6 December, 2004, the Lisbon Council launched its **Education Initiative** with a lunch in honour of Andreas Schleicher, author and project director of the **OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)**. Meeting with journalists and education experts inside the Lisbon Council, Mr. Schleicher presented the results of PISA 2003 one day before the official launch of the report in Berlin.



MEP Cem Özdemir, (Greens-Germany)

“Europe is more inequitable than the United States when it comes to education,” he told participants, though even the United States has lost its lead in educational standards to Finland and several Asian Countries. His report holds valuable lessons for the policies that work to raise educational performance, encourage social justice and keep our economy at the forefront of global economic developments.

New Members

In November, the Lisbon Council held its third Board of Directors meeting in Dordrecht, Netherlands. At that meeting, four new members were elected to the association – all of them recognized leaders in the European reform movement.



Martin Baily, senior fellow, Institute for International Economics, USA

Before joining the Institute for International Economics in 2001, Martin completed a successful term as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under U.S. President Bill Clinton. At the same time, he also served as president of the Economic Policy Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). In 2004, Martin published together with his Danish co-author Jacob Kirkegaard a seminal book on European economic reform: *Transforming the European Economy*.



Koert Debeuf, strategic advisor, Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt

Trained as a historian, Koert was previously national chairman for the CVP-Jongeren party and co-founder and political secretary of the New Christian Democrats in Belgium. Author of the book *Naar een open volkspartij*, Koert has served as political advisor to the mayor of Leuven, the Flemish Parliament, the European Parliament and the Belgian Federal Parliament. He studied at the KU Leuven in Belgium and the Università degli studi di Bologna in Italy.



Daniel Dettling, founder and executive director, berlinpolis, Germany

A lawyer by profession, Daniel is one of Germany's authoritative voices on economic reform and social renewal. He was named one of the 100 most important young Germans by NEON Magazine and is author of *Marke D – Das Projekt der nächsten Generation* (2003) and *Weißbuch Bildung. Für ein dynamisches Deutschland* (2004). Daniel is publisher of *Berliner Republik* magazine and co-founder of the German Society for Political Consulting (degpol).



Elisabeth Lulin, founder and president, FuturBulences, France

Elisabeth is a French entrepreneur and policy expert. She is managing director of her own company, Paradigmes, a public policy consultancy based in Paris. She also founded FuturBulences, a political club of young professionals which aims to be an incubator and disseminator of new ideas. A graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, she is also an affiliate professor in public management at ESCP-EAP, European School of Management. Prior to founding Paradigmes, Elisabeth was a junior advisor to Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Upcoming

Young Leaders for Lisbon Congress

In the run-up to the Mid-term Review of the Lisbon Agenda, the Lisbon Council will convene a Young Leaders for Lisbon Congress in Brussels, Belgium.

The 2005 Robert Schuman Lecture

To be delivered by José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission.

Jobs of the Future

Drawing on the latest thinking about demographic trends, this ground-breaking report will analyse how knowledge-based economies can thrive in the world of globalization and best prepare themselves for coming economic challenges.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

TOGETHER, WE CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE