Securing trust and sustainable social cohesion in a context of transition

Programme

Shared social responsibility

28 February
1st March 2011
Brussels
European Commission

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The purpose of this event, organised jointly by the Council of Europe and the European Commission, is to confirm social cohesion as an objective for Europe. By calling for shared social responsibility – the key principle of the Council of Europe’s Revised Social Cohesion Strategy and the European Union’s European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion – our institutions are seeking to ensure a better understanding and awareness of the strong interdependencies linking stakeholders and citizens.

Shared social responsibility is not a denial of specific responsibilities, but rather the link between them in terms of the joint commitments to be taken in addressing the challenges of today: the fight against poverty, social, environmental and intergenerational justice, the preservation of universal rights and democratic institutions, harmonious co-existence in pluralist societies.

Shared social responsibility requires us to revitalise the strong values on which Europe is based, to take stock of what has been achieved and identify the shortcomings in dealing with the new requirements of regulation and social balance, which call for innovative institutional and organisational solutions. To this end, it is imperative to acknowledge that “everyone” – stakeholders at all levels and citizens alike – has his or her rightful part to play.

Shared social responsibility requires reciprocity in order to reduce uncertainty over the future. It seeks to find a new consensus on the priority to be given to the practical implementation of fundamental rights and the protection of common goods – material and non-material – which are a source of full development for present generations and constitute the assets of future generations.

The substance of a future European Charter of Shared Social Responsibilities will be discussed on 28 February. The value of this concept for securing social cohesion will be analysed on 1 March, with the contribution of senior European civil servants and scientific and political analysts. The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, and the prospects opened up by the European Union’s strategy 2020 and by the Council of Europe Action Plan for Social Cohesion will be presented at this conference.

The aim of the discussions at this conference is to help strengthen our capacity for action to preserve our values, enhance citizens’ confidence in our democratic institutions and put forward ways of achieving consensus and promoting the collective competencies which are indispensable for asserting the attractiveness of Europe in our radically changing world.
8.30-9.15

WELCOME, REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

9.15-10.45

OPENING SESSION

The need for a concept of shared social responsibility: prospects and obstacles

CLAUS OFFE, Professor of Political Science, Hertie School of Governance (Berlin), member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (Germany)

The European charter on shared social responsibilities: a proposal for discussion

GILDA FARRELL, DGIII Social Cohesion, Council of Europe (Head of the Social Cohesion Research and Development Division)

10.45-11.15

Coffee

11.15-12.45

WORKSHOPS

Comments and suggestions on the “European charter on shared social responsibilities”

WORKSHOP 1

CHALLENGES AND MOTIVATIONS

The need for shared social responsibility as an answer to increasing poverty and precariousness, growing public and private over-indebtedness, the increase in environmental risks, growing mistrust in public and political institutions and the limitations of the welfare state.

Workshop 1A (English/French)

Introduction to the topic:

- SABINE URBAN, Emeritus Professor, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (France)
- MARK DAVIS, Lecturer in Sociology and Director of the Bauman Institute, School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Leeds, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (United Kingdom)
- GILDA FARRELL, DGIII Social Cohesion, Council of Europe (Head of the Social Cohesion Research and Development Division)

Workshop 1B (English)

Introduction to the topic:

- SEAN HEALY, Director, Social Justice Ireland, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (Ireland)
- KLAVDJA CERNILOGAR, Head of the Policy Development and Advocacy Department, European Youth Forum, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (Belgium)
- RAUL DAOI, CittaSlow, Mayor, Novellara (Italy)

12.45-14.15

LUNCH

14.15-16.15

WORKSHOPS

Comments and suggestions on the “European charter on shared social responsibilities”

WORKSHOP 2

VISION AND DEFINITION

Shared social responsibility as an answer to the need to tackle current institutional deficits, to preserve common goods, the well-being for all, including for future generations, to develop individual and collective competences, to build a plural Europe and an inclusive institutional culture.

Workshop 2A (English/French)

Introduction to the topic:

- SAMUEL THIarkin, Administrator, Social Cohesion Research and Development Division, DGIII Social Cohesion, Council of Europe (France)
- ROSALIE PORTMAN, Transition Towns, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (United Kingdom)
- MARIE KEIRLE, French representative on the Social Protection Committee of the European Union and on the European Committee for Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe (CDCS), member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (France)

Workshop 2B (English)

Introduction to the topic:

- MAJA GOBEL, Director, World Future Council Foundation, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (Belgium)
- JULIA ZSILAI, Senior Researcher, Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Centre for Policy Studies, Central European University (Hungary)
- MICHAL VASECKA, Director, Centre for the research of ethnicity and culture (Slovakia)
WORKSHOP 4
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GOVERNANCE FOR SHARING RESPONSIBILITY
How to make the governance model of shared social responsibility effective: avoiding paradoxes of collective action; involving weak and strong stakeholders through fair collective decisions, local social contracts, bargaining and deliberative democracy; inducing cooperation through developing the “sense of justice” and compliance with joint decisions, reputation effects, accountability and networks of trustful relationships.

Workshop 4A (English/French)
Introduction to the topic:
- BACHIR MAZOUZ, Professor, École nationale d’administration publique, member of the Cercle d’Excellence, University of Quebec (Canada)
- FEDERICO OLIVERI, Consultant, Governance and active citizenship, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (Italy)
- ARNOLD RODENBURG, CittaSlow, Mayor, Middeln Delfland (Netherlands)

Workshop 4B (English)
Introduction to the topic:
- LORENZO SACCONI, Professor of Economics, University of Trento, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (Italy)
- LASZLO FEKETE, Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Business Ethics Centre (Hungary)
- GIUSEPPE PINTTI, member of Sodalitas and vice president vicarious of Assoconsult (Confindustria) (Italy)
The role of common goods in fostering shared responsibility, linking sustainable social cohesion to the reduction of inequalities

Stefano Rodotà, Emeritus Professor, University “La Sapienza” (Roma), President of the Scientific Commission of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union (Italy)

Addressing the challenges to placing shared responsibility at the heart of the political agenda

Introduction: A new social contract: moving from societies of fear to sharing a common destiny

Mireille Delmas-Martty, Professor, Collège de France, Member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences (France)

Speakers:
- Lorenzo Sacconi, Professor of Economics, University of Trento, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (Italy): the challenge of multi-stakeholder governance and the weakest players’ contribution
- Jean-Claude Barbier, Research Director CNRS, University of Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne CNRS, member of the Council of Europe ad-hoc advisory group on “A Europe of shared social responsibilities” (France): the challenge of building shared knowledge