

CONFERENCE

LABOUR MOBILITY AND CITIZENSHIP SAFEGUARDING SOCIAL STANDARDS IN EUROPE

Date 4 April 2016 | 13:00 – 17:30
Venue EESC, Room TRE 7701, 74 rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels
Language English

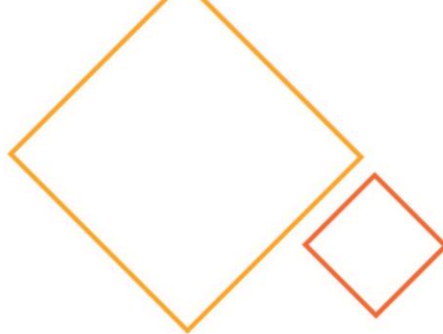
BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

Following the 2004 EU enlargement, the beginning of the economic crisis in 2008, and subsequent austerity measures, a significant number of EU citizens from mostly Eastern Europe employed in low-skilled occupations across Europe have raised a number of questions with regards to the **meaning of EU citizenship** as a set of rights and privileges. While employment in the destination country represents an opportunity for many, some of the mobile EU citizens have faced serious violations of their labour rights similar to those experienced by non-EU migrant workers. This is despite the fact that legally they are on an equal footing with domestic workers in the particular national labour markets. At the same time, the meaning of EU citizenship is being redrawn with calls to **restrict access to national labour markets or social welfare** for EU citizens from other EU countries as can be seen in political debates in a number of EU countries (e.g. the **BREXIT discussion**). The patterns of labour rights violations as well as issues such as **social dumping** raise serious questions for the meaning of labour mobility today and the possibility to safeguard social standards in Europe.

The **first part** of this conference will present particular experiences and **cases of violations of labour rights** of mobile EU citizens in the EU labour market collected by civil society organisations involved in the LABCIT project (*“Testing EU Citizenship as Labour Citizenship: From Cases of Labour Rights Violations to a Strengthened Labour Rights Regime”* co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union). It will also present **recommendations to overcome potential regulatory failures** at the national and EU level (subcontracting, temporary agency work, intermediaries, etc.). The findings and recommendations are part of the projects final report which will be available to the participants.

In the **second part**, SOLIDAR will present its position paper on social safeguards that has been developed together with our members and which presents a set of **social safeguards** needed to achieve a high-level of social protection in the EU and thereby the **social AAA rating** Europe aspires to as stated by Commission President Jean Claude Juncker. The paper will be used for SOLIDAR’s advocacy around the upcoming proposals for a **Pillar of Social Rights** and the **Labour Mobility Package**.





Lunch will be provided from 12:00 to 13:00

PART I: EU CITIZENSHIP AND LABOUR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Chaired by **Marek Caneek**, Multicultural Center Prague

13:00 – 13:15

Opening

Pavel Trantina, President of the Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship of the EESC (TBC)

13:15 – 14:30

Mobility, Labour Rights, and EU Labour Citizenship

During this session the following questions will be discussed:

What are patterns of labour rights violations in the EU?

How to achieve better case documentation?

Key recommendations

Speakers

Prof. Devi Sacchetto, University of Padova, Italy

Prof. Nathan Lillie, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Joachim Schuster, Member of the European Parliament (S&D, Germany)

Jorge Cabrita, Research Officer, Eurofound

14:30 – 15:45

Redefining Social Dumping: Beyond the East-West European Divide

During this session the following topics will be discussed:

Social Dumping Evasion and perspectives of EU mobile workers.

Towards increasing liability in subcontracting chains.

Key recommendations

Speakers

Dr. Bettina Haidinger, FORBA, Austria

Dr. Magdalena Bernaciak, ETUI

Dr. Sam Hägglund, the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers

Followed by Q&A

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee break





PART II: SOLIDAR ROUNDTABLE ON DEFINING SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS: A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

Chaired by Conny Reuter, SOLIDAR

16:15 – 17:15

Launch of SOLIDAR briefing “Social safeguards in Europe”

This paper aims at setting out the range and level of social safeguards SOLIDAR members consider essential to provide for a high level of social protection in the European Union.

Main recommendations will be presented by

Andre Hudepohl, Humanitas Netherlands, SOLIDAR member

Speakers

Terry Reintke, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA, Germany)

Radek Malý, Head of Unit in the Social Affairs Directorate, DG EMPL, EC

Claude Denagtergal, ETUC

Followed by Q&A

17:15 – 17:30

Closing remarks

Conny Reuter, SOLIDAR

