

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Ipse 25th Anniversary
Social protection and market economy in Europe: Where does solidarity fit in?

The Institute for European Social Protection – Iipse –celebrated its 25th anniversary with a special conference on September 26 at the headquarters of the European Economic and Social Committee (EECS) in Brussels.

Against a backdrop of institutional reorganization in the EU, Iipse's morning of talks and debates focused on the topic of solidarity in social protection, a key aspect of the European economy. The subject was explored from economic, geopolitical, social and societal perspectives.

Insightful addresses and debates led to a vision of Europe in decline due to the numerous imbalances that affect its operation, leading to the rise of "Europhobic" parties. Nonetheless, Europe can still restore its standing and once again assume a preeminent role in the world. To do so, however, it must do more to link the economic, social and cultural issues of each of its Member States, which are the building blocks of public policy and must be considered in relation to one another. True solidarity can only emerge, both within Member States and at the European level, once this has been accomplished.

This morning-long event was also the opportunity to address the future of Iipse. While remaining a platform for exchanges and discussion dedicated to solidarity-based social protection at the EU level, Iipse is currently launching initiatives to better adapt to the requirements of a changing environment both in Europe and in the field of social protection.

Following this event, Iipse will make all documents and media available as soon as possible on a dedicated "25th anniversary" page of its website, www.euroipse.org, and will publish the proceedings of the conference, including all speeches and presentations made during the event.

With the participation of: Henri Malosse (*EESC President*), Jean-Marie Spaeth (*President of Iipse*), Pervenche Berès (*MEP, S&D*), Dominique Boucher (*General Delegate of Iipse*), Pierre Defraigne (*Executive Director of the Madariaga – College of Europe Foundation*), Stéphane Rozès (*President of Cap, professor at Sciences-Po and HEC*), Renate Hornung-Draus (*Director of International Affairs of the Confederation of German Employers – BDA*).

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