

45th European Ipse Meeting

Social protection at the dawn of the European elections

in Brussels on 22 and 23 November 2018

Hosted by The European Economic and Social Committee



Comité économique et social européen
European Economic and Social Committee

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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There are no jobs on a dead planet

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The Juncker Presidency was marked by crises – Greek, migratory then political, Brexit –, as well as, by investment or social revivals, such as the European pillar of Social Rights . In view of the forthcoming European elections (May 2019), Brexit (29 March 2018) and amid reflections on the future of the EU, Ipse chose Brussels to shed light on these topics on the occasion of its 45th European Meeting.

In this context, Ipse intends to defend social protection by taking into account, on the one hand, a tangible and pressing reality: global warming. «There are no jobs on a dead planet», this statement recalls the link between social protection and the necessary ecological transition. Our economic model is depleting the natural resources and will not be sustainable in the long run. In addition, mentalities are struggling to evolve. Indeed, despite high ecological and social standards, the European Union is seen or seems to many Europeans to be lost in an increasingly frantic race for competitiveness at the expense of solidarity.

On the other hand, the European social protection faces the rise of the digital economy. The tremendous economic weight of actors such as Gafam, poses dull threats to our social models. This fourth industrial revolution , whose advent is portrayed with some bliss in the

media sphere, will it sign the end of the welfare state for the benefit of only lucrative actors? How to rethink the role and scope of non-profit social protection in the face of significant changes in the forms of work? Faced with the development of chronic diseases linked to professional activity, what are the answers for better prevention and efficient care for insured persons?

As noted by Eloi Laurent, economist at the OFCE, at our 19th Ipse Professional Conference , digital transition, which seemed out of reach a few years ago, has been implemented successfully. Why would not it be the same for the ecological transition? The environmental transition will be an opportunity to rethink the social question, too little taken into account today.



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These two stories, ecological and digital, will sustainably shape the life matrix of our societies for decades to come. They demand from the organized civil society actors a permanent and vigilant mobilization. True to its original strategy «to aim for the ideal and to understand the real», Ipse has been engaged, for almost three years, in its different events in a broad reflection on these current and future challenges. Through its network of recognized

experts, both in the institutional and academic fields, Ipse intends to continue this reflection and to put forth ways to make solidarity live today and tomorrow in Europe.

Hosted by the EESC in Brussels, this 45th European Meeting on «**Social protection faced with the dual ecological and digital challenge**» will involve experts and social and political actors around these major challenges.

Main topics discussed

The impact of technological and ecological challenges on social protection

- Ecological transition and health
- The comeback of the welfare state
- European employment and social protection policies in a world in upheaval because of the ICT

Prospects et proposals to face the ecological and technological challenges in Europe

- New business model
- Digital to serve ecology
- Gender gap in a digital world
- Sustainability of work in the digital economy
- New insurance risks

The answers to ecological, digital and societal challenges in the field of social protection

- New Italian government
- Intergenerational solidarity
- Democratic challenges and migrations
- Posted work