



# IPSE MEMO

## The European Pillar of Social Rights

### GENESIS

- ▶ **From the Treaty of Rome (1957) to today, 200 European texts provide a framework for social legislation in the EU.** However, social legislation remains a prerogative of the Member States due to the "principle of subsidiarity"
- ▶ **1989** : The Delors Commission has the EEC member states adopt the "*Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights for Workers*". An ambitious text, its application has a limited scope, in particular due to reluctance from the United Kingdom.
- ▶ **1989-2014** : "*The moment of deadlock*". Despite a strong mobilization of the organized civil society, the European institutions and member states do not engage in recognizing the social character of European project
- ▶ **2015** : President-elect of the Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, declares that he wants to give Europe its "*Social Triple A*". After a broad public consultation, the Commission is submitting to the Member States a series of proposals for the establishment of a European Pillar of Social Rights.
- ▶ **November 17, 2017** : **he European Pillar of Social Rights is unanimously adopted by the member states** (Gothenburg social tripartite Summit)

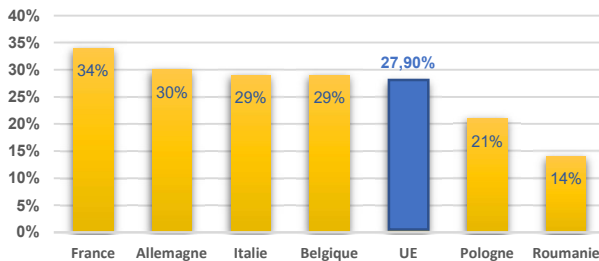
### The 20 principles of the European Foundation

- Equality, training and lifelong learning
- Gender equality
- Equal opportunities
- Active support for employment
- A secure and adaptable job
- A salary allowing a decent life
- Information on the employment conditions and protection in the event of dismissal
- Social dialogue and workers participation
- Work-life balance and privacy
- A healthy, safe and suitable working environment and data protection
- Childcare and help for children services
- The right for all workers to adequate social protection
- The right to unemployment benefits
- The right to a minimum income
- The right to a pension for all workers
- Guaranteed access to health care
- Guaranteed access to long-term care
- Inclusion of disabled people
- Housing and assistance to the homeless
- Access to essential services (water, energy transport, communications, etc.)

- ▶ **Concrete follow-up** : Although its adoption is optional, certain provisions of the Pillar have nevertheless inspired European directives (revision of the posted work directive (2018) or directive guaranteeing better work-life balance (2019)). Within the framework of the European Semester, the social policies of the Member States are now subject to evaluation and monitoring by the European Commission.

### DATA

EU Member States social protection expenditure by as% of GDP



- **120 million Europeans** live under the poverty line
- **16,1% on average**: gender pay gap in the EU
- **14%** of the European population faced with extreme situations of poor housing

SOURCE: EUROSTAT (2017)

### TOMORROW

- ▶ **A few questions** :
- The lack of a binding legal framework poses a problem in transposing into the legislation of the Member States the principles enshrined in the Pillar. The new President of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen intends, however, to make of its mandate an opportunity to move "towards a more social Europe".
- How to make the Pillar an effective tool for a more efficient fight against social dumping and lowest bidder?
- How non-profit actors can take advantage of this favourable context to defend their full potential contribution in favour of social rights in the European Union? What part may they play in the governance of the Pillar?