

OPENING CONFERENCE

Madrid, January 21, 210



Speakers' short biographies

Opening Session:

Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera. Minister of Health and Social Policy. Spain.



Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera was born on 4 June 1962 in Malaga. A Graduate in Law and expert in international relations, she joined the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) in 1984, in which she has served as the Officer in Charge of Political Relations with America in the PSOE's International Relations Secretariat (1996-2000), as Officer in charge of International Relations in the Federal Executive Commission of the PSOE (2000-), as Spokesman of the Socialists in Madrid's City Council (2003-2006) and as Vice President of the European Socialists Party, among other posts. Appointed as Spain's Secretary of State for Ibero-America in 2006, she is currently Government Minister of Health and Social Policy.

José Manuel Durão Barroso. President of the European Commission.



José Manuel Barroso was born in Lisbon on 23 March 1956. After graduating in Law and Political Science, he embarked on an academic career, appointed Head of the International Relations Department of Lusíada University, Lisbon in 1995. He joined the Social Democratic Party (PSD) in 1980, and was named President of the party in 1999 and re-elected three times. During the same period, he served as Vice President of the European People's Party. In April 2002, he was elected Prime Minister of Portugal. He remained in office until July 2004 when he became President-designate of the European Commission. Author of numerous publications on political science, international relations and the European Union, he was declared "European of the year 2006" by the magazine European Voice.

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. President of the Government of Spain and President of the European Union.



and was re-elected in 2008.

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Prime Minister of the Government of Spain and, was born in Valladolid on 4 August 1960. A Law Graduate and affiliated to the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) since 1979, he has served as General Secretary of the Socialist Federation of León (1988-2000), General Secretary of the PSOE and President of the Socialist Parliamentary Group in the Spanish Parliament (2000). Elected Member of Spain's Parliament Chamber of Deputies for León in 1986, 1989, 1993, 1996 y 2000, he was elected to the Spanish Presidency, as Member of Parliament for Madrid, in the general elections of 2004

Keynote Speech: "The Social Europe we want: the Challenge of Poverty and Inequality"

Felipe González Márquez. Chairman of the Reflection Group on the Future of the European Union.



The reflection group is due to submit a report on the challenges faced by the European Union between 2020 and 2030 at the European Council meeting in June 2010.

Felipe González was born on 5 March 1942 in Seville. A Law graduate, he was General Secretary of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) between 1974 and 1997. To date, he remains the longest-serving Prime Minister of Spain, after having served four successive mandates from 1982 to 1996. He secured Spain's entry into the EEC in 1986 and consolidated democratic government. He headed the Madrid-based Global Progress Foundation (FPG). In 2007, he was appointed plenipotentiary and extraordinary ambassador for the bicentenary celebrations in commemoration of the independence of Latin America by the

Spanish Government, and Chairman of the Reflection Group on the Future of the European Union by heads of state and governments of European Union members.

Presentation of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010: Major Events in the Context of the EY 2010 and promotional video

Vladimír Špidla. European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.



Parliament Chamber of Deputies for the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD)

Vladimír Špidla was born on 22 April 1951 in Prague. Doctor in History and Prehistory, he has occupied different positions in different sectors (saw-mill worker, dairy industry worker, archaeologist, public administrator in nature protection and environment, construction worker, Director of Regional Employment Authority in Jindřichův Hradec) before being elected Member of the Czech

(1996-2004). Vice-Chairman (1997-2001) and Chairman (2001-2004) of the CSSD, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs (1998-2002), he was Prime Minister of the Czech Republic (2002-2004) before being nominated to the European Commission as Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Roundtable I: “Testimonies of Persons Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion”

Moderator: Roshan di Puppo. Director of the Social Platform.



Roshan Di Puppo is Director of Social Platform, the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 42 pan-European networks of NGOs, Social Platform campaigns to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives.

Prior to this position, Roshan Di Puppo managed European projects for SOLIDAR, where she worked with undocumented migrants and developed ways to fight discrimination in access to social services.

A dual national of France and Italy, Roshan Di Puppo holds a diploma in political science from Sciences-Po Strasbourg, a Masters in European Affairs from the College of Europe and a Masters in Management of International Humanitarian Aid from the University of Louvain-la-Neuve.

Zoltanne Szvoboda. Hungary.



Zoltanne Szvoboda lives in a small town in Hungary and, together with her husband, is raising four children. In planning to have a large family they did not think that schooling and raising their children would cause so many – mainly financial – difficulties and problems. She has been an active member of the Hungarian Anti Poverty Network since 2005, and is now a member of its Coordinating Committee. She works in order to help the self-organisation and social participation of people experiencing poverty. She runs an NGO which deals with the improvement of living conditions of families with unemployed parent(s), which organises cultural and handicraft programmes for children and their families. Furthermore, and with the support of the Network, her NGO provides debt-preventing and debt-handling counselling via mutual help groups in her neighbourhood. Her general experience – strengthened by meeting so many people – is that most of us face many difficulties and that poverty is still growing among people.

Mirko Grga. Italy



Mr. Mirko Grga is an Italian Rom living in a camp in the outskirts of the city of Rome. He is 52 years old, is a father and grandfather. Mr Grga is very active in his community and is a member of the Italian delegation to the European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty. He is a member of the Social Cooperative Ermes and drives the bus that takes the children from the camp to school. He has lived in camps

all his life.

Geneviève Baert. Belgium



Geneviève Baert is a single mother raising five children aged 17 to 7. In the past two years, she has attended training sessions for entertainment and theatre through an association. She participates regularly in activities, work and conferences of Anti-Poverty Networks at the Walloon, Belgian and European levels. She is a "participating witness" and as such she is currently participating in a project on the theme of "participation" with Belgian, Romanian, Spanish and Portuguese networks. She is also elaborating a documentary film project with a cinematographer on the poverty she is living daily and the solutions she finds to respond to it. She

likes to share her ideas and to invest herself in her initiatives. She has no greater life project than to work for a better world for her and others' children.

Idriss Sadi. Spain.



Idriss Sadi, of Algerian origin, has resided in Spain for 17 years. He arrived in Spain with a University degree of his country of origin (agronomy engineering). Once in Spain, he started a new life from scratch. For years, without documentation, he lived in very precarious conditions. Before obtaining a working and residence permit, he lacked economic resources and a support network. Furthermore, he did not have at his disposal the necessary tools to get back on his feet. Since 1995, he has been working as an inter-cultural mediator in the Spanish Catholic

Commission on Migration of the Accem association, an entity working with asylum seekers, displaced, refugees and immigrants since 1992. During his journey in Spain, he has received training, initially related to language learning and thereafter a number of courses on intercultural mediation and immigration.

Roundtable II: “What the Lisbon Strategy Has Meant for the Target of Reducing Poverty: Points of View of Different Member Status and Review of Experiences”

Moderator: Aurelio Fernandez. Chairman of the Social Protection Committee.



Aurelio Fernandez Lopez, 50 years old, has been Chairman of the EU Social Protection Committee since January 2009. A Psychology Graduate and High-level Expert in Social Security Administration, he is currently Coordinator of development and technical cooperation activities in social security at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, where he has also been Advisor to the Secretary of State for Social Security since 2004. He is also a member of the European Task Force on Ageing, established in the follow-up of the European strategy on ageing. Among other posts, he served as Chairman of Social Development of the United Nations Organization (UN) (1988-2000), Advisor on Social Affairs in the Permanent Representation of Spain at the UN in Vienna and New York (1991-2000) and Spanish delegate in the Third Commission of the UN General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (1995-2000).

Jetta Klijnsma. State Secretary of Social Affairs and Employment. The Netherlands.



Jetta Klijnsma was born in 1957 in Hoogeveen, province of Drenthe: she studied socio-economic history at the University of Groningen and received her Master's degree in 1983. From 1986 to 1990 she followed the training programme for Senior Administrative Official at the Academy of Public Administration of the province of South Holland. From 1982 to 1998 she served in various positions for the parliamentary group of the Dutch Labour Party. From 1990 to 1998 she was councillor in the municipality of The Hague. She served on the 'Culture and Media', 'Welfare, Healthcare, Sport and Recreation' and 'Spatial Planning, Urban Renewal and Public Housing' committees. In 1998 she became an alderman in this municipality. From 2006 she has been responsible for the Culture and Finance portfolio. Jetta Klijnsma was appointed State Secretary of Social Affairs and Employment in 2008.

Francisco Moza Zapatero. General Secretary of Social Policy and Consumption. Ministry of Health and Social Policy. Spain.



Francisco Moza Zapatero was born on 24 December 1975. A Graduate in Economics and Business Studies, he has served as the Internal Coordinator and Treasurer of the Autonomous Spanish Youth Council, and worked as Project Director in the Consulting and Human Resources Division of Cap Gemini Ernst&Young, before serving as Office Head of the Municipal Socialist Group of Madrid City Council. He was appointed as Director of Promotion and Development before holding the post of Executive Director of SEPES. He is currently General Secretary of Social Policy and Consumption in the Ministry of Health and Social Policy.

Philippe Courard. State Secretary for Social Integration and the Fight Against Poverty. Belgium.



Born on 2 September 1966, Philippe Courard joined the Belgian Socialist Party in 1984. Municipal Councilor (1988-) and Mayor "en titre" of the Municipality of Hotton (1994-; currently absent from this position because of his ministerial duties), he served as Regional Minister of Employment and Training (2003-2004) and Regional Minister of the Interior and Civil Service (2004-2009) of the Walloon region, before being nominated as Belgium's State Secretary for Social Integration and the Fight Against Poverty, Adjunct to the Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health.

László Herczog. Minister of Social Affairs and Labour. Hungary.



Mister Laszlo Herczog holds Mastery in Economics by the Karl Marx University of Economics, Budapest (1974), and a PhD by the same University (1983). He was editor of the Financial Review from 1974 to 1977. From 1977 to 1990 he served in several positions as senior officer and Head of Unit in the Ministry of Finances and in the Ministry of Labour. From 1998 to 2002 he was Deputy State Secretary and Commissioner of the Minister in the Ministry of Economy. Between 2002 and 2006 he was Deputy State Secretary and State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. He was appointed as Minister of Social Affairs and Labour in April 2009

Martin Hirsch. High Commissioner for Active Solidarity Against Poverty and High Commissioner for Youth. France.



Martin Hirsch was born on 6 December 1963 in Suresnes, France. Holding a DEA in neurobiology, he graduated from the Ecole Nationale D'Administration (ENA) in 1990 and has held a number of posts in the French civil service, including as Adjunct General Secretary of the State Council (1993-1995), as Cabinet Director in the Health Action Secretariat (1997-1999), and as General Director of the French Agency for Food Safety (1999-2005), before being appointed as High Commissioner for Active Solidarity Against Poverty (2007-) and High Commissioner for Youth (2009-). He is the former President of Emmaüs France (2002-2007) and cofounder and General Director of Agence Nouvelle des Solidarités Actives (2006-). He initiated the reform of the Active Solidarity Income (RSA).

Roundtable III: “Challenges in the Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion. And Future Commitments post 2010”

Moderator: María Joao Rodrigues. Council Member of the Strategic and International Studies Institute of Lisbon and Special Advisor for the Lisbon Agenda of the EU.



María Joao Rodrigues is Professor of European Economic Policies at the Institute for European Studies, Université Libre de Bruxelles and at the Lisbon University Institute. She holds a degree in Sociology and PhD in Economics (PhD Paris I). She has been involved in the development of the Lisbon Agenda since its launch. Among other posts, she has served as Portuguese Minister for Employment and Training (1995-1997), as Special Advisor to the Portuguese Prime Minister and Head of the PM’s Forward Studies Unit (1998-2002), as President of the EU High Level Group on Industrial Relations and Change (2000-2001), and as Special Advisor to the European Commission on the Lisbon Agenda (2005-2007). She was awarded the title of Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur of the French Republic for her role in the European integration and the Lisbon Strategy.

Robert Verrue. General Director of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. European Commission.



Robert Verrue is currently General Director of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in the European Commission. He holds a Degree in International Economics (College of Europe) and an MBA (INSEAD). Attached to the European Commission since 1973, he has served as Head of Unit for Monetary Policies Coordination in the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (1985-1988), Director in the Directorate General Industrial Affairs and Internal Market (1988-1993), Deputy Director General of Relations with Central European Countries and CIS Republics in the Directorate General for External Affairs (1993-1995), General Director of the Information Society services (1996-2002), and Director General for Taxation & Customs Union (2002-2009).

Ludo Horemans. President of EAPN-EU (European Anti-poverty network).



Ludo Horemans is President of the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN). He is also active in EAPN at the Flemish Regional level and the Belgian Federal level. Since 1976 through his work for the Institute for Community Development in Antwerp, Ludo has been active in a number of projects and programmes at grass roots level to combat poverty and social exclusion. Throughout his work, Ludo had promoted the empowerment and involvement of people who face poverty in their everyday realities.

John Monks. General Secretary of the European Trade Unions Confederation.



Born in Manchester in 1945, John Monks holds a Degree in Economic History and Honorary degrees from several British universities. He joined the Trades Union Congress (TUC) of Great Britain in 1969, serving as Head of the TUC's Organization and Industrial Relations Department (1977-1987), Deputy General Secretary (1987-1993) and General Secretary of the TUC (1993-2003). Meanwhile, he acted as Member of the Council of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) of Great Britain (1979-1995), as Member of the UK Economic and Social Research Council (1988-1991), as Vice Chairman of the Learning and Skills Council, England and Chair of the Adult Learning Committee (1998-2004), among other activities. He was elected General Secretary of the European Trade Unions Confederation in 2003, and re-elected in 2007.

Emmanuel Julien. Vice-chair of BUSINESSEUROPE Social Affairs Committee.



Emmanuel Julien is Deputy Director for Social Affairs in MEDEF, the French Business Confederation, and is in charge of European and international affairs. He represents MEDEF in BUSINESSEUROPE's Social Affairs Committee. He is a member of the EU social dialogue committee and of the ILO Governing Body. He represents MEDEF in the International Organization of Employers, being member of its Board. He also participates in the work of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee of the BIAC (Business and Industry Advisory Committee towards the OECD).

Closing Session

Miguel Ángel Moratinos. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Spain.



Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation since 2004, is an experienced diplomat and politician. Born on 8 June 1951 in Madrid, Moratinos holds a degree in Law and Political Sciences. He has served as Director General of the Institute for Cooperation with the Arab World (1991-1993), Director General of Foreign Policy for Africa and the Middle East (1993-1996), Ambassador of Spain in Israel (1996), and EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process (1996-2003). He was elected Member of Spain's Parliament for Córdoba in 2004 and re-elected in 2008. He holds a number of honorific titles, including Knight of the Order of Civil Merit, Officer of the Order of Isabel the Catholic Queen, and Commander of Civil Merit.