



**DECLARATION
2030 PORTO AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE
WELLBEING**



The European Union, acting together in one of the most complex crises in decades, has shown that the European project can be a powerful shield protecting the health and the living conditions of its people. Thanks to our collective efforts, a fundamental shift in the European response towards the COVID 19 crisis was agreed and decisive political actions have put the EU back on its path to recovery.

With real political will, our shared mission of creating a fairer and more equal Union and the commitment towards the Sustainable Development agenda can both be achieved. If we make the right political choices together, the European Union can be the engine of solidarity and wellbeing of the people, as well as the source of future shared prosperity for all.

We, the subscribing organizations, believe that the upcoming Social Summit in Porto on the 7th of May is the opportunity to proclaim this political commitment towards sustainable wellbeing, equality, solidarity and social justice. We believe that this summit can be the turning point for reversing inequalities, making just transitions work for all and ensuring that the recovery and resilience plans of the EU will put the left behind first and the wellbeing and rights of people at the centre.

We cannot simply get back to business as usual. We need to effectively tackle the emerging challenges that Europe is facing: increasing inequalities between generations, workers, regions and Member States; diminished social, health, economic and environmental opportunities and resources; territorial disparities and unequal access to fundamental social and health services, jobs and business opportunities and social infrastructure. This recovery period must be the time for reforms based on solidarity, integration, social justice, a fair distribution of wealth, gender equality, equal treatment of workers, a high-quality public social welfare system, quality employment, more democracy at work and sustainable growth – a model that ensures equality and social protection, empowers groups living in vulnerable situations, enhances participation and citizenship and improves living standards for all people.

We want the future of Europeans to be brighter and greener for the many and not for the few, and this starts by rebalancing the political priorities and implementing game changing and transformative policies. A different recovery for a European project that privileges social progress, social justice, social dialogue and civil dialogue and the respect of fundamental social rights as the basis for the ecological and digital transitions is possible.

It is therefore time for the Union to reconnect with its aims of promoting peace, its values and the wellbeing of its people, as stated in Article 3 of the Treaty of the European Union. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Green New Deal, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the EU Gender Equality Strategy are our tools already available to foster the wellbeing of all citizens. Now is the time for integrating them all. The Porto Social Summit can be the starting point for a new European system of sustainable wellbeing and inclusive governance, in which the different strands of EU macroeconomic, environmental and social governance are integrated into a single structure – a process based on a clear set of economic, social, and environmental mandatory and enforceable indicators.

The European Parliament already backed this ambitious agenda on 17 December 2020 in its annual report on a ***Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions***, which provides a strategic framework for a sustainable, fair and inclusive Social Europe for 2030. The social agenda that the European Parliament demands – ***the Porto agenda*** – presents this holistic approach. It advocates for a social governance framework, based on reforms, mandatory targets and concrete initiatives. We believe that for this process to be effective and fruitful, it must be accompanied by the following reforms: the integration of the EPSR and a social progress protocol in the Treaties, protecting social rights at the same level as economic freedoms in the single market, and the adoption of a Sustainable Development and Social Progress Pact making social and sustainable targets mandatory, in order to achieve the UN SDGs.

Wellbeing and social fairness must become the indicators by which we judge the success of policies. This is the path to reconnect with citizens and renew the EU's promise of social progress and shared prosperity as established in Article 3, TEU. The EU must focus on what matters the most to people: their quality of life, their health and that of their relatives, gender equality and non-discrimination, the environment, good material conditions, a quality job, security and safety in private and public spheres, quality housing, being part of a broader community, solidarity and happiness. These elements are all constitutive of people wellbeing and they must be available to all people today and in the future.

In this regard, the European Parliament set a list of social objectives to be reached by 2030, ***which should be reflected in the priorities and policies of the EU and at all levels of governance in each of its Member states***. In particular: the elimination of in-work poverty, a living wage for every worker, 90% of collective bargaining coverage, the elimination of work-related deaths and the reduction of work-related illnesses, minimum income schemes to cover everyone in need, the Child Guarantee to cover all children in need, the elimination of the gender pay gap, access to decent housing for all, the elimination of energy poverty, the eradication of homelessness, and rights and protection of the elderly and their pensions.

In order to do so, social justice, decent work, equal opportunities, fair mobility, collective bargaining and robust social welfare systems are central elements in the just transition to a Sustainable and Social Europe. We believe that the conclusions of the Social Summit should maintain this level of ambition, which could be concretised through the following initiatives:

Decent work and sustainable and inclusive labour markets

- To maintain the emergency measures as long as necessary, including the continuation of SURE and the launch of the Unemployment Reinsurance Benefit Scheme, as a long-term solutions and employment stabilizers in order to address potentially massive unemployment depending on the speed of recovery.
- A European agenda for quality jobs, including the elimination of zero-hour contracts. A quality job must include a living wage, job security and access to social protection, lifelong learning opportunities, good working conditions in safe and healthy workplaces, reasonable working time with a good work-life balance, with the right to organise and the right to collectively bargain.

- The adoption of the Directive for adequate minimum wages in the EU guaranteeing that statutory minimum wages – where they exist – are above a threshold of decency of 60% of the median and 50% of the average national gross wage and are set with the involvement of social partners at a level adequate to guarantee at least a decent standard of living. It must ensure the respect of the right to collective bargaining and an enabling environment for collective bargaining that ensures real increases in the number of workers covered by a collective agreement.
- A swift and ambitious adoption of a directive on pay transparency, including pay transparency reporting and information on pay levels, in order to strengthen the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work. It shall apply to all companies regardless of size and recognise the key role of trade unions and collective bargaining.
- A Directive on decent working conditions and rights in the digital economy, covering all workers, including non-standard workers on atypical contracts, workers in platform companies and the self-employed. The rebuttable assumption of an employment relationship should be the cornerstone of regulating platform work.
- A Directive on the right to disconnect, and measures for fair teleworking and other digital rights at work, including the protection of workers' privacy which is compromised through remote monitoring and other types of tracking, and the prohibition of the use of artificial intelligence in recruitment processes and a regulatory framework to protect labour rights when artificial intelligence is used at the workplace.
- A revision of the Public Procurement Directive to strengthen social clauses in public contracts, requiring economic operators and subcontractors to fully respect workers' rights and the right to collective bargaining.
- A new health and safety strategy to reach the target of zero deaths at work and to protect workers during emergency situations like pandemics, and legislative proposals on musculoskeletal and stress-related disorders.
- The revision of the European Works Council directive, a new framework for information, consultation and board-level representation for European company forms and for companies making use of EU Company Law instruments, enabling company mobility and legally binding minimum standards for workers' involvement in transnational restructuring processes.
- A directive on human rights due diligence and sustainable corporate governance in order to promote decent work and responsible business conduct, including the supply chains.

Social Justice

- The integration in the European Pillar of Social Rights the right to the protection of health and to a healthy environment. This right is essential to ensure adequate living and working conditions which promote the enjoyment of health by all. Appropriate environmental conditions are also necessary for the realisation of most other essential rights (such as to food, housing and work) and for achieving an inclusive transition.
- The urgent implementation of the European Child Guarantee with a dedicated budget of €20 billion, to combat poverty affecting children and their families.
- A European Framework Directive on Minimum Income Schemes, to contribute to the goal of reducing poverty by at least half in all Member States.
- Skills-based compensation systems in companies that access public funds for upskilling workers in agreement with workers' representatives, to ensure that there is a return on public investment in the form of higher salaries and better working conditions for those upskilled.

Fair Mobility

- A revision of the Temporary Work Agency Directive in order to ensure decent working conditions and equal treatment for intra-EU seasonal workers and mobile workers on fixed-term contracts with temporary work agencies or any other type of labour market intermediary, including recruiting agencies. It shall be accompanied by legally binding minimum standards on decent accommodation for all mobile and migrant workers when the employer provides it, directly or indirectly.
- A European social security number, in order to foster and protect workers' mobility and to ensure that workers are covered and social security is paid in accordance with obligations.
- A general legal framework on subcontracting with increased transparency and joint and several liability, in order to tackle abusive practices and to ensure equal treatment of workers throughout the whole chain of contractors.

Robust Social Welfare Systems

- Clear spending targets in all EU programs associated to social objectives. To ensure that a significant proportion of the Recovery and Resilience Facility will be dedicated to cover the investment gap in social infrastructure, estimated by the Commission at €192 billion per year, and to strengthen social welfare systems.
- Introduction of a «golden rule for social investment», in the context of the reform the European fiscal rules to enforce their counter-cyclical capacity, to incentive for the significant public investment needs arising from the implementation of the EPSR.

The European project was born out of suffering, solidarity and the necessity of forging ahead with sound social and economic policies. To date, the EU has been a beacon in the world as the most advanced rights-based bloc, with decades of social progress attesting to its success and expansion. However, if the EU fails to deliver on a better life for the many, people will turn their back to the project. There are high expectations for the EU's commitment to social rights in the Social Summit in Porto. We appeal to the EU Member States and the Commission to show ambition and determination on their social progress plans and transformative policies with clear and enforceable objectives, and we call upon them to enact the Porto Agenda. Now, in these times of unprecedented crisis, only a renewed focus on Europe's integrated social, environmental and economic project, as established in the Treaties, will guarantee its future success. We are convinced that putting peoples' wellbeing at the core of all policies is both a realistic objective and ethical imperative for the continued development of the European project. The Porto Agenda is a milestone moment for Europe to take the essential next steps towards a viable and sustainable union. The time is now and we are sure that the European Union will live up to these expectations and fulfil its mandate.



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