

Session VII: Is there much that Europe can do in a world of widening inequalities and strong migratory pressures?

Contribution by Frank Vandenbroucke

University of Amsterdam

Eliamep Seminar 8-9 September 2017

Four preliminary remarks

- Inequality and migratory pressure: two different issues
- Inequality is often homespun, rather than the result of globalisation or europeanisation
- EU must be a 'holding environment' for national welfare states, enabling them to address inequalities ('European Social Union')
- In terms of political communication, EU's social dimension must speak to both mobile and non-mobile citizens, and create constituencies (e.g. world of education)

I. Fair mobility

- Robust defense of the idea that EU needs both non-discriminatory free movement of workers and posting, as a matter of fairness
- Reform of the Posted Workers Directive
- Improvements for mobile citizens
- Migration creates less pressure in adequately regulated labour markets: hence, the importance of collective bargaining and social dialogue, and access to social security for all workers, cf. next slide

II. Upward convergence in social standards & performance

- The *European Pillar of Social Rights*: important initiative, but to be made operational (legislative, financial & policy coordination instruments)
- Priority areas for the stabilisation capacity of welfare states and the successful integration of migrant workers:
 - Access to social protection for all workers
 - Quality of unemployment insurance & activation
 - Universality of minimum wage regimes
- Upward convergence in features supporting the stabilisation capacity of national welfare states is *a fortiori* needed with a view to the eventual organization of a Eurozone re-insurance scheme ('vaccination metaphor').
- [Wage coordination in Eurozone: can it be 'symmetrical' and linked with 'national conversations' on the functional distribution of incomes?]

III. Investment in human capital

- Revisit the 2013 *Social Investment Package*
- Enhance importance of investment in human capital (child care, education) in European Semester (CSR's), and create budgetary leeway to implement such CSR's in fiscal surveillance of member states.

Background documents

- **Summary statement:** Fernandes and Vandenbroucke, *Making social Europe a reality for European citizens*, Notre Europe Jacques Delors Institute, Tribune – Viewpoint, Paris, 31 May 2017 (<http://www.institutdelors.eu/media/social europe-fernandesvandenbroucke-may2017.pdf?pdf=ok>)
- **In defense of free movement & non-discrimination:** Vandenbroucke, Basic income in the European Union: a conundrum rather than a solution, *ACCESS EUROPE Research Paper 2017/02*, 01 August 2017 (<http://ssrn.com/abstract=3008621>)
- **On the need for social convergence:** Vandenbroucke, Structural convergence versus systems competition: limits to the diversity of labour market policies in the European Economic and Monetary Union, ECFIN discussion paper 065, *European Commission Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs*, Brussels, 20 July 2017 (<http://ssrn.com/abstract=3011847>)

www.frankvandenbroucke.uva.nl