

A European Social Union after the Crisis

Edited by Frank Vandenbroucke

Universiteit van Amsterdam

Catherine Barnard

University of Cambridge

and Geert De Baere

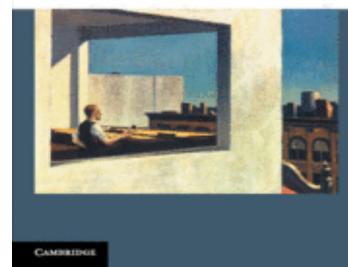
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Today, many people agree that the EU lacks solidarity and needs a social dimension. This debate is not new, but until now the notion of a 'social Europe' remained vague and elusive. To make progress, we need a coherent conception of the reasons behind, and the agenda for, not a 'social Europe', but a new idea: a European Social Union. We must motivate, define, and demarcate an appropriate notion of European solidarity. We must also understand the legal and political obstacles, and how these can be tackled. In short, we need unequivocal answers to questions of why, what, and how: on that basis, we can define a clear-cut normative and institutional concept. That is the remit of this book: it provides an in-depth interdisciplinary examination of the rationale and the feasibility of a European Social Union. Outstanding scholars and top-level practitioners reflect on obstacles and solutions, from an economic, social, philosophical, legal, and political perspective.

Part I. Solidarity and Legitimacy: 1. The idea of a European Social Union: a normative introduction; 2. The European Social Union: a missing but necessary 'political good'; 3. The solidarity argument for the European Union; 4. Social justice in an ever more diverse Union; 5. The democratic legitimacy of EU institutions and support for social policy in Europe; Part II. Topics in European Governance: 6. The impact of Eurozone governance on welfare state stability; 7. Booms and busts and the governance of the Eurozone; 8. What follows austerity? From Social Pillar to New Deal; 9. Social dialogue: why it matters? European employers' perspective; 10. The European social dialogue: what is the role of employers and what are the hopes for the future?; 11. The European Semester Process: adaptability and latitude in support of the European Social Model; 12. Balancing economic objectives and social considerations in the new EU Investment Agreements: commitments versus realities; Part III. Legal and Institutional Challenges: 13. How can the Viking/Laval conundrum be resolved? Balancing the economic and the social: one bed for two dreams?; 14. The basis in EU constitutional law for further social integration; 15. EU social competences and Member State constitutional controls: a comparative perspective of national approaches; 16. Social rights, the Charter and the ECHR: caveats, austerity and other disasters; Chapter 17. The European Court of Justice as the guardian of the rule of EU social law; Part IV. Politics: 18. The European Social Union and EU legislative politics; 19. (B)Remains of the day: Brexit and EU social policy.

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