

European Foundation on Social Quality



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Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo
Al Santo Antonio dos
Capuchos 4-5
1150 Lisboa
Portugal

concerning: the 'Amsterdam Declaration'
and dinner

Amsterdam, May 27, 1997



Dear Ms De Lourdes Pintasilgo,

It is a great pleasure for us to invite you personally to the solemn presentation of the 'Amsterdam Declaration of Social Quality of Europe' in the Beurs van Berlage, starting exactly at 3 p.m. on Tuesday June 10th, address: Damrak 243, 1012 ZJ Amsterdam.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Secondly we would be very pleased if you could attend the dinner, following the 'Declaration' at 5.30 p.m., at the University of Amsterdam in the Doelenzaal, 2nd door to the left of number 425 on the Singel.

The board of the European foundation hopes you shall be able to accept our invitation. Please let us know if you will not be able to attend either the 'Declaration' or the dinner.

prof. dr. Alan Walker
prof. dr. Jos Berghman
prof. dr. Kees Knipscheer
dr. Laurent J.G. van der Maesen

EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS DECLARATION ON THE SOCIAL QUALITY OF EUROPE. DRAFT PRESS RELEASE: EUROPEAN FOUNDATION ON SOCIAL QUALITY, AMSTERDAM, MAY 28TH, 1997

Europe is at the crossroads. Voters in the recent UK and French elections decisively rejected the idea of a kind of 'bankers Europe' being offered by the drive towards monetary union. It is clear that the citizens of Europe want a different, more inclusive concept of Europe. Politicians too are beginning to realise that the great lesson of the 1990s is that social cohesion must not be sacrificed to flexible labour-markets.

So far the voices of scientists have been rather muted but, in a bold initiative, 50 of Europe's leading social scientists will present, on 10 June, The Amsterdam Declaration on the Social Quality of Europe. Recognising the new mood that is emerging in Europe and building on the work of the Comité des Sages, the scientists are calling on the Inter-governmental Conference, which culminates in Amsterdam, to create the basic conditions for the continued development of social quality in Europe.

The Declaration calls for a Europe that is economically successful but, at the same time, just and participative. It identifies the negative indicators - such as unemployment, poverty, restricted access to health and social care - which reveal the inadequacy of the existing Social Europe. The alternative Europe of Social Quality must be based on enforceable fundamental rights.

The European Union is urged to:

1. make all major European policies subject to a social cohesion impact study;
2. set up a programme that emphasises the cost of not having a Social Europe and creates uniform statistical series on social aspects relating to the whole of the European Union;
3. express clear benchmarks on each social objective that figures in EU legal documents (including recommendations) that have been adopted so far with respect of social aspects and to report regularly on the degree to which these benchmarks have been reached;
4. set a new agenda for the promotion of social quality in Europe, one which engages policy makers, scientists and citizens.

The Declaration will be presented, in a solemn ceremony in the 'Beurs van Berlage', 3 pm, June 10th, 1997 to the highest representatives of the City of Amsterdam and the European Parliament, in the presence of the Rectors of the University of Amsterdam, the Free University of Amsterdam and the Catholic University of Brabant. It will then be conveyed to the European Parliament, the IGC and all of the capitals of Europe. Speakers at the following symposium in the Aula of the University of Amsterdam will include.....

Further Information: prof. dr. Alan Walker, prof. dr. Jos Berghman, prof. dr. Kees Knipscheer, dr. Laurent J.G. van der Maesen, European Foundation on Social Quality

