



SOCIAL SECURITY AND POPULATION FORECASTS IN A EUROPEAN PROSPECT

European conference jointly organised by the French National Social Security Schemes
7 and 8 November 2008 in Paris, Palais du Luxembourg
In the framework of the French EU Presidency

Moderator : François Limoge

Programme

This conference is organised by the French National Social Security Schemes, in line with the French EU Presidency's desire to highlight the reality of a 'Europe which protects' individuals in the framework of an open market economy.

The conference will be organised around the five round tables described below, with opening speeches from leading French and European figures.

Friday 7 November 2008

8.30am – 9.15am: Welcome to delegates, with coffee, at the Restaurant du Sénat

9.30am – 9.45am: Clemenceau conference room

Welcome greeting: Senator

9.45am – 11.15am:

Introduction to the conference with the following speakers:

- Mr Jean-Pierre Jouyet, Minister of State for European Affairs, France (to be confirmed)
- Mr Vladimír Špidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (to be confirmed)
- Mr Dominique Libault, Director of Social Security, Ministry for Health, Youth, Sport and the Voluntary Sector, France
- Mr Jean-Paul Sardon, Director of Research, National Institute of Demographic Studies (INED), France (to be confirmed)

11.15am – 11.30am: break

11.30am – 1.00pm:

What healthcare involvement to face up to demographic challenges ?

Round table chaired by Mr Frédéric Van Rookeghem, Director General, National Health Insurance Fund for Salaried Employees (CNAMTS), France

In the face of demographic change, the promotion of health and the provision of health services throughout people's lifetimes are encouraged by the EU institutions while services are provided by social security schemes.

This round table will: consider hypotheses relating to the impact of demographic change on healthcare costs; assess the approaches adopted by the EU institutions in the light of projected changes; present the preventative action and cover being implemented by social security schemes to promote health among the whole population; and discuss changing needs.

- Ms Dominique Polton, CNAMTS, France
- Mr Gregor Breuker, European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP), European Network of Social Insurance for Health (ENSIfH)
- Ms Isabel De La Mata, Directorate General for Health and Consumers, European Commission
- Mr Willy Palm, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

1.00pm – 2.15pm: lunch in the salons de Boffrand

2.30pm – 4.00pm:

Solidarity and fairness between generations and workers

Round table chaired by Mr Patrick Hermange, Director, National Old-Age Insurance Scheme for Salaried Employees (CNAV), France

This session will focus on the specificities of pay-as-you-go pension schemes (système par répartition) and how they articulate around the necessary fairness between generations in the demographic context of an ageing population. Fairness between workers will be discussed in relation to the devices employed in coordinating social security systems, which themselves impact considerably on retirement insurance plans. What actions and good practices can be implemented to meet the combined objectives of solidarity and fairness and ensure that individuals do not shoulder risks associated with demographic and social change?

- Mr. Alain Euzéby, Institute of Policy Studies, Grenoble, France
- Mr. Podromos Mavridis, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission
- Ms Agneta Kruse, Department of Economics, Lund University, Sweden

4.00pm – 5.30pm:

Ageing well in an inclusive society – what health and social solutions?

Round table chaired by Mr François Gin, Director General, CCMSA (Caisse centrale de la mutualité sociale agricole), France

Current demographic changes are occurring within a profoundly altered social context that produces vulnerability and social upheavals. To tackle this, Social Security bodies need to extend their traditional sphere of action – the paying of benefits – and show how appropriate social action and needs-focused services can contribute to the aim of “ageing well”.

The round table will focus on three issues: how can we maintain the quality of the final years of working life? How can we make the going into retirement a positive stage within an active life? How can we provide for the advance and the fragility of age through better social inclusion?

- Mr. Matti Ylikoski, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, (FIOH), Finland
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Aquino, National “Age Well” Programme Pilot Committee, France (to be confirmed)
- Ms Anne-Sophie Parent, European Older People’s Platform (AGE)

6.30pm – 11pm: visit to the exhibition “Miró to Warhol” at the Musée du Luxembourg and cocktail dinner party in the salons de Boffrand

Saturday 8 November 2008

8.30am – 9.00am: Welcome to delegates, with coffee, at the Restaurant du Sénat

9.15am – 10.45am:

The extension of working life to meet demographic challenges

Round table chaired by Mr Dominique Liger, Director General, Social Welfare Fund for the Self Employed (RSI), France

It is now an established fact that, in most Member States, there are many 55 to 65-year-olds in good health capable of working, whilst a substantial proportion of the 50 to 60-year age category receive unemployment and/or incapacity benefits.

This discussion will focus on initiatives to encourage and maintain the continued employment of the oldest people among the working population: by developing flexibility and flexi-security, by allowing cumulated work/retirement income, by encouraging the creation of independent/freelance activities for seniors and by implementing tax measures targeting companies. These all raise further questions, such as how to measure the direct effects of such policies on the financing of social security schemes, and how to maintain coherence across the varying policies of Member States.

- Mr. Veselin Mitov, Economic and Social Council, Bulgaria (to be confirmed)
- Mr. Etienne Goulley, Federation of Retired Peoples' Associations, Belgium
- Mr. Robert Anderson, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Ireland
- Ms Almudena Durán Heras, Ministry of Labour and Immigration, Spain

10.45am – 12.15pm:

Family Policy: Investment, and return on investment

Round table chaired by Mr Philippe Georges, France

At the heart of current priorities is the need to find effective mechanisms and elements of family policies, which allow both parents to pursue their professional lives on equal terms given the desire of families to have children whilst continuing to work. In the light of the falling birth rate across the EU, what policy responses need to be put in place to counter the ageing of European populations?

Will a Family Policy that encourages employment bring growth and broaden the working base allowing better financing for the aging European population? Proactive family policy must focus on youth, especially given the levels of youth unemployment, but also because the younger generation will have to finance social security, and retirement pensions in particular.

- Mr. François Héran, National Institute of Demographic Studies (INED), France
- Ms Pascale Vielle, Louvain Catholic University (UCL), Belgium
- Ms Françoise Castex, European Member of Parliament (to be confirmed)

12.15pm – 12.30pm: Summary of analyses and proposals

12.30pm – 1.00pm: Conclusion by a French Minister (to be confirmed) and by Ms Ursula von der Leyen, Federal Minister for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth – Germany (to be confirmed)