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EIN-A4

(07-11-2018)

European Ideas Network Seminar on the occasion of the EPP Group Study Days on: "The Future of Europe", Helsinki, Finland

**Round Table 1: "Towards an innovation union in the digital age"**

*Chair:*

**Pilar DEL CASTILLO MEP**, Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in the EP and Chair of the European Internet Forum

*Keynote speaker:*

**Mariya GABRIEL**, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

*Speakers:*

**Luís VIEGAS CARDOSO**, Policy Adviser to the Head of the 'European Political Strategy Centre', European Commission

**Christian EHLER**, EPP Group Vice-Coordinator and Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in the EP

**Erja TURUNEN**, Executive Vice-President, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd.

- The Innovation Union was launched in 2011 to achieve the Europe 2020 goals in order to obtain a smarter sustainability and an inclusive European economy.
- This strategy lead to the improvement of research and innovation conditions in order to access financing and ensure that innovative ideas could be turn into products and services that would create growth and jobs.
- We have to acknowledge the importance of the Digital sector. It is essential to anticipate what comes next and act according to it.
- The digital transformation is already making an impact on people's life. How can we support them and make them feel less threatened by these developments?
- To empower our citizens with digital skills is crucial since by doing that we are assuring they keep pace with the changes in society, becoming part of this transformation process.
- People should always come first when it comes to technology or AI. The focus must be the promotion of good practices and good experiences for all.
- The investment in digital skills is crucial to achieve results in the digital transformation.
- The transformation we all desire must be inclusive. For that reason, we need to create conditions that will attract women into the technical and digital sector.
- USA and China are investing widely more than Europe in Artificial Intelligence, improving its economic skills.
- The geography of innovation has been redrawn. Our global economy is shifting from west to east. China is leading and will lead in the future.
- Sweden is one of the examples of the most profitable current technology in Europe, which is able to compete with Silicon Valley.
- The industrial age was about standardisation, the digital age is about customisation.
- Europe is the leader in robotics in the global market.
- Data is the key resource for innovation and main resource and fuel for AI.
- There is a lot of competition between content and distribution. Europe needs to understand the power of using content to commercialize, since the majority of the platforms' content belongs to Europe.

*The 'EIN-A4' represents a summary of EIN seminar initiatives. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the EPP Group political line.*

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**Round Table 2: “The Future of the welfare state”**

*Chair:*

**Sofia RIBEIRO MEP**, Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in the EP

*Speakers:*

**J Scott MARCUS**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel

**Lothar FUNK**, Professor, Faculty of Business Studies, Hochschule Düsseldorf

**Jon KVIST**, Institute of Social Science and Business, Roskilde University, Denmark

- Europeans represent around 7% of the world’s population. However, when it comes to social spending, the investment is much more than its representativeness (50% of global welfare state spending).
- The digital revolution will have an impact in the future of the Welfare State. The main implications are the changes in the volume and character of work and the preservation of the social protection in a changing environment.
- The innovation developments in AI and robotics are already dictating great changes in the labour market. However, how big is its impact? It is estimated that half billion jobs are at stake but new jobs will appear.
- It is predicted that, in 2065, for each active worker there will be two inactive people. It is important to deal with this stressful situation and anticipate the chaos that is about to come.
- Advanced robots are now capable to perform a broader scope of manual tasks, which may threaten some jobs. The level of risk is related to the probability of computerising the task. The majority of workers in logistics occupations, transportation, labour in production occupations and administrative and office support workers are at risk.
- Technological innovation may affect employment by displacing workers from their tasks or by increasing the demand of labour in industries or jobs that arise or develop due to technological progress.
- The exponential growth of Artificial Intelligence and digitalisation will create more sophisticated jobs. The issue is to understand the new conditions and anticipate the necessary skills for those jobs.
- Companies invest more and more in innovative procedures as a way of economising the use of labour and remain competitive, which is improving their productivity.
- The idea of life lasting jobs is past and now there is a highlight of continuous learning.
- The main issues discussed are related to the demographic challenge, family unemployment and basic salary. How can the European institutions protect the workers as we move into a new era?
- The labour market status or the type of employment relationship have implications on the access to social protection.
- The world of work has evolved, more and more people are self-employed, which means that larger parts of the workforce are left without access to social protection.
- Regarding the concept of government (institutional) equity efficiency, the social policy net reduce inequality and make an efficient use of resources without wasting them on inappropriate policy role of migration. The welfare state is based on contributions - cannot pay welfare of non-contributors.
- There are two main systems of health care: insurances and public health care. The transition among different forms of non-traditional work may interfere on the eligibility periods to get the access to one of the health care types of service.
- The responsibility for social protection rests with each EU Member State. Nevertheless, European institutions have an important role on the regulation of the services.
- Social investment over the life course is very profitable since it reduces the scope of poverty and inequality, raising people’s functional capabilities to be able to learn, be mobile and undertake life activities.

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