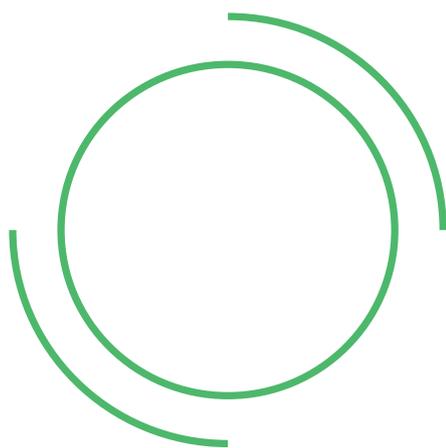


European Economy Conferences
Third edition

For a new European social contract



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The European Union must face important reforms in the coming years that reinforce the social pillar of its integration. After a period marked by the need to face the Great Recession and addressing the design deficiencies of the euro zone, it is essential to restore the confidence of European citizens in an inclusive political and social project.

The rise of Eurosceptic and populist positions, when not clearly anti-European, is a generalised factor of concern, which accentuates, if possible, the need to give new impetus to the European project.

The process of economic integration has weakened the power of national welfare states to effectively carry out the policies entrusted to them, without parallel building a political power at European level capable of replacing or complementing these states.

This phenomenon with all its gravity in recent years, has proved to be the confluence of three factors: globalisation, which produces economic and social consequences that require political responses, the weaknesses in the design of the single currency and the Great Recession.

All this has shown worrying cracks in the underlying social contract in the welfare state. Therefore, it is essential to examine the root causes that have caused this fracture and study the measures that could allow it to be repaired.

The Cercle d'Economia, CIDOB and EuropeG organise this third edition of the European Economy Conferences with the willingness to address these issues and thus help to foster the European debate in our environment.

Friday, October 25th

12.30h — 14.00h

I. The base trends of the economy: globalisation, technological change and competition

Globalisation has moved from the exchange of goods to the freedom of movement of capital and, in addition to technological change, it already directly affects services, including financial services. The concentration of power in the technological and digital field in large multinational companies, and the big data revolution have generated dynamics of regulatory competition between countries, and have revealed the need for joint measures in the European Union for the regulation of big tech platforms.

- Opening Statement** *Stephen Ezell*, Vice President of Global Innovation Policies at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)
- Round Table** *Carles Esteva*, Deputy Director General in charge of State Aid in DG Competition, European Commission
Massimo Motta, Research Professor ICREA - Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics
Sara de la Rica, Director of ISEAK and Professor of Economics at the University of the Basque Country
- Moderation** *Martí Parellada*, Professor of Applied Economics at the Universitat de Barcelona and EurpeG member

Thursday, October 31

13.00h — 14.30h

II. Income distribution and inequality: the situation after the Great Recession

The discomfort of broad layers of the population and the disaffection towards the European project has socioeconomic roots that lead us to an increase in inequality and to the growing perception of an uncertain future for broad layers of the population. These elements reflect the loss of momentum of the social elevator and, with it, the growing absence of intergenerational mobility, as well as between social classes, which combined with a downward pressure on the distribution between wage and capital income, depresses the former and, at the same time, polarises its internal distribution.

Opening Statement *Laurence Boone*, OECD Chief Economist

Round Table *Olga Cantó*, Professor of Economics at Alcalá University
José García-Montalvo, Professor of Economics at Pompeu Fabra University and Research Professor at the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics and the Ivie
Marc Morgan Milá, Researcher at the World Inequality Lab of the Paris School of Economics

Moderation *Pol Morillas*, Director of CIDOB

Thursday, November 21st

12.30h — 14.00h

III. The contents of a new European social contract

The marked asymmetry between the ability of each government to act and the need to cope with the worst effects of globalisation, highlights that the recovery of the values of meritocracy and social elevation can only be considered in the European scope. However, the social pillar of the European construction must be reinforced and ambitious reforms must be carried out on the grounds of the economic and monetary union. At the same time, the EU must be provided with sufficient budgetary resources for the development of a true new social contract and a green economy that promotes a Green New Deal.

Opening Statement *Paul Collier*, Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University

Round Table *Ariane Aumaitre*, Researcher in the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the European University Institute in Florence
Miguel Otero Iglesias, Principal Researcher at the Elcano Royal Institute

Moderation *José Manuel González-Páramo*, Executive Board Member of BBVA and Member of the Board of Directors of the Cercle d'Economia

January 23, 2020

12.30h — 14.00h

IV. The purpose of companies and the new social contract

What is the role of a company in a more inclusive Europe in the political and social spheres? The Great Recession has called into question the current functioning of the market economy, despite the existence, in the European case, of a powerful welfare state. More and more sources claim that companies must contribute to rectifying this phenomenon, incorporating the social issue into their objectives. Is this possible? Should companies go beyond the pursuit of profits? Can they do it in the current competitive environment?

Conversation between *Jordi Gual*, President of Caixabank and *Vicente Salas*, Professor in the Department of Business Management and Organisation at the University of Zaragoza and former advisor of the Bank of Spain, moderated by *Javier Faus*, President of the Cercle d'Economia.

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