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**"HOW TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS AN
ECONOMIC UNION AND THE FUTURE OF THE
EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL"**

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PROFILES OF THE SPEAKERS

Elisa Ferreira MEP

In 1977 she received her first degree of Economics from the University of Porto, after this she moved to the University of Reading, UK, where she received her MA (1981) and PhD (1985). After completing her studies, she became an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto. She was the Vice-President of the Northern Region Coordination Committee between 1989 and 1992 and of the Porto Industrial Association between 1992 and 1994. Between 1990 and 1992 she was CEO of the Integrated Development Operation Commission of Valo de Ave. Ms Ferreira also worked as Deputy Director of the Research Program on Water Resources Management funded by NATO, and as Deputy Director of the Integrated Management Project of the Northern Water Resources (between 1986 and 1987); as a Representative of the Ministry of Planning and Territorial Administration Commission on Integrated Management of Hydrographic Basin Ave between 1985 and 1989. She has been a non-permanent collaborator of the Catholic University in Porto and Lisbon since 1986. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Statistics Institute between 1989 and 1992. Her political career has been as follows: Minister of Environment (1995-1995), Minister of Planning (1999-2002), Member of the Portuguese Parliament for the Socialist Party (2002-2004). She became an MEP for that same party in 2004.

Kajus Hagelstam

Mr Hagelstam obtained his MA in Economics from the University of Helsinki in 1995 and followed a programme on International and EU Affairs and language studies until 1997. In 1995 and 1996 he was a trainee at the Financial Markets Department of the Ministry of Finance in Finland, where he dealt with financial markets regulation and central bank legislation. From 1996 until 2001 he was a Financial Advisor at the same department. During the Swedish Presidency of the European Council he was a Temporary Advisor in the field of financial services at the Swedish Ministry of Finance through the Nordic Civil Servant Exchange Programme. Between 2001 and 2012 he served as Senior Financial Advisor in Helsinki again. From 2001 until 2003 he was a Seconded national Expert at the DG Internal Market and Services at the European Commission. From 2004 until 2008 he worked as Counsellor on Economic and Financial Affairs at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU. After this, he was an Administrator for a Parliamentary body in the field of macroeconomics until 2012. From 2012 onwards he has been the Head of the Economic Governance Support Unit, which aims to provide European Parliament organs, in particular to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, with information and technical support on economic governance in the EU.

Prof. Ansgar Belke

Studied Economics at University of Münster until 1991, received his PhD in 1995 from the University of Bochum. In 1997 he became a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Research in Tilburg, the Netherlands, and a visitor research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. In 2000 he received his Habilitation in Economics and Econometrics from the University of Bochum and became a visiting professor at the University of Essen and Fulltime Professor of Economics at the University of Vienna. Since 2001 he has been a fulltime Professor of Economics, Head of the Research Centre for European Integration, and board member of the Eastern Europe Centre at the University of Hohenheim. In 2005 he was Research Professor for the Österreichische Nationalbank, a Research Fellow of the Bonn Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) and of the Euro Area Business Cycle Network (EABCN). Since 2007 he has worked as fulltime Professor of Economics at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Patrick Itschert

Mr Itschert studied Humanitarian Studies in at the St Jozefs College in Aalst, Belgium, and received his diploma in Economics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. In 1979 and 1980 he was a research collaborator at the "Fondation Roi Baudouin" where he assisted in editing a study on the economic future of Belgium. From 1981 to 1988 he was advisor in the cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Budget, specifically in charge of dossiers involving economic expansion and certain industrial sectors. He then went on to become the First Advisor at the ITCB (Institut du Textile et de le Confection Belgique) where he examined dossiers involving investments by textile and clothing enterprises. In 1985 he became the Director at the ITCB, responsible for dossiers dealing with Francophone companies. In 1991 he got the position of Secretary-General of the European Trade Union Federation: Textiles, Clothing and Leather, a position he held until 2011. Between 2002 and 2005 he also worked as a delegate to the European Economic and Social Committee's Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) and between 2009 and 2011 he was the General Secretary of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation. In May 2011 he was elected as Deputy General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

Christof-Sebastian Klitz

Mr Klitz graduated from the University of Hamburg with a degree in German Law. He started his career as a research assistant at the same university, before moving to the Federation of German Industries (BDI) in Cologne in 1991. Having held numerous functions there, he became Deputy Head of the delegation office in Washington D.C. He has worked as Head of the Office of Government Relations in Bonn and Berlin for Burson Marsteller and Deutsche Telekom. He first joined the Volkswagen Group in 1999, where he became Head of Government Affairs in Brussels in 2008. Apart from this, he is the Vice-President of the European Movement International and voluntarily works as the Deputy Head of the local chapter of the Wirtschaftsrat of the CDU in Brussels.