

Making society and working environments more democratic

Impetus for social legal policies

LEGAL POLICY CONGRESS
ON 25 AND 26 MARCH 2014

Hans **Böckler**
Stiftung 

Fakten für eine faire Arbeitswelt.

DGB

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT** 
STIFTUNG
Forum Berlin

Making society and working environments more democratic

Impetus for social legal policies

LEGAL POLICY CONGRESS

on 25 and 26 March 2014

VENUES

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Haus 1 (building 1), Hiroshimastraße 17,
Haus 2 (building 2), Hiroshimastraße 28,
10785 Berlin

Permanent Representation of Bremen

Hiroshimastraße 24, 10785 Berlin

ORGANIZED BY

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

German Confederation of Trade Unions (DGB)

Hans Böckler Stiftung (HBS)



in cooperation with
Hugo Sinzheimer Institute
(HSI)

Dear Sir or Madam,

Living and working conditions in Europe and in Germany are changing fundamentally. As a consequence of the crisis in Europe, an increasing digitalization of living and working environments, and new and precarious types of employment, the effects of this significant process of transformation have become clearly visible and tangible. Rights are curtailed, undermined, or not enshrined in law, for example in the context of modern information and communication technologies.

The scope of collective agreements and co-determination as well as the number of regular employments continue to decline. Asserting statutory rights has become more and more difficult for individuals because of changed labor relations. However, it is important for the cohesion of a democratic society and a general requirement for any economy in a globalized world that the needs of citizens and workers are voiced and met. Pertinent solutions will be discussed at the Legal Policy Congress.

The Congress will focus on key issues concerning the future of Europe, the implementation of basic rights, and the impetus needed for social legal policies. Legal provisions in the fields of collective bargaining autonomy, the right to industrial action, co-determination, the right of assembly, privacy, the freedom of movement, improved remuneration and better working conditions as well as questions concerning social minimum standards and effective legal implementation will be discussed. These elements of a new structure in living and working environments are particularly important in times of change.

Social legal policies have to include proposals that make adjustments possible and at the same time focus on unchangeable basic values and rights as well as secure social benefits in a social and democratic state based on the rule of law. The Congress, to which you are most cordially invited, is intended to contribute ideas. We look forward to your participation and our exchange of opinions!

Kurt Beck
FES Chairman

Michael Sommer
DGB Chairman, HBS Chairman

10:00 a.m. **Registration and coffee**

10:30 a.m. **WELCOMING REMARKS**
Dr. Roland Schmidt, Executive Director, FES

10:45 a.m. **WELCOME ADDRESS**
Heiko Maas, Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection

11:15 a.m. **OPENING SPEECH**
Where Europe needs more strength and where it can come from

Prof. Dr. Heribert Prantl, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Senior Editor

11:45 a.m. **Coffee break**

12:15 p.m. **PANEL DISCUSSION**
The outlines of a social Europe – economic and social policies at the European level?

Dr. Viktor Kreuzschitz, Judge at the European Court of Justice
Peter Masuch, President of the Federal Social Court
Ulrike Hiller, Chair of the Conference of Ministers for European Affairs of the German Länder
Michael Sommer, DGB Chairman, HBS Chairman
Jörg Hofmann, Deputy Chairman of IG Metall (German Metalworkers' Union)

Discussion chaired by: **Prof. Dr. Manfred Weiss**, Frankfurt/Main University

01:45 p.m. **Lunch break**

02:45-
06:15 p.m. **PARALLEL FORUMS 1 – 4**
see program pages 6-7

06:30 p.m. **Reception and dinner** followed by **political satire show: "Macht! Menschen"** (in German) from the current repertoire of **Martin Buchholz**

09:00 a.m. **PRESENTATION**
Legal reality – a guideline for new policies?

Michael Guggemos, Managing Director of HBS

09:15 a.m. **DEBATE**
Do we need legal provisions to secure minimum standards in employer-employee relationships?

Holger Schwannecke, lawyer, Secretary-General of ZDH (German Confederation of Skilled Crafts)
Robert Feiger, Chairman of IG BAU

Moderator: **Alfred Eichhorn**, Journalist, Berlin

10:00 a.m.-
01:30 p.m. **PARALLEL FORUMS 5 – 8**

see program pages 8-9

01:30 p.m. **Lunch break**

02:30 p.m. **CONCLUDING DISCUSSION**
New structures for employment in Germany and Europe: necessities and possibilities

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH: **Michael Sommer**, DGB Chairman, HBS Chairman

PANELISTS:
Thorben Albrecht, Permanent State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
Ingo Kramer, President of BDA
Michael Sommer

Moderator: **Tom Hegemann**, Journalist/Moderator, Bergisch Gladbach

04:00 p.m. **LEGAL POLICIES OUTLOOK**
Reiner Hoffmann, Member of DGB Executive Committee

04:30 p.m. **End of conference**

The influence of austerity policies on collective bargaining systems – consequences for German legislation

02:45 p.m. **Influences on collective bargaining systems in Europe**

Prof. Dr. Bernd Waas, Frankfurt/Main University

COMMENTS BY: **Prof. Dr. José João Abrantes**, Nova de Lisboa University

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Wendeling-Schröder, Hannover University

04:15 p.m. - 04:45 p.m. • BREAK

04:45 p.m. **Legal frameworks for a functioning collective bargaining autonomy in Germany**

Prof. Dr. Achim Seifert, Jena University

COMMENTS BY: **Dr. Thorsten Schulten**, WSI at HBS

Gregor Asshoff, IG BAU (construction, agriculture, environment union)

Johannes Bungart, lawyer, Federal Guild Association of Property Cleaning Trade

MODERATOR: **Helga Nielebock**, DGB

Transitional periods during a person's working life

02:45 p.m. **Individual control over working time throughout working life**

Dr. Bertram Zwanziger, Judge at the Federal Labor Court

COMMENTS BY: **Dr. Christina Klenner**, WSI at HBS

Christina Ramb, lawyer, BDA (Confederation of German Employers' Associations)

Dr. Anika Rasner, DIW (German Institute for Economic Research)

04:15 p.m. - 04:45 p.m. • BREAK

04:45 p.m. **Work-life balance through transfer benefits**

Dr. Christine Fuchsloch, President of the Higher Social Court Schleswig-Holstein

COMMENTS BY: **Svenja Pfahl**, Institute for Social Sciences Transfer

Dr. Maria Wersig, German Women Lawyers Association

Prof. Dr. Michaela Kreyenfeld, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin & Max Planck Institute, Rostock

MODERATOR: **Peter Voigt**, IG BCE (mining, chemicals, energy union)
Nadine Mattausch, IG Metall

Freedom of assembly – protection against authoritarian supervision and Nazi-like activities

02:45 p.m. **Requirements of a value-based right of assembly**

Prof. Dr. Ralf Poscher, Freiburg University

COMMENTS BY: **Dieter Muhsmann**, Presiding Judge at the Higher Administrative Court Lüneburg

Sascha Braun, GdP (German Police Union)

Harald Baumann-Hasske, lawyer, Working Group of Social Democratic Lawyers

04:15 p.m. - 04:45 p.m. • BREAK

04:45 p.m. **Industrial action and the right of assembly as competing and conflicting basic rights?**

Dr. Jürgen Kühling, lawyer, former Judge at the Federal Constitutional Court

COMMENTS BY: **Hartmut Wächtler**, lawyer, Munich

Frank Steininger, IG BAU

MODERATOR: **Dr. Irina Mohr**, FES

Co-determination in times of globalization

hosted by Hugo Sinzheimer Institute

02:45 p.m. **Industry 4.0 – works constitution 4.0?**

Prof. Dr. Katja Nebe, Bremen University

COMMENTS BY: **Bettina Haller**, Group Works Council, Siemens

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Koch, Judge at the Federal Labor Court

Marie Seyboth, DGB

04:15 p.m. - 04:45 p.m. • BREAK

04:45 p.m. **The future of co-determination**

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Krause, Göttingen University

COMMENTS BY: **Prof. Dr. Hellmut Wißmann**, former President of the Federal Labor Court

Bob King, President of United Automobile Workers (USA)

Dr. Norbert Kluge, Hans Böckler Stiftung

MODERATOR: **Dr. Thomas Klebe**, Hugo Sinzheimer Institute Executive
Dr. Johannes Heuschmid, Hugo Sinzheimer Institute

Social security systems and basic social protection

10:00 a.m. **Social benefits in Europe – opportunity or isolation of national welfare systems?**

Prof. Dr. Eberhard Eichenhofer, Jena University

COMMENTS BY: **Prof. Dr. Christine Langenfeld**, SVR (Expert Council) of German Foundations on Integration and Migration
Dr. Dagmar Oppermann, Judge at the Federal Social Court
Dr. Björn Harich, Judge at the Higher Administrative Court Bremen

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • BREAK

12:00 UHR **Flexible retirement – avoiding poverty in old age and in case of incapacity for work**

Prof. Dr. Felix Welti, Kassel University

COMMENTS BY: **Prof. Dr. Ute Klammer**, University Duisburg-Essen
Christoph Ehscheid, IG Metall
Dirk Hölzer, Higher Social Court Darmstadt

MODERATOR: **Robert Nazarek**, DGB

Asserting legal rights through disclosure obligations and class action rights?

10:00 a.m. **Employers' obligations in disclosing conditions of employment – constitutional boundaries**

Prof. Dr. Alexander Roßnagel, Kassel University

COMMENTS BY: **Michael Fischer**, FES

Dr. Miriam Saage-Maaß, lawyer, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights
Heribert Jöris, lawyer, Handelsverband Deutschland (German association of employers in the retail industry)
Rainald Thannisch, DGB

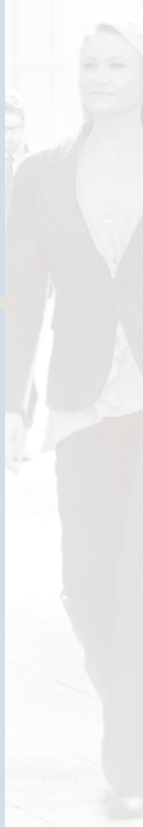
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • BREAK

12:00 p.m. **Asserting legal rights through class action rights and impeding time limits?**

Prof. Dr. Armin Höland, Halle-Wittenberg University

COMMENTS BY: **Ingrid Heinlein**, lawyer, former Presiding Judge of the Higher Labor Court Düsseldorf
Karsten Jessolat, DGB Rechtsschutz GmbH
Prof. Dr. Holger Brecht-Heitzmann, University of the Federal Employment Agency, Schwerin

MODERATOR: **Dr. Nadine Zeibig**, WSI at HBS
Dr. Andreas Priebe, HBS



Digitalization of living and working environments – what regulations are needed?

10:00 a.m. **Digitalization and privacy in living environments**

Prof. Dr. Herta Däubler-Gmelin, former Federal Minister of Justice

COMMENTS BY: **Paul Nemitz**, EU Commission

Gerold Reichenbach, MP

Prof. Dr. Uwe Berlit, Presiding Judge at the Federal Administrative Court

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • BREAK

12:00 p.m. **Digitalization in working environments**

Prof. Dr. Peter Wedde, Institute for Data Protection, Labor Law and Technology Consultancy, Eppstein

COMMENTS BY: **Prof. Dr. Marita Körner**, Hamburg University

Dr. Imke Sommer, Data Protection Commissioner, Bremen

Prof. Dr. Jan Marco Leimeister, Kassel University

MODERATOR: **Martina Perreng**, DGB, **Isabel Eder**, IG BCE

Current developments and the future of the right to industrial action

hosted by Hugo Sinzheimer Institute

10:00 a.m. **Industrial Action in a globalized economy**

Prof. Dr. Olaf Deinert, Göttingen University

COMMENTS BY: **Dr. Jürgen Treber**, Judge at the Federal Labor Court

Prof. Dr. Eva Kocher, Frankfurt/Oder University

Andrej Wroblewski, IG Metall

Katja Weitzel, lawyer, Working Group of Social Democratic Lawyers

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • BREAK

12:00 p.m. **Civil servants, churches, and public services – industrial-action-free zones?**

Prof. Dr. Jens Schubert, ver.di

COMMENTS BY: **Prof. Dr. Gregor Thüsing**, Bonn University

Klaus Lörcher, European Trade Unions Confederation

Andreas Gehrke, GEW (German Education Union)

MODERATOR: **Prof. Dr. Marlene Schmidt**, Hugo Sinzheimer Institute Executive
Dr. Reinold Mittag, IG Metall

GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUES

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Haus 1 (building 1), Hiroshimastraße 17,
Haus 2 (building 2), Hiroshimastraße 28,
10785 Berlin

Permanent Representation of Bremen

Hiroshimastraße 24, 10785 Berlin

Please see pages 6-9 for detailed information about where the forums will be held.

Lunch, dinner, and coffee will be offered in FES/Haus 1, in the exhibition halls and the cafeteria, and in the foyer of FES/Haus 2.

The entire program on 25 March, starting at 10:30 a.m. and finishing at 01:45 p.m., will be transmitted live on a large screen in Conference Hall 2 at FES/Haus 2.

CONTACT PERSON/CONGRESS MANAGEMENT

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As of 8 a.m. on each day of the congress our counter will be available at the lobby of FES/Haus 1 for registration, press accreditation, handing out name tags and conference materials, and of course for general enquiries.

Accessibility: If you have any special requirements, please contact us.

RESPONSIBLE

Dr. Irina Mohr,
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Helga Nielebock,
German Confederation of Trade Unions

Dr. Nadine Zeibig/Dr. Andreas Priebe,
Hans Böckler Stiftung

Dr. Johannes Heuschmid,
Hugo Sinzheimer Institute



DIRECTIONS/PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Nearest bus stops:

Bus 100: Lützowplatz
Bus M29: Hiroshimasteg
Bus 200: Tiergartenstraße

If you arrive at Tegel airport, take bus 109 or bus X9 to Bahnhof Zoo, change there to buses 200 or 100.

There is no parking available.

FEES

No fees are charged for this event.

No reimbursement of travel or accommodation expenses.

LIVE-STREAM/DOCUMENTATION

There will be a live stream of the entire program taking place in FES/Haus 1 under www.rechtspolitischer-kongress.de.

Congress proceedings will also be available on this website.

The Vorwärts bookshop will have a book counter in the lobby of FES/Haus 1, open on 25 March from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on 26 March from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The program schedule may be subject to change.

Updated information under www.rechtspolitischer-kongress.de



www.rechtspolitischer-kongress.de