

Foundation for European Progressive Studies in cooperation with the Masaryk Democratic Academy and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung would like to invite you to an international conference



## **Addressing the Crises: Costs, COVID-19, Climate and Conflict**

*Monday 28 November 2022 | 15.00–19.00  
Foundation ABF, Wenceslas Square 833, Prague*

The European Union is at a difficult crossroads. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have brought new challenges for the Union and its integration. In parallel, the EU must also address the ongoing climate crisis. National governments and welfare systems face new pressures and the need for greater support from the EU. European solutions are particularly crucial in a globalized world, where for example, the war in Ukraine, has implications for citizens across Europe. In this context, how can the EU strengthen integration and support national governments in tackling the current and emerging crises?

Progressive forces and office-holders have played a major role in the construction of Social Europe and will continue to demand and shape a Europe that ensures a decent quality of life for all. This Call to Europe Conference in Prague will bring together current and former policy-makers, academic experts as well as activists, including current EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit. We will discuss not only the current state of play but also how European social and economic policy should be shaped moving forward so that no one in Europe is left behind.

### **Program**

*15.00–16.00*

#### **Discussion: Book launch of “Europe’s Social Integration”**

**László Andor**, FEPS Secretary General, former EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs

#### **Inputs by:**

**Cecilia Bruzelius**, Junior Professor of European Public Policy, Tübingen University

**Matthias Ecke**, Member of the European Parliament

**Lubomír Zaorálek**, President of Masaryk Democratic Academy

*16.00–17.00*

#### **High-level talk: Addressing the Crisis of Living Costs**

**Daniel Prokop**, Sociologist, PAQ Research  
**Josef Středula**, Chair of Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions (ČMKOS)  
**Saša Uhlová**, Journalist

*17.00–17.30*

#### **Keynote speech**

**Nicolas Schmit**, EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Followed by Q&A with the audience

*17.30–19.00*

#### **Closing & Reception**

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*The conference will be simultaneously interpreted into Czech and English.*