

A Socially, Economically and Environmentally Sustainable Ireland in Europe:

A national conference on Europe 2020 and the European Semester

Organised by: The Better Europe Alliance: Irish Civil Society Organisations for a Social and Sustainable Europe

Date: Friday 5th December from 9:30-1:30, followed by lunch

Venue: Jury's Inn Hotel. Custom House Quay, Dublin

Programme

- 9:30: Registration
- 10:00: Welcome and setting context by Conference Chair, Joan O'Donnell, Disability Federation of Ireland
- 10:10: What is the EU Semester and Europe 2020 Strategy? by Michael Ewing, Environmental Pillar
- 10:20: Better Europe Alliance priorities for the future of the European Semester by Paul Ginnell, European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland
- 10:40: Key-Note Speech: by Marian Harkin MEP and Member of the Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee
- 11:00: Response by
- Patrick O'Riordan, European Commission Semester Officer in Ireland
 - Dara Lynott, Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, responsible for The Office of Climate, Licensing, Research and Resource Use
- 11:10: Questions and Answer session with participants
- 11:30 Break
- 11:45: Small Group Discussions
- 12:40: Feedback from group discussion
- 12:50: Response by Hugh Frazer, Adjunct Professor at Maynooth University and Coordinator of the European Social Policy Network.
- 13:05 Looking to the Future - Rory Montgomery, Second Secretary General in the Department of the Taoiseach
- 13:20 Closing remarks by Brid O'Brien, Better Europe Alliance and Irish national Organisation of the Unemployed
- 13:30: Close

The aim of the Conference is to provide a forum for dialogue among a wide range of stakeholders on how to bring about a more balanced inclusive and sustainable European Semester and Europe 2020 strategy. The event will provide an important opportunity for participants to better understand these European processes, its relevance and the opportunities and challenges it provides. These are the key European processes which impact on Ireland’s annual budget and contains five targets on the areas of employment, research and innovation, employment, education and poverty and social exclusion.

To Register send your name, organisation (where relevant), contact details and any special dietary or other requirements to enquiries@eapn.ie or call Maureen at 01-8745737

The Better Europe Alliance



The **Better Europe Alliance - Irish Civil Society Organisations for a Social and Sustainable Europe**, involves a range of social and equality NGOs, the Environmental Pillar and the SIPTU trade union. The members of the Alliance are affiliated to organisations involved in an EU level Alliance. The overall objective of the Alliance is to strengthen progress towards the social and environmental goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy and to improve the level of debate and engagement of all stakeholders in progressing the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Semester. The Alliances at EU and Irish level are coordinated by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) with support from the European Commission.

The members of the Better Europe Alliance are:

- Age & Opportunity
- Disability Federation of Ireland
- Environmental Pillar
- EAPN Ireland
- Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
- Irish Rural Link
- National Adult Literacy Agency
- National Association of Building Cooperatives
- National Women’s Council of Ireland
- SIPTU
- Social Justice Ireland
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

For further information on the Alliance contact: Paul Ginnell, EAPN Ireland, Equity House, 16 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8745737; email: paul@eapn.ie



In conjunction with the EU level Semester Alliance



The Alliance is supported by the European Commission