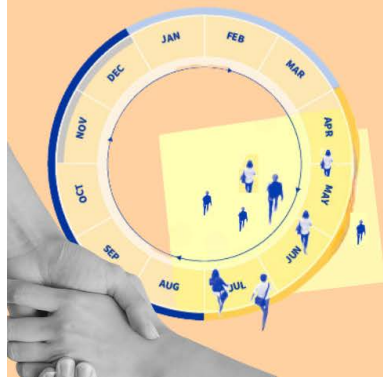



## SOCIAL EUROPE CONFERENCE 2024

### CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER: ROAD TO A MORE DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL CYCLE



 3 December 2024 | 9.30 - 12.00

 European Parliament,  
Brussels | Room ASP 3H1

solidar

 Co-funded by  
the European Union



#### Concept Note:

The 2024 Social Europe Conference, SOLIDAR's annual flagship event focused on social rights, will explore the crucial role of civil society organizations (CSOs) within the framework of the European Semester. The conference will also present the findings of the Social Rights Monitor (SRM), SOLIDAR's yearly publication assessing the state of social rights, civic space and the progress towards a just transition from the perspective of civil society. Both the SRM and the Social Europe Conference are funded under the EaSI strand of the ESF+, namely in the framework of the programme "Realising a Social Europe for All 2024".

The conference will be centered around the potential role of CSOs in strengthening the social and democratic aspects of the European Semester. Building upon the SRM findings, which emerged from the analysis of national CSOs, the event will explore the untapped expertise of CSOs in the Semester, gather knowledge from CSOs at EU and national level on their experience with the cycle, and discuss strategies for ensuring CSOs are meaningfully involved in the Semester process.

- **Strengthened CSOs Involvement:** The conference will reason for the need for greater CSOs participation in the European Semester to ensure that social justice perspectives are adequately considered.
- **Leveraging CSOs Expertise:** CSOs possess valuable knowledge and experience that can significantly contribute to the Semester process, and they represent the most vulnerable in our societies whose voice is essential to ensure that the Semester fosters social justice, but this is not adequately integrated into the cycle. The exchange will shed light on this shortcoming.
- **Challenges and opportunities:** in this event we will analyse CSOs engagement within the European Semester, identifying key barriers, potential solutions and strategies for overcoming these challenges and advocate for institutional changes.

## Programme:

09:30 – 09:40 | **Welcome and introduction, Mikael Leyi, SOLIDAR**

09:40 – 10:00 | **Keynote speech, MEP Idoia Mendía, S&D**

10:00 – 10:20 | **Presentation of the Social Rights Monitor results, Martina Corti, SOLIDAR**

10:20 – 10:35 | **Q&A**

10:35 – 11:40 | **Panel discussion - the role of Civil Society in the European Semester**

- **Barbara Margarethe Kurkowiak, DG EMPL**
- **Laura de Bonfils, Social Platform**
- **Luis Cortés, Movimiento por la paz, MPDL**
- **Amandine Crespy, ULB**
- **Javier Doz Orrit, EESC**

11:40– 11:55 | **Q&A**

11:55 – 12:00 | **Conclusions, Mikael Leyi, SOLIDAR**