

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



Photo by Ashley Cooper



UNited for climate JUSTICE

19th - 21st SEPTEMBER 2019

The Maxwell Hotel, New York
New York City

Side event of the UN Climate Action Summit

#UNited4ClimateJustice



INTRODUCTION

FOREWORD BY DR. LÁSZLÓ ANDOR

Secretary General, FEPS

The European Union has played a leading role in the fight for global sustainability. Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has been a manifest goal for the EU since at least 2010. However, without effective action being coordinated among the member states and even more importantly, among global partners, good slogans can remain just a mantra.

The 2015 Paris Agreement provides evidence that progress is possible if advocacy and diplomacy remain focused on what is really important. But the subsequent years have also shown that what has been achieved needs to be consolidated, otherwise a slow-burning crisis easily turns into a real emergency. And that is exactly where we are at the moment.

A good deal of time has already been wasted without proper implementation of the green agenda or serious discussion about how to change our way of life, especially our consumption patterns, in order to achieve a just transition. Those who consider the protection of their privileges more important want to sideline the climate debate entirely. It is therefore very important to ensure, for example, that hostility to science does not prevail and lead to a setback in climate action.

Our societies may not be entirely divided according to age groups, but it is definitely true that young people in most countries are highly motivated in the discussion on climate change and look for opportunities to act as well. This high motivation should not only lead to greater ambition, but also to a more formalised engagement of youth in consultations as well as actual decision making on climate-related issues.

Social inequalities hinder the political capacity to protect the climate. This is also why programmes aiming at a better economy and ecology have to be connected and reconciled. Those using the phrase "Green New Deal" highlight the need for

a more regulated capitalism that allows not only for measures strengthening social cohesion but also for the protection of our climate and tackling environmental degradation. We have a deficit on both sides, which means that efforts have to be redoubled.

The original New Deal was a historic achievement of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and so was the United Nations. The UN remains the most important forum for promoting global cooperation as well as solidarity, without which climate justice would just remain an idea. Institutions serving multilateral governance must be improved, not destroyed. From a European point of view, the advocacy of climate justice goes hand in hand with the defence of multilateralism.

While Europe has been in a pole position in these efforts, we cannot sit on our laurels. The European business model itself has to be revamped. Some countries still depend excessively on socially-useless financial activities, while others have tied themselves to automotive exports that are far from being climate neutral. We expect the newly established European Commission to elevate sustainability on the political agenda, and urgently outline measures in the interest of climate justice. This strategy should not discourage, but encourage, serious regulation of finance, reforms of the monetary union, and the development of an innovation-based industrial policy.

As the leading progressive think tank in Europe, FEPS has been mobilising resources as well as public attention in recent years, in favour of research and debates that promote sustainability. We will also do our utmost for the outcomes of the September 2019 UN summit to be disseminated and brought closer to various European regions. Ensuring that European policy finds the way to climate justice and that the necessary transformation is sustainable remains a most important task for us.



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PROGRAM

Thursday 19th September 2019

Venue: *The Great Room, The Maxwell Hotel*

18:30-21:00 **Welcome reception**

Addresses by **Luise Rürup**, Executive Director, FES New York Office
László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS

Opening remarks

Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Permanent Observer to the UN
for the International Renewable Energy Agency

Photo exhibition " Global Warming Images"

by **Ashley Cooper**, Award Winning Photographer

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Friday 20th September 2019

Venue: *The Great Room, The Maxwell Hotel*

09:00 **Welcome coffee & registration**

09:15 **Opening of the conference**

Maria João Rodrigues, President, FEPS, Portugal

09:30 **Keynote speech**

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland,
President of the Mary Robinson Foundation, Chair of the Elders



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PROGRAM

09:50

Scene setters: Reconnecting, respecting and protecting nature and its ecosystems

Edel Moraes, National Council of Local Communities, Brazil

Maria Damanaki, Global Managing Director for Oceans,
The Nature Conservancy, Greece

10:10

Time to take our responsibilities and go forward - Talking about effective and sustainable change in climate action

Benedicta Lasi, Vice President, IUSY, Ghana

Javi López, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group, Spain

Ed Miliband, MP for Doncaster North, UK

Rick Smith, Executive Director, Broadbent Institute, Canada

Laurence Tubiana, CEO, European Climate Foundation, France

Michael Williams, Interim co-Executive Director, Blue Green Alliance, US

Moderated by **Ania Skrzypek**,

Director for Research and Training, FEPS, Poland

11:45

Guardians of the future : Call for global progressive climate action!

Maj Jensen, Secretary General, Young European Socialists, Denmark

László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS, Hungary

Light lunch will be served



Walk the Talk: NYC Climate Strike! with Greta Thunberg

Let's take our discussions out there and get in on the action. Upon conclusion of conference day 1, all speakers and participants have the opportunity to join the New York City Climate Strike with Greta Thunberg (route tbc).



Photo by Ashley Cooper



PROGRAM

Saturday 21th September 2019

Venue: *The Great Room, The Maxwell Hotel*

08:30 **Coffee & registration**

09:00 **Welcome remarks**

László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS, Hungary

09:05 **Presentation and insights from the United for Climate Justice Initiative**

*Teresa Ribera, Minister for the Ecological Transition and
Chair of the Climate Justice Steering Committee, Spain*

09:20 **Special address**

*Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special UN Envoy for the 2019 Climate Summit,
Mexico*

09:40 **Making climate ambitions a reality**

*Introductory note by **Stephen Minas**, Assistant Professor,
Peking University's School of Transnational Law,
Member of the United for Climate Justice Steering Committee, UK*

***Sharan Burrow**, General Secretary, ITUC, Australia*

***Miriam Dalli**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group, Malta*

***Aranha González**, Executive Director, International Trade Center, Spain*

***George Heyman**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy,
Vancouver-Fairview, Canada*

***Andrea Horwath**, Leader of the Official Opposition, Ontario, Canada*

***Dan Jørgensen**, Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities, Denmark (tbc)*

***Keriako Tobiko**, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Kenya*

*Moderated by **Céline Charvériat**, Executive Director,
Institute for European Environmental Policy, France*

12:30 **Closing**

***Maria João Rodrigues**, President, FEPS, Portugal*

Followed by lunch



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UNited for climate JUSTICE

Rapporteurs drafting the official report of the conference
Jo Leinen, former Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group
Céline Guedes, FEPS Project Officer

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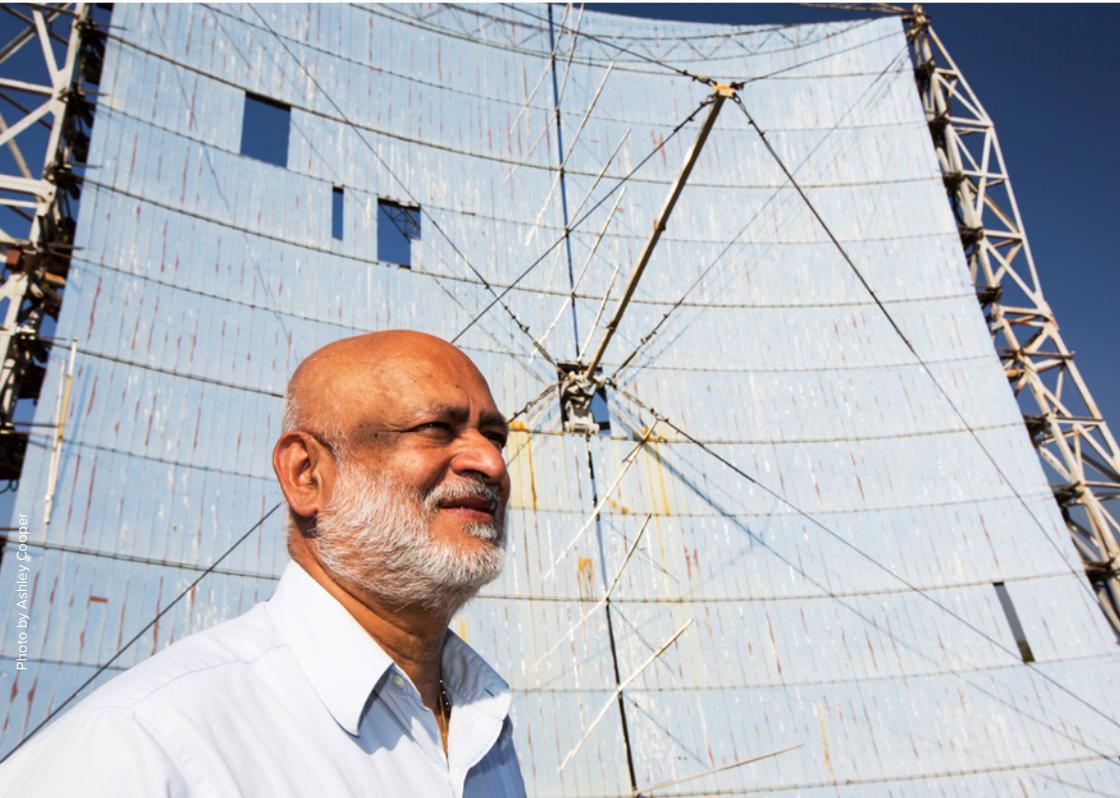


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#12

SUMMER
AUTUMN
2019
3.00 €

The Progressive Post

SOCIAL, FISCAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE: the right-left cleavage is still alive!

Featuring
contributions from:

Laurent Berger
Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz
Wolfgang Engler
Geert Mak
Luuk van Middelaar
Frances O'Grady
David Sassoli
Maria Skóra
Joseph Stiglitz
...

SPECIAL COVERAGE
2019 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS
LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

NEXT LEFT

30 years after the fall
of the Berlin Wall

NEXT ECONOMY

The future:
the 4 days working week

NEXT SOCIAL

Urgent: social
infrastructure investments

NEXT DEMOCRACY

'Power to the people': Participatory
Budget & Direct Democracy

NEXT ENVIRONMENT

Regulating pesticide use

NEXT GLOBAL

Nuclear arms control
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