



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament



March 1st, 2016 - 9h30 to 12h30
European Parliament, Room ASP 5G1

**The AGS behind, the Semester ahead:
What proposals to make Europe 2020 more social,
democratic and sustainable?**



Giving a Voice to Civil Society!

Hosted by Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto MEP (S&D) + Marian Harkin MEP (ALDE)

***with the EU Alliance for a Democratic, Social and Sustainable
European Semester (EU Semester Alliance)***

Register [on line here](#) by Tuesday 23 February 2016



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The AGS behind, the Semester ahead: What proposals to make Europe 2020 more social, democratic and sustainable?

Agenda

9h30 Opening Remarks by Joint Hosts/Chairs

- Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto MEP (S&D)
- Marian Harkin MEP (ALDE)
- Sian Jones (Semester Alliance)

9h45 Civil Society Assessment: European Semester 2015 and AGS 2016

- Semester Alliance: Mary Collins (EWL); Constanze Adolf (Green Budget Europe); Hendrik Meerkamp (CESI); Maciej Kucharczyk (AGE-Platform).
- Exchange with audience

10h30 Response from the European Commission

- Massimo Suardi, Deputy Head of Valdis Dombrovskis' Cabinet, Vice President for the Euro and Social Dialogue
- Short exchange with audience

11.00 Debate with European Parliament

- Sofia Ribeiro (EPP), rapporteur on own initiative report - European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the AGS 2016.

Round table with Shadow Rapporteurs

- Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D), Shadow Rapporteur
- Ulla Tørnæs (ALDE); Shadow Rapporteur
- Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA), Shadow Rapporteur
- Gabi Zimmer (GUE), Shadow Rapporteur

11.45 Debate with the Audience

12.15 Conclusions by EU Semester Alliance: Sian Jones, EAPN/Semester Alliance

12h25 Wrap Up / Conclusions by MEP Hosts



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Background Information

The event comes at a timely moment to kick-start discussion around the launch of 2016 European Semester, following the adoption of the [Annual Growth Survey 2016 in November](#), and the finalizing of the EP own initiative Report on the [European Semester for economic policy coordination – Employment and Social Aspects in the AGS 2016](#). Although some progress is seen in the new AGS, a major concern for many stakeholders is the loss of visibility and importance given to the **Europe 2020 strategy**, with no specific proposals made by the EU on the **Mid-Term Review**, already a year overdue, and in particular its vision of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This includes how to make progress on the 5 targets – particularly lifting at least 20 million people out of **poverty**, achieving a 75% **employment** rate for women and men, reducing **school dropout** to below 10% and 40% **completion of tertiary education** by 30-34 year olds, and achieving a **20% increase** in **energy efficiency**, and of mainstreaming gender and equality commitments. Action is also urgently needed to increase legitimacy, accountability and ownership with national and European Parliament and to make **civil society and social stakeholders partners** in the Semester process.

The specific aim of the event is to: Focus debates on the AGS 2016 and proposals for the Semester in 2016, to see how progress can be made on a more social and sustainable EU agenda with increased democratic representation and participation from civil society and social stakeholders.

The **EU Alliance for a Democratic, Social and Sustainable European Semester** (EU Semester Alliance) is a broad coalition bringing together 17 major European civil-society organisations and trade unions, representing thousands of member organisations on the ground at European, national and local levels in the European Union. The '[EU Semester Alliance](#)' aims to support progress towards a more democratic, social and sustainable Europe 2020 Strategy, through strengthening civil dialogue engagement in the European Semester at national and EU levels.¹ The EU Semester Alliance has been working actively in partnership with the European Parliament with the aim of strengthening the European Semester to deliver on its Europe 2020 promises and targets since 2012. (See <http://semesteralliance.net/>). The Alliance will present its proposals on the [AGS 2016](#) and its [report](#) on the Country-specific Recommendations. This event is co-hosted by **Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S+D)** and **Marian Harkin (ALDE)**, with active cross-party support.

Registration Details: Please register [on line here](#): with name, nationality, type of passport or identity card and number, and date of birth. Registration on the day from **9.00 am** at the Luxembourg entrance. Please remember to bring your ID with you.

¹ See the Alliance's blog <http://semesteralliance.net> – Twitter hashtag : #semesteralliance