

# The European Social dimension in a historical perspective

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# Introduction

1. Four historical periods
2. 2005 till 2014
3. 2014 till today
4. The future?

## 4 periods

European integration based on a central logic of economic integration with the social dimension being derived from this integration

- Restrained in subjects as well as methods
- 2 aims : rebalancing the economic agenda as well as promoting an ambitious social agenda in itself
- No precise definition or understanding of what the social dimension is or how the European Social Model should be understood.
- The advancement of the social dimension has mostly coincided with moments of crisis of the European project

## 4 periods

- 15 year cycles
  - 1973/74 : Adoption of the Social Agenda
  - 1988/89 : Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers and ensuing action programme
  - 2000s : Charter of Fundamental Rights
  - 2015/16 : European Pillar of Social Rights and (mini) social programme

## Last part of third period 2005 - 2014

- 2005 : revision of Lisbon strategy focus on competitiveness
  - Eg flexicurity paradigm emerged, Viking-Laval case
- 2008 : Financial crisis
- 2010 : Europe2020 and strengthening of economic governance system

Adam Smith, or even Friedrich Hayek, with the market as sole compass at European and national level.

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2015 -

- Juncker Commission – Triple-A Social Europe, Brexit, loss of confidence in the European project.
- 2017 – Proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights
  - 20 principles
  - Score board
  - Fairness package etc
- 2018 Posted workers directive adopted

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## Looking forward

Create institutions that promote solidarity, convergence and  
limit power of marketplace

- *Place social matters at the heart of European policy (eg social protocol)*
- *Complete the EMU*

EPSR has laid the foundation for the push forwards :

1. Business as usual
2. Some advancement but no rebalancing
3. Rebalancing

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