



## **Strengthening Coalitions for Social Justice in Europe**

### **1<sup>st</sup> European Social Watch Conference**

**hosted by DGB Bildungswerk, terre des hommes, Global Policy Forum Europe and Eurostep**

**Berlin  
20-21 November 2004**

The year 2005 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Women's Conference and the Copenhagen Social Summit. It will also be the half way point between these events and the 2015 target dates. There will be a UN Summit in September 2005 on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs. This event provides an important opportunity for civil society organizations to work for more effective policies towards poverty eradication and social justice in North and South. Social Watch, a global network of more than 400 NGOs and citizens groups, plays and important role in this process.

Social Watch was established 1995 as an outcome of the actions taken by civil society organisations around the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth UN Conference on Women. Its motivation is to promote a global citizens movement that hold national governments and international organisations accountable for the commitments made in Copenhagen and Beijing.

Through Social Watch, national coalitions and other fora have been created in many countries to discuss social development concerns, develop advocacy strategies, work with grassroots organizations, and lobby government officials. The annual Social Watch Report has been used as a principal advocacy tool to voice independent assessments of the relation between economic policies and social development as well as to promote measures that would address the underlying causes of poverty.

While Social Watch has a strong basis in many regions of the world, representation and co-operation in Europe has been relatively weak, particularly in Eastern Europe. Consequently, at the last General Assembly of Social Watch in Beirut (October 2004) it was agreed that action should be taken to strengthen Social Watch in Europe, and to develop a European regional identity. This Conference will be a first step towards these goals. It aims to bring together existing Social Watch coalitions and NGOs as well as potential new groups, related networks and other partners from Europe in order to share experiences and expectations, assess needs for coordination and support, and to discuss common strategies that can be pursued in Europe as part of the global Social Watch coalition. The main focus will be on activities in the year 2005. This will include European contributions to the Social Watch Report 2005 and actions towards the review of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs.

## Draft Programme

(Working language at the conference is English)

<b>19 November</b>	
<b>Evening</b>	Arrivals, welcome of speakers and guests
<b>20 November</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> conference day</b>
<b>9:00</b>	Registration
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <i>Jens Martens, GPF Europe/Simon Stocker, Eurostep (European Members of the Social Watch Coordinating Committee)</i>
<b>PART 1</b>	<b>SOCIAL WATCH: MISSION AND EXPERIENCES</b>
<b>9:45</b>	<b>Opening statements</b> Social Watch – The Global Network for Social Justice. History, Mission and Perspective. <i>Roberto Bissio, Director, Social Watch Secretariat</i> Building Social Watch from below – Experiences of national Social Watch coalitions <i>Iara Pietricovsky, Social Watch Brazil*</i> <i>Jason Nardi, Social Watch Italy</i>
<b>10:45</b>	Break
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Sharing of national experiences</b> Building coalitions for social justice in European countries.  11.00-12.00: Group dialogue in small roundtables 12.00-13.00: Plenary dialogue
<b>13:00</b>	Lunch break
<b>PART 2</b>	<b>THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK</b>
<b>14:00</b>	<b>The political framework: Europe's social responsibility</b> Introductory remarks (linking the internal and external dimension) <i>Simon Stocker, Eurostep</i>
<b>14:15</b>	<u>Panel 1: Fighting poverty and social exclusion in Europe</u> <i>Fintan Farrell, European Anti Poverty Network*</i>
<b>15:15</b>	<u>Panel 2: Europe's role in eradicating poverty and social exclusion in developing countries: MDGs and beyond</u> <i>Mirjam van Reisen, EEPA</i>
<b>16:15</b>	Break
<b>16:30</b>	16.30-17.30: Group dialogue in small roundtables 17.30-18.30: Plenary dialogue
<b>18.30</b>	End of the day

<b>21 November</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> conference day</b>
<b>PART 3</b>	<b>THE CIVIL SOCIETY FRAMEWORK</b>
<b>9.00</b>	<b>The civil society framework: Social Watch within European Networks and Campaigns</b>
	Presentation of existing European networks and campaigns in the field of poverty eradication, gender equality and social justice. <i>Eva Hanfstaengl, Consultant to the UN FfD-Secretariat on European NGOs</i>
<b>10:00</b>	Break
<b>10:30</b>	<b>The current and potential role of national Social Watch coalitions and Social Watch Europe – needs, expectations and strategies.</b>
	10:30-11:30 Group dialogue in small roundtables 11.30-12.30: Plenary dialogue
<b>12:30</b>	Lunch break
<b>PART 4</b>	<b>CONCLUSION AND FUTURE STRATEGIES</b>
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Building the Network</b>
	Coordination, cooperation and plans for 2005
<b>15:00</b>	Closing statement and end of the conference
<b>afterwards</b>	Space for bilateral meetings and/or further planning meetings

\*invited

**Venue of the Conference:**

**Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus**  
**Ziegelstrasse 30**  
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