

Trade unionists, employment lawyers working in support of trade unions, and academics and students with an interest in industrial relations and labour law.

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Please reserve __ places at the EU Developments: has social Europe disintegrated?
Conference, Liverpool at £ each

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EU Developments: has social Europe disintegrated?

**A one day conference
Wednesday 9 March 2016
9.30 to 3.30 pm
The Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool**

Liverpool
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Organised by
The Institute of
Employment Rights

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About the conference

By 2017 UK workers will be asked to vote in a referendum about membership of the European Union. To date, there is no certainty about what the EU structure or rules will look like or what we will be asked to vote for or against. Meanwhile, the House of Lords has voted to extend the EU referendum franchise to 16 and 17 year olds.

David Cameron has said he wants to renegotiate the terms of EU membership but his plans remain vague. TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady has called on Mr Cameron to rule out any attack on workers' rights while, during the Labour leadership campaign, Jeremy Corbyn refused to rule out campaigning for Britain to leave the EU if the Tories tried to "trade away" workers' rights.

Cameron's silence on these issues does not remove fears that they remain under threat from his clear aim of deregulating EU rights in his determination to reduce 'burdens' for business and make the EU a business-only club. In response, the ETUC has warned that it will not accept the negotiating away of fundamental rights. At the same time, discussions on trade deals like TTIP continue as do Troika imposed attacks on collective bargaining in EU member states.

So what is the reality of the European Union? Does it protect our rights at work and promote prosperity and jobs? Or is it a 'bosses club' that places freedom of capital over workers' rights? Is social Europe growing or withering? Can the EU be democratised and transformed or is it doomed to fail like the austerity policies it increasingly promotes?

Speakers at this event will look in some detail at aspects of the European Union project and delegates can expect a variety of opinions on the way forward.

So, still undecided on whether to vote yes or no in the referendum? Come along to this conference where we hope to inform your decision.

Programme

9.30	Registration
9.50	Welcome from Chair <i>Sonia McKay, Professor of European Socio-Legal Studies at the Working Lives Research Institute</i>
10.00–12.30	Morning debate <i>John Hendy QC, Old Square Chambers and IER Kathleen Walker Shaw, GMB Keith Ewing, King's College London and IER</i> Questions and discussion
12.30	LUNCH
1.30–3.30	Afternoon debate <i>John Foster, Academic Michael Doherty, Maynooth University Department of Law Kevan Nelson, UNISON</i> Questions and Discussion
3.30	Close