



Workshop and Public Event

“Minimum Wage and the Welfare State”

April 3rd 2008, 10.00 – 18.30

Hotel Dan Panorama, 10, Kaufman St. Tel Aviv

Organized by:

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Israel Office

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Part I: Workshop

10.00 Arrival of the participants and registration
Light refreshments

10.15 Opening and Welcome Addresses

MK Colette Avital

Deputy Speaker of the Knesset; International Secretary, Israel Labour Party

Hermann Bünz

Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Israel Office

10.30 – 13.00 *Workshop: “The Role of Minimum Wage in the Welfare State: the Israeli Experience in an International Perspective”*

Chair:

Leah Achdut

Ruppin Academic Center; Van-Leer Jerusalem Institute

Participants:

Pär Nuder, MP

Member of the Swedish Riksdag, Social Democratic Party of Sweden; Former Minister of Finance for Sweden; State Secretary to Göran Persson

Gérard Bapt, MP

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Member of the Parti Socialiste (PS) of France, Member of the Finance Committee and the French-Israeli Parliamentary Friendship Group; Fondation Jean Jaurès; Mayor of Saint-Jean, Haute-Garonne, France

Georg Fischer

Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs, EU Commission
Head of Social protection and Social services Unit at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities

Claus Matecki

Member of the Executive Board of the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB)

Esther Hertzog

Head of Anthropology Studies Program, Beit Berl Academic College; Women's Parliament Coordinator

Michel Strawczynski

Deputy Director, Research Department at the Bank of Israel

Efraim Zilony

Lawyer; Chairman of the Economic and Social Department, Histadrut

Daniel Gottlieb

Deputy of the Managing Director, Research and Planning, National Insurance Institute and Senior Lecturer, Economics Dept. Ben Gurion University

Benjamin Fefferman

Director, Planning, Research and Economics Administration, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

13.00 End of Workshop
Light lunch buffet in Foyer

Part II: Public Panel

14.30 Reception of the guests of the conference

15.00 *Welcome Address and Opening*

MK Colette Avital

Deputy Speaker of the Knesset; International Secretary, Israel Labour Party

Gérard Bapt, MP

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Member of the Parti Socialiste (PS) of France, Member of the Finance Committee and the French-Israeli Parliamentary Friendship Group; Fondation Jean Jaurès; Mayor of Saint-Jean, Haute-Garonne, France

Hermann Bünz

Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Israel Office

Nathan Ra'anan

Deputy Manager Ideological-Educational Center, Berl Katzenelson Foundation, Israel

15.30 *Presentation of Workshop results*

Leah Achdut

Ruppin Academic Center; Van-Leer Jerusalem Institute

15.45 – 17.00 *Part I: Israeli and International Perspectives*

Chair:

Yigal Tzahor

Manager Ideological-Educational Center

"The Role of Minimum Wage in Israel"

MK Isaac Herzog

Minister of Welfare and Social Services, Israeli Minister of the Diaspora, Society, and Fight against Antisemitism (Labor-Meimad)

MK Amir Peretz

Israel Labour Party

"Sweden – a Welfare State without Minimum Wage"

Pär Nuder, MP

Member of the Swedish Riksdag, Social Democratic Party of Sweden; Former Minister of Finance of Sweden; State Secretary to Göran Persson

"The Endangered Welfare State: Can Minimum Wage save it – the Case of Germany"

Christian Lange, MP

Member of the Bundestag (Social Democratic Party of Germany, SPD), former Deputy Spokesman of the Advisory Council on Economy and Labor of the SPD parliamentary group, Deputy Chairman of the Discussion Group on Israel of the SPD parliamentary group

“The Israeli Dilemma – Western European or US-American Neoliberalism”

MK Avishay Braverman

Israeli Labor Party, Member of the Knesset Committees on Finance and Economic Affairs, Former Senior Economist and Department Head at the World Bank

“Minimum Wage and Welfare State - Diversity of European Experiences”

Georg Fischer

Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs, EU Commission
Head of Social protection and Social services Unit at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities

17.00 – 17.30 Discussion with the audience

17.30 – 19.00 *Part II: Panel Discussion “Minimum Wage and the Welfare State”*

Chair:

Daniel Ben Simon

Journalist, “Haaretz”

Participants:

Gérard Bapt, MP

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Member of the Parti Socialiste (PS) of France, Member of the Finance Committee and the French-Israeli Parliamentary Friendship Group; Fondation Jean Jaurès; Mayor of Saint-Jean, Haute-Garonne, France

MK Colette Avital

Deputy Speaker of the Knesset; International Secretary, Israeli Labor Party

Ofer Eini

Chairman of the Histadrut General Federation of Labor Unions

Claus Matecki

Member of the Executive Board of the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB)

Shraga Brosh

President of the Israeli Manufacturers Association, Chairman of the Federation of the Israeli Economic Organizations (FIEO)

19.00 End of event

Simultaneous translation: Hebrew, English, German, French