

Europe's test of resilience: Social investment in the age of fragmentation

CEB celebrates 70 years of social investment in people, for people

Date and Venue: 17 March 2026, 16:00-19:00, Ministry of Finance of Poland, ul. Świętokrzyska 12 00-916 Warsaw

Format: In-person and livestreamed on the [CEB's official LinkedIn webpage](#) or on our [YouTube channel](#)

Language: English and French (simultaneous interpretation)

Background

Across advanced and emerging economies, social models are under unprecedented stress. Geopolitical tensions, rising inequality, demographic ageing, technological disruption, and weakened trust in institutions are reshaping how societies think about cohesion, fairness and opportunity. Europe is confronted with a triple challenge: sustaining competitiveness and innovation, preserving welfare systems under fiscal pressure and responding to societal expectations for protection and social inclusion. At the same time, new thinking is emerging on social investment, and the renewed role of the State and the private sector.

Programme

16:00-16:30	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Ceremonies: Naomi Lloyd, TV News Presenter & Event Moderator <p>Opening speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrzej Domański, Minister of Finance and Economy of Poland • Carlo Monticelli, Governor, Council of Europe Development Bank
16:30-17:30	<p>Panel discussion 1: Innovation, public purpose & new social models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekkehard Ernst, Chief of the Macro-economic Policies and Jobs Unit, ILO • Arancha González, Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po; former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain • Masood Ahmed, President Emeritus of the Center for Global Development <p>Moderator: Naomi Lloyd, TV News Presenter & Event Moderator</p>
Coffee Break (17:30-17:45)	
17:45-18:45	<p>Panel discussion 2: Financing social inclusion in a transforming Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Bowman, Vice President, Policy and Partnerships, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development • Sandrine Gaudin, Vice-Governor for Financial Strategy, CEB • Mikołaj Dowgiewiczyk, Deputy Secretary General, EIB • Mateusz Szczurek, member of the Management Board of the Polish Development Bank <p>Moderator: Naomi Lloyd, TV News Presenter & Event Moderator</p>
18:50-19:00	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gianluca Esposito, Director General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

SPEAKERS

Keynote speakers



Andrzej Domański, Minister of Finance and Economy of Poland.

A member of the Polish Parliament, Andrzej Domański was appointed Minister of Finance in December 2023 and Minister of Finance and Economy in July 2025. He previously worked in the Polish capital market as analyst, fund manager and investment director, holding senior roles at KBC TFI, Noble Funds TFI and Eques Investment TFI. Other roles include Chief Economist of the Civic Institute and co-author of the Civic Platform's economic programme. Minister Domański holds a CFA certification and a PhD degree and has received the "Alfa" and "Złoty Portfel" awards.



Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the CEB

Carlo Monticelli, an Italian economist, was elected Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank in June 2021 and began his five-year term in December 2021 after six years as Vice-Governor for Financial Strategy. Previously, he spent over a decade at the Italian Treasury, representing Italy in key international fora including the G7, G20, IMFC, FSB and OECD, and serving as Alternate Governor to major development banks. His earlier career included senior roles at Deutsche Bank in London and the Bank of Italy. Governor Monticelli holds a PhD in Economics, an MSc from the University of York, and pursued postgraduate studies at Oxford. A published author and lecturer, he taught at the Graduate Institute, MIT, and currently at Sciences Po.



Gianluca Esposito, Director General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

Gianluca Esposito has been Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law at the Council of Europe since 1 August 2024. He previously served as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, and Executive Secretary of GRECO. Joining the Council in 1995, he contributed to conventions on anti-corruption, cybercrime, justice, human trafficking, and terrorism, and was the Council's first Ethics Officer. From 2009 to 2015, he was Senior Counsel at the IMF in Washington, DC.

Moderator and Master of Ceremonies



Naomi Lloyd, TV News Presenter & Event Moderator

Naomi Lloyd is a TV journalist, presenter and media trainer. She has presented and produced Euronews' *Real Economy* programme and previously worked with BBC World TV, BBC Radio, France 24 and Reuters TV. Ms. Lloyd specialises in moderating high-level events and training senior leaders and experts to communicate clearly and confidently in media interviews and public discussions.

Panel discussion 1: Innovation, public purpose & new social models

Panellists



Ekkehard Ernst, Chief of the Macro-economic Policies and Jobs Unit, ILO

Ekkehard Ernst leads the Macro-economic Policies and Jobs Unit at the International Labour Organization and is responsible for the *World Employment and Social Outlook Trends* report. His work focuses on artificial intelligence, demographic change and the future of work. Mr. Ernst has previously worked at the OECD and the European Central Bank and holds a PhD from EHESS, Paris.



Arancha González, Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po; former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

Arancha González is the Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po. She previously served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain (2020–2021) and as UN Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (2013–2020). Earlier roles include Chief of Staff at the WTO and senior positions at the European Commission. Ms. González holds a law degree from the University of Navarra.



Masood Ahmed, President Emeritus of the Center for Global Development

Masood Ahmed is the President Emeritus of the Center for Global Development, following a 35-year career in international economic policy at the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and UK's Department for International Development (DFID). He served as Director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department and oversaw operations in 32 countries. He was awarded a KCMG in 2023 for services to international development.

Panel discussion 2: Financing social inclusion in a transforming Europe

Panellists



Mark Bowman, Vice President, Policy and Partnerships, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Mark Bowman is the Vice President for Policy and Partnerships at EBRD. Prior to joining EBRD, he was Director General, International Finance at HM Treasury with responsibility for advancing the UK's economic and financial interests internationally. He led HM Treasury's work with foreign finance ministries, central banks and international institutions; and was the UK's Finance Deputy at the G7 and G20.



Sandrine Gaudin, Vice-Governor, CEB

Sandrine Gaudin was appointed Vice-Governor for Financial Strategy of the CEB in August 2022. She previously served as Secretary General for European Affairs and Adviser for Europe to the French Prime Minister (2017–2022). Her career includes senior roles in the French Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Economy and Finance, as well as positions in Brussels and London. Vice-Governor Gaudin is a graduate of the École Nationale d'Administration.



Mikołaj Dowgielewicz, Deputy Secretary General, European Investment Bank

Mikołaj Dowgielewicz has served as Deputy Secretary General of the European Investment Bank since 2022, following his role as Director General and Head of the EIB Brussels Office. He previously served as Vice-Governor of the CEB and as Minister for European Affairs of Poland (2007–2012), representing his country in the EU General Affairs Council. Deputy Secretary General Dowgielewicz holds degrees from the University of Hull and the College of Europe.



Mateusz Szczurek, member of the Management Board and Chief Risk Officer of the Polish Development Bank (BGK)

Mateusz Szczurek has been member of the Management Board and Chief Risk Officer of the Polish development bank, BGK, since 2024. Prior roles include, Minister of Finance of Poland (2013 – 2015), chief CEE economist at ING Bank until 2013, Lead EU economist at EBRD and member of the European Fiscal Board, as well as adjunct professor at Warsaw University in 2016-2024. Mr. Szczurek is a graduate of Warsaw, Columbia, and Sussex University, where he received his Ph.D.