

**European  
conference**



# European Union, Brexit – the future of workers' rights

**Saturday  
11th  
November  
2017  
London**

9:30am – 6:30pm  
Diskus Centre at Unite the  
Union, 128 Theobald's Road,  
Holborn, London WC1X 8T

**Programme**

European  
conference

# European Union, Brexit – the future of workers' rights

Support for Brexit as well as any other exit from the EU can be interpreted in different ways. From a workers' point of view it can be interpreted as strong discontent with the development of workers' rights and the standard of living of workers. But it can also be interpreted as the success of new nationalistic populism is often fuelled by racism. Those who defend the right to remain in the EU can be neoliberals. However, they can also be workers and their organisations who want to defend existing European workers' rights and who want to use the EU to improve workers' rights and human rights generally. They can also be those

## 09h00 Registration

09h30

## Opening

### SPEAKERS:

**John Hendy QC**, IER,  
barrister, London

**Prof. Bill Bowring**, ELDH  
President

**Unite the union speaker**

## 10h00 Session 1:

**The Future of Trade Union  
Rights, social rights  
(collective labour law, for a  
social Europe instead of a  
“social pillar”)**

### SPEAKERS:

**Esther Lynch**, Confederal Secretary of  
ETUC, Brussels: For a Pillar of enforceable  
and universal social rights

**John Hendy QC**, barrister, London (IER):  
The dilemma for trade union rights in  
Britain: caught between the EU and Free  
Trade Agreements

**Lorenzo Fassina**, Rome, Head of the legal  
office of CGIL: CGIL's strategy for  
defending and increasing individual and  
collective rights in Italy

**Marthe Corpet**, CGT Confederation  
Policy Advisor – International  
Department, Paris: Trade union rights in  
France under attack – CGT strategy

## 11h45 Coffee break

## 12h00 Session 2:

**How to create more security for  
workers (concepts on national  
and European level for individual  
labour law for domestic and  
migrant workers)**

### SPEAKERS:

**Klaus Lörcher**, Germany, former ETUC legal  
advisor, former Legal Secretary of the Civil  
Service Tribunal of the European Union: The  
role of the European Social Charter for the  
protection of (migrant) workers' rights, in  
particular after Brexit

**Ms. Dr Sanja Cukut Krilic**, Research Fellow,  
Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of  
Sciences and Arts, Slovenia: Insecurities and  
vulnerabilities of migrant and posted workers:  
the need for information provision

**Sergey Saurin**, lawyer, Moscow: The impact of  
European labour standards on Russian labour  
law and enforcement practice

who support freedom of movement of both workers and refugees. At the conference we will investigate whether the EU can be a framework to safeguard and to improve workers' rights or if it is an obstacle. We will also discuss strategies to defend workers' rights under the conditions of Brexit and other exit strategies but also within the countries which remain in the EU. We will discuss this from the point of view of British workers as well as workers in other EU countries as well as in candidate states like Serbia. Finally in this context we will include the view of workers from the, EU, candidate states and Russia.

## 13h30 Lunch

## 14h15 Session 3:

**How to defend the  
rights of refugees and  
migrants. The impact of  
Brexit and EU policy**

### SPEAKERS:

**Frances Webber**, Institute of  
Race Relations: Brexit, refugees  
and the hostile environment

**Lionel Crusoé**, lawyer, Paris: the  
effect of Brexit on refugees and  
forced migrants

**Karl Kopp**, Director of European  
Affairs, PRO ASYL, Frankfurt/M.:  
Perspectives for the defence of  
Human Rights for Refugees in  
Europe. The impact of Brexit

**Alison Harvey**, barrister, London

## Organisers:



**ELDH**  
European Association of Lawyers for  
Democracy and World Human Rights

[www.eldh.eu](http://www.eldh.eu)  
[www.haldane.org](http://www.haldane.org)



## Supported by:



[www.ier.org.uk](http://www.ier.org.uk)  
[www.uniteunion.org](http://www.uniteunion.org)

## 16h00 Coffee break

## 16h15 Session 4:

**European Democracy and human rights  
– between (Br)Exit and the rule  
of exception (How to develop European  
Democracy, how to fight non-  
democratic developments in EU states)**

### SPEAKERS:

**Prof. Andreas Fisahn**, Bielefeld: The lack of democracy  
and the future of the union

**Prof. Steve Peers**, Essex

**Dr. Marco Ingles**, Faculty of Law, University of  
Fribourg, Switzerland: The European Citizens' Initiative:  
an effective tool to boost democratic participation?

**Julian Bild**, Solicitor, Anti-trafficking and Labour  
Exploitation Unit (speaking in a personal capacity):  
The EU: A help or hindrance?

## 18h00-18h30

## Closing

### SPEAKER:

**Thomas Schmidt**, ELDH Secretary General

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# European Union, Brexit – the future of workers' rights

## **TRANSPORT**

The Conference Centre is close to Holborn Tube station (central line) and many buses.

## **NEAREST HOTELS**

Travel Lodge, 100 Kings Cross Road, WC1X 9DH

Travel Lodge, 356 Grays Inn Road, WC1X 8BH

Premier Inn, 1 Dukes Road, WC1H 9PJ

Holiday Inn, Coram Street, WC1N 1HT

Best Western, 6 Queen Square, WC1N 3AT

The Imperial Hotel, 61-66 Russell Square, WC1B 5BB

## **LUNCH FREE**

Free Palestinian/Lebanese lunch included. Each person will have an individual meal, based on what they specified when registering.

**Please indicate by email before 6th November** which option you would like from the following:

- Vegan
- Chicken
- Lamb
- Vegetarian
- and if you need a non-gluten meal or have any other food intolerance

If you don't specify you will be given a vegetarian meal.

# Registration

Fill in this form and email PDF back to [registration@eldh.eu](mailto:registration@eldh.eu)

Please register me for this conference

**Full name**

**Address**

**Email**

**Profession**

I will pay £50 cash at registration on the day

I have paid €55 by bank transfer

**Beneficiary: EJDM e.V. Bank: Postbank AG, Dortmund, Germany  
IBAN: DE78 4401 0046 0334 6974 62 BIC: PBNKDEFF440**