



Roundtable

Towards a European Social Services Framework

Hosted by MEP Alex AGIUS SALIBA



Time and Date: 15:00 – 17:00h, 16 October 2024

Venue: Room: SPAAK 7C50, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Contacts:

Programme:

- **Martin Lichte**, Senior Policy Officer, martin.lichte@esn-eu.org

Logistics:

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Introduction

As the incoming European Parliament and Commission set their social policy agenda for the upcoming years, the European Social Network (ESN) in collaboration with MEP Alex AGIUS SALIBA, invite policy makers and social service leaders to discuss future social services priorities in light of EU social inclusion policy, particularly the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), and the newly announced EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Social services are pivotal in upholding the social inclusion and protection principles of the EPSR, and for the implementation of related EU initiatives but there are several areas where the European Parliament and the European Commission could support them. ESN as the Network for public social services asked members ahead of the EU elections which areas they would like MEPs to prioritise, and members came up with the following four:

1. Promote social services financial sustainability
2. Revamp the European social services quality framework
3. Incentivise a person-centred community-based model of care
4. Launch a European social services workforce strategy

At the event, representatives of social services will share evidence on why these initiatives should be prioritised by EU decision makers.

Representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission, national governments, and social services from across Europe will come together for this important discussion.

Programme

15:10 – **Welcome and Introduction**

15:30

- **Alex Agius Saliba**, MEP, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Malta
- **Irma Borde**, Policy Officer, European Commission
- **Alfonso Lara Montero**, Chief Executive Officer, European Social Network

15:30 – **Common Challenges & Solutions for Social Services Development**

16:30

Moderator: **Alfonso Lara Montero, CEO, European Social Network**

1. Ensuring Quality:

Niamh O'Rourke, Deputy Director – National Standards for Health and Social Care, Health Information and Quality Authority, Ireland

2. Developing the Workforce:

Ana Vilar Varela, Executive Member, General Council of Social Work, Spain

3. Transforming the Model of Care:

Pawel Rabiej, Director of Social Research and Analysis, Korczak University Warsaw, Poland

4. Promoting a Sustainable Financial Model:

Ana Radulescu, Director, Centre for Training and Assessment in Social Work (CFCECAS), Romania

Gabriel Amitsis, Director of Social Policy Research Lab, University of West Attica, Greece

Arnaud Lopez, Board Member, National Association of Directors of Social Care and Health in County Councils (ANDASS), France

16:30 – **Q&A with Audience**

16:45

16:45 – **Views from the EU**

16:55

- **Irma Borde**, Policy Officer, European Commission
- **Alex Agius Saliba**, MEP, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) (Malta)

16:55 – **Closing remarks**

17:00

- **Alfonso Lara Montero**, CEO, European Social Network