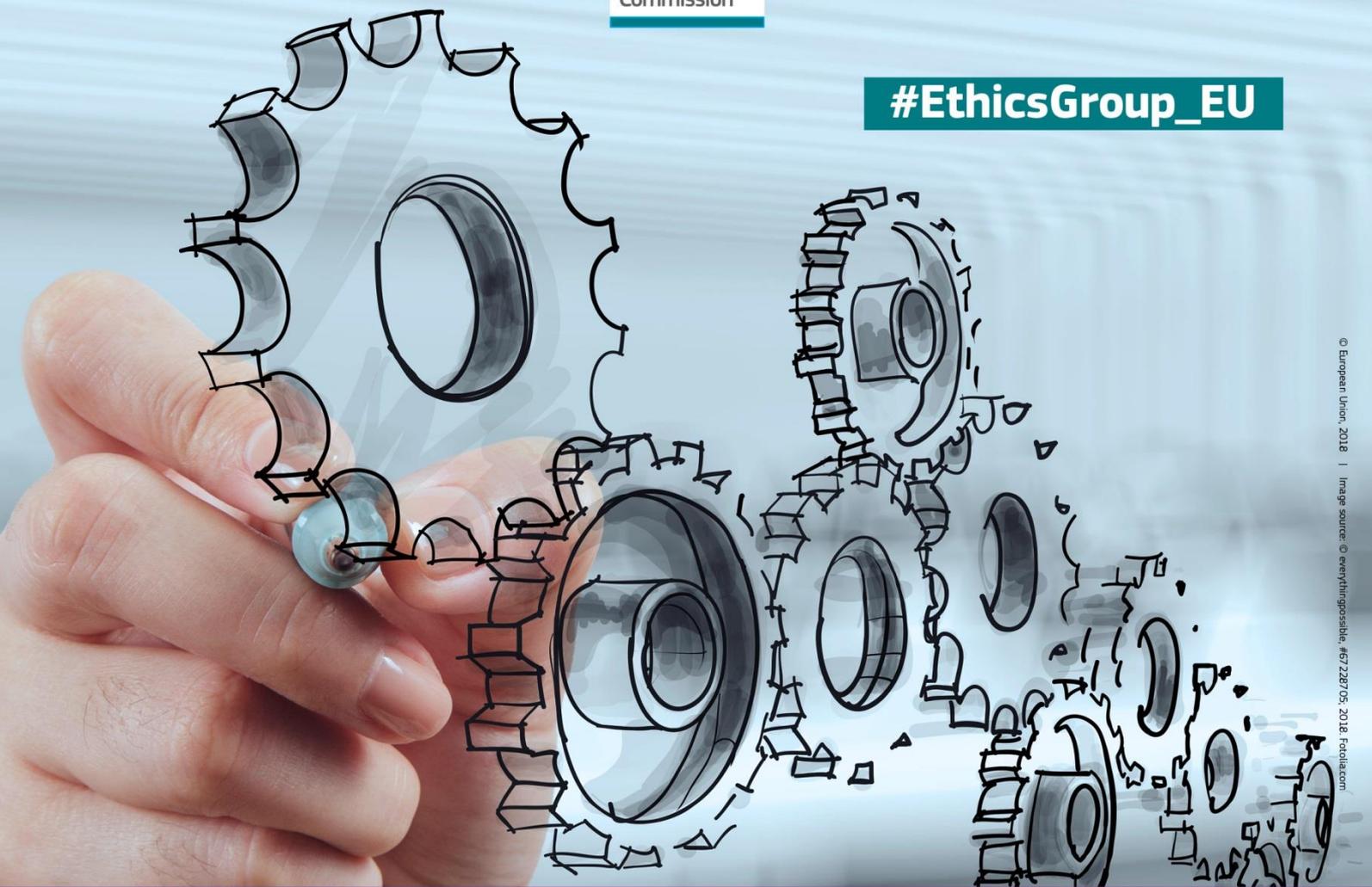




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► PROGRAMME

OPEN ROUND TABLE

# The Future of Work

5 February 2018

Robert Schuman Room, Berlaymont

European Group on Ethics  
in Science and New Technologies



Research and  
Innovation

## PROGRAMME

**08:30 – 09:30**            **Registration and welcome coffee**

**09:30 – 10:00**            **Opening by Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation**

**Introduction by Christiane Woopen, Chair of the EGE**

### **10:00 – 11:20**            **Why do we work?**

**Chaired by Professor Christiane Woopen**

Chair of the EGE

**Keynote by Professor Barry Schwartz**

Emeritus Professor of Psychology, Swarthmore College; Visiting Professor, Haas School of Business, Berkeley  
Interaction between economics and morality, author of *Why We Work*

**Keynote by Sangheon Lee**

Special Adviser to the Deputy Director-General for Policy on Economic and Social Issues of the International Labour Organization  
Conditions of work and employment, new approaches to welfare entitlement

**Keynote by Madi Sharma**

UK Member European Economic and Social Committee (Employers' Group) and Founder of the Madi Group, a group of philanthropist enterprises and non-profit organisations for a sustainable society

**Discussion led by Professor Nils-Eric Sahlin, Member of the EGE**

**11:20 – 11:40**            **Break**

### **11:40 – 13:00**            **New employment forms and workers' rights**

**Chaired by Professor Herman Nys**

Vice-Chair of the EGE

**Keynote by Irene Mandl**

Head of Research Unit 'Employment' at the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)  
Working conditions in the era of digitalisation and automation, new forms of employment and entrepreneurship

**Keynote by Amana Ferro**

Senior Policy Officer at the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)  
Work and poverty, new forms of precarious work, anti-poverty policies

**Keynote by Véronique Willems**

Secretary General of the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAMPE)  
SMEs in the changing world of work

**Discussion led by Professor Siobhán O'Sullivan, Vice-Chair of the EGE**

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 15:50

Automation, digitalisation and algorithmic decision making

**Chaired by Professor Julian Kinderlerer**

Member of the EGE

**Keynote by Lorena Jaume-Palasi**

Co-founder and Executive Director of AlgorithmWatch

Ethics of automation and algorithmic decision making processes

**Keynote by Patrice Chazerand**

Policy Director on Digital Economy and Trade Groups at DigitalEurope

Social implications of digital technologies

**Keynote by Konstantinos Pouliakas**

Expert on Skills and Labour Markets at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

Skills needs and the future of education

**Discussion led by Professor Jeroen Van den Hoven**, Member of the EGE

15:50 – 16:10

Break

16:10 – 17:30

Ethics and governance

**Chaired by Professor Laura Palazzani**

Member of the EGE

**Keynote by Professor Ursula Huws**

Professor of Labour and Globalisation, University of Hertfordshire (UK)

Gig economy and workers' rights

**Keynote by Thiébaud Weber**

Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Trade unions in the changing world of work

**Keynote by Maxime Cerutti**

Director of Social Affairs at BusinessEurope

Labour market policy and social affairs

**Discussion led by Professor Jonathan Montgomery**, Member of the EGE

## ABOUT THE EVENT

Why do we work and how does work give us meaning? How can European values of justice, dignity and solidarity be realised in a changing world? To what extent might longstanding governance frameworks, such as social security systems and employment laws, require updating?

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) is an independent, multi-disciplinary body appointed by the President of the European Commission and operating under the responsibility of the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation. The EGE advises on all aspects of Commission policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies.

When preparing its Opinions, the EGE engages in a broad consultation process, involving a wide range of stakeholders from all sectors of society, including academic experts, international organisations, industry, NGOs and other civil society organisations. With the purpose of promoting dialogue and transparency, as for every Opinion that it produces, the EGE is convening a public Round Table on the Future of Work.

Opened by Commissioner Carlos Moedas, the event will unfold in four panels with talks from key stakeholders, followed by an open discussion. The first panel will raise fundamental questions of why we work, how work gives us meaning as individuals and members of society, to what extent work can create both community and disparity, and which 'social contract' we envisage for the generations to come. Professor Barry Schwartz, US-American psychologist and social theorist and author of *Why We Work*, Sangheon Lee, special advisor to the International Labour Organisation's Deputy Director General, and Madi Sharma, philanthropist entrepreneur and member of the European Economic and Social Committee, will discuss how the very notion of work is re-defined in a changing world, and how new technologies and globalisation test ethical standards and reassert the importance of fundamental rights.

The second panel will explore the opportunities and dangers associated with new employment forms. The increase of gig and platform workers facing precariousness prompt questions about how decent working conditions can be ensured when employment becomes dissociated from time and place, when digital review processes replace personal supervision, and when contracts become ever shorter and one-sided. On the other hand, platform work appears to facilitate easier access to the labour market, to provide new ways for fostering the acknowledgement of unpaid work and the legalisation of shadow work, as well as to have a global levelling effect of wages. Irene Mandl from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Amana Ferro from the European Anti-Poverty Network, and Véronique Willems, Secretary General of the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, will discuss how new working realities might shape the lives of future generations.

The third panel will address the consequences of automation and digitalisation on the world of work. Industry 4.0, the consequences of so called 'autonomous' machines at the workplace and dreams or fears of the end of work dominate the public debate on the issue. As much at the core of discussion in this panel will be the implications of algorithmic decision-making processes, new challenges to data protection and employer supervision, skills needs and the education of the future, new approaches to social security and redistribution, and general questions about the quality of prognoses. This will be debated by Lorena Jaume-Palasi, executive director of Algorithm Watch, Patrice Chazerand, policy director at Digital Europe, and Konstantinos Pouliakas, researcher at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

The concluding panel will be dedicated to questions about governance and ethics. The changing nature of work might require updating of longstanding governance frameworks, such as social security systems and labour law. Potential approaches for innovative global, European and national policy-making to ensure that fundamental rights will continue to form the fundament of our societies will be discussed by Ursula Huws, Professor of Labour and Globalisation, Thiébaud Weber, Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation, and Maxime Cerutti, Director of Social Affairs at Business Europe.