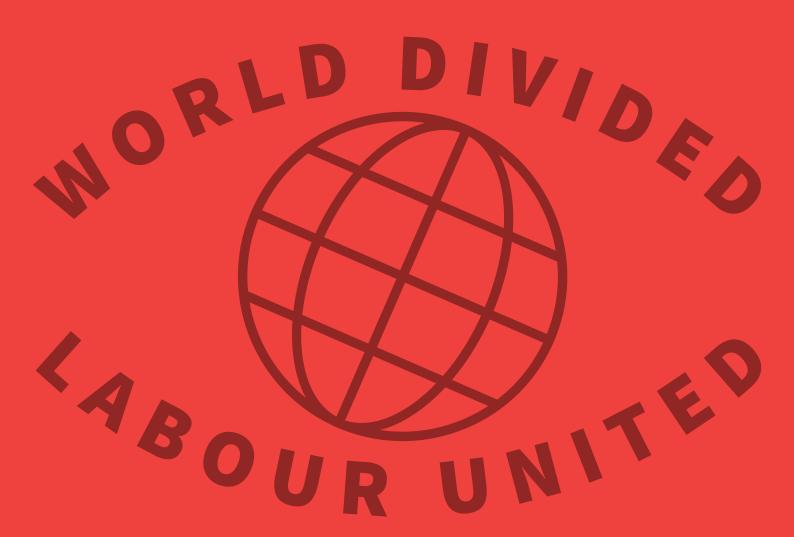
20-21 NOVEMBER 2025 CONGRESS CENTER PLAZA, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Agenda



Thursday, 20 November 2025

15.00	Opening of the Information and Registration Desk
18.30 – 21.00	Welcome cocktail, buffet-style dinner and surprise event

	Registration
9.15	WELCOME ADDRESS
	Luka Mesec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour,
	Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
	Simon Maljevac, Minister of Solidarity-Based Future
9.30 – 11.00	PANEL 1: Welfare or Warfare? Europe's Social Model in the Age of Geopolitical Turbulence
	MODERATOR: David Adler , Co-General Coordinator of the Progressive International
	PANELISTS:
	 Yolanda Díaz Pérez, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Economy of Spain
	 Tea Jarc, Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation
	 Nicolas Schmit, former European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
	 Luka Mesec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Slovenia
11.00	Group photo
11.15 – 12.00	Coffee Break

12.00 - 13.30

PANEL 2:

Economic Sovereignty and Security: The Role of Employee Ownership in Europe's Industrial Future

MODERATOR: **Aleksandra Kanjuo Mrčela**, Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **James J. Bonham**, President and CEO of The ESOP Association, USA

PANELISTS:

- **Rachel Bachmann**, Head of Strategic Initiatives at the Institute for Economic Democracy
- **Igor Feketija**, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Slovenia
- **Isabelle Ferreras**, Research director of the Belgian National Science Foundation (FNRS)
- **Tej Gonza**, Co-Founder and Director of the Institute for Economic Democracy
- Ruth Paserman, Director of Funds, Programming and Implementation
 DG Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion at the European
 Commission

13.30 - 14.30

Lunch Break

14.30 - 16.00

PANEL 3:

The EU's Democratic Dilemma: Labour, Rights, and Regional Integration

MODERATOR: **Faris Kočan**, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Social sciences, University of Ljubljana

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Adnan Ćerimagić**, Senior Analyst for the Western Balkans at the European Stability Initiative (ESI)

PANELISTS:

- Sandra Benčič, Member of Croatian Parliament, Možemo!
- Radomir Lazović, Member of the national Assembly of Serbia, Green-Left Front (ZLF)
- Monika Zajkova, Member of the Parliament of North Macedonia, Liberal-democratic Party of North Macedonia
- Andrej Zorko, President of the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia (ZSSS)