

**SECOND
INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR
CONGRESS**

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

Agenda



Thursday, 20 November 2025

15.00	Opening of the Information and Registration Desk
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18.30 – 21.00	Welcome cocktail, buffet-style dinner and surprise event
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Friday, 21 November 2025

8.00 – 9.00	Registration
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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
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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
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11.00	Group photo
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11.15 – 12.00	Coffee Break
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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 Čerimagić, 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)
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