

# INVITATION • UITNODIGING

**British and Belgian Opinions  
on National and  
European Social Policy**  
*different strategies,  
common goals?*

**Britse en Belgische visies  
op nationaal en  
Europees sociaal beleid**  
*verschillende strategieën,  
gemeenschappelijke doelstellingen?*

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Information and Studies Administration

The presentations and discussion will be in English



The British welfare state is undergoing radical reform. After 20 years of Conservative government, poverty had doubled in the UK, but so had welfare spending in real terms. By 1997, 1 in 3 children were living in poverty and the total social security budget was 160 billion Euro (£100 billion).

These facts raise a number of questions. How do you effectively tackle poverty, which implies increased spending, *and* get overall welfare spending under control? How can a government marry economic efficiency *and* social justice? What are the Blair Government's responses to these difficult and perhaps conflicting questions?

And what about the European dimension? Having endorsed the Social Chapter, introduced a National Minimum Wage and

enhanced workers' rights, what ambitions does the Blair Government have for further European social integration?

There is no one better qualified to answer these questions than the British Minister of Social Affairs himself. Alistair Darling sets out his vision on these issues at an exclusive lecture.

His Belgian colleague will respond. Eight months before the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, Frank Vandebroucke comments on the European dimension of social policy and the position of the British story within it. Can the main themes of the Belgian Presidency be discerned already? The Belgian minister of Social Affairs and Pensions will lift the edge of the veil on this issue.

## Alistair Darling

*Secretary of State for Social Security*

## Frank Vandenbroucke

*Minister for Social Affairs and Pensions*

Invite you to actively participate in a public debate on national and European social policy

**Monday, 30 October 2000**

Promotiezaal, Universiteitshal, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Naamsestraat 22, 3000 Leuven

**From 15-18 PM**

### PROGRAMME

- Welcome by **Frans Lammertyn**, Vice-President for Education, K.U. Leuven
- Introductory remarks by the Chair, **Jos Bergman**, Professor of Social Policy, K.U. Leuven
- “Opportunities for All – Strategies for Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion”,  
Lecture by **Alistair Darling**
- “Towards a European Social Policy. Preparing for the Belgian Presidency of the EU”,  
Lecture by **Frank Vandenbroucke**
- Conclusions and invitation for discussion by the Chair
- General Debate - Questions and Answers with the audience
- Reception



Frank Vandenbroucke



Debate organised in the framework of the new Master's programme  
"Managing and Monitoring Societal Development" of the  
Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Katholieke  
Universiteit Leuven

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