

## Interest Group

### ***WORK-LIFE BALANCE***

Innovate! Create!

The key role of work-life balance for Europe's sustainable future

**Thursday 22 February 2018, 08h00-09h30**

**Room 0 G salon**

hosted by

**MEP Thomas Mann**



**MEP Evelyn Regner**



We have the pleasure of inviting you to the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Interest Group on work-life balance entitled:

#### **A question of time – volunteering, social and civic engagement in a connected society**

Volunteering, social and civic engagement are a fundament of democratic societies and the social cohesion of a society. This engagement depends on the disposition of time. The time patterns of our society are changing due to different working time requirements and new forms of engagement and participation. Atypical working hours (e.g. night, shift and weekend work) and new working time arrangements do not only influence our working life but our opportunities to engage in society. At the same time, evenings and weekends remain the points in time for family, social and civic activities and volunteering even though unusual working hours become part of the daily life. With growing life expectancy and the related requirement to longer working life, lifetime work models are also developing. As an additional element, digitalisation becomes a driver for new forms of participation: no matter whether we talk about *Hashtag activism* or *Clicktivism*, social media creates new and different forms of civic activism and democratic participation.

Against this background, we would like to discuss the necessity of re-synchronising our private and working life in a digitalised society and reflect on possible ways. How will these developments affect volunteering and civic engagement and what does this mean for social cohesion? Could new forms of social media compensate - at least partially - the lack of common free time?

#### **Discussion**

- Prof. Dr. Paul-Stefan Roß, Cooperative State University Stuttgart, Faculty of Social Science
- Gabriella Civico, Director of the European Volunteer Center
- Chris Van Droogenbroeck, Belgium Trade Union LBC-NVK, Commerce Sector

The meeting will be held in English. We are looking forward to a lively discussion. Please click [here to register](#) by Wednesday 15 February 2018.

Kind regards

*Julia Maria Eichler on behalf of the Secretariat of the European Sunday Alliance*

The European Sunday Alliance is a network of national Sunday Alliances, trade unions, employers' organisations, civil society organisations, churches and religious communities committed to raise awareness of the unique value of synchronised free time for our European societies.