

Eat, Sleep, Work, Repeat? – Automation and the Future of Work

We are witnessing the final chapter of the more than hundred years-long struggle between labor and capital. The rise of new technologies will forever change the way we work and redraw the markets and societies on the global scale. The political consequences will be enormous and the whole concept of democratic capitalism might fail. There will be countries rich and poor with work instead of natural resources. More than half of all jobs will be transformed and employees will have to retrain for the new era. The whole educational system has to be changed, we need to adjust social policies and social systems in all European countries. We need a new social contract for European society.

The Czech Republic currently has the lowest unemployment rate across the European union and experiences enormous economic growth. However, as the highly industrialized country with the main focus in automotive, it will be hugely affected by the automation. And it cannot escape. Therefore, the only way is the problem itself. The Czech Republic shall embrace automation and robotization in all areas of economy. It shall provide loans and support for entrepreneurs of all sizes to replace routine jobs with robots and AI. And at the same time it shall help employees to get a new qualification for better paid jobs and provide them with more than necessary support. The Czech Republic may become a sandbox for ambitious policies for the new era of automation in European economy.

The Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable organized by the European Liberal Forum together with Institute for Politics and Society in Prague will bring the foremost experts to discuss the challenges for Europe in the age of automation. First panel will focus on the perspective of economy and society. Future of Work means Future of Government and Future of Democracy. The second panel will focus on the Czech Republic as the potential sandbox for European future.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

8 MARCH 2019 | 9:00

PRAGUE

Language: Czech, English

Preliminary program:

09:00 Welcome by **Martina Dlabajová** | MEP and Vice-President of the European Liberal Forum

09:05 Panel Discussion 1: Future of Work - Future of Europe (Working language: English)

Martina Dlabajová | Member of the European Parliament, Vice-President of the European Liberal Forum

Darrel West | Vice-President and Director of Governance Studies and Founding Director of Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings Institute, author of “The Future of Work: Robots, AI, and Automation“

Dame Wendy Hall | Regius Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton, AI Skills Champion at UK AI Council

Jan Švejnar | Professor of Global Political Economy and Director of the Center on Global Economic Governance at Columbia University, Chairman of CERGE-EI research center and IDEA think-tank

Dieter Feierabend, Scientific Director at NEOS Lab

Andreas Bergström, Deputy Director at Fores (andreas.bergstrom@fores.se)

Fabian Dekker, Senior Researcher at Start Foundation, specialised in labour market issues and robotisation

10:25 Coffee break

10:40 Panel Discussion 2: Czech Sandbox for the Future (Working language: Czech)

Martina Dlabajová | Member of European Parliament, Vice-President of the European Liberal Forum

Marta Nováková | Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Milena Jabůrková | Vice-President of the Confederation of Industry and Transport of the Czech Republic, chair of the AI Platform of Czech Industry

Josef Středula | President of the Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions

12:00 light lunch

Moderated by **Jan Klesla** | coordinator of the Digital Czech Republic policy program and main author of National AI strategy

A roundtable discussion organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF) with the support of the Institute for Politics and Society. Co-funded by the European Parliament. The European Parliament is not responsible for the content of the programme, or for any use that may be made of it. These views do not necessarily reflect those of the European Parliament and/or the European Liberal Forum.

ABOUT THE RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES

By connecting the roundtable series with the name of Lord Dahrendorf, ELF wishes to underline his achievements. In his many functions he championed liberal democracy and European integration. He consistently promoted the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty. His wide experience combining science and politics provided an excellent background to his activity in the German Parliament for the liberal Free Democratic Party, as European Commissioner, as member of the British House of Lords and as Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (1982-1987).

During his four years in Brussels (1970 – 1974), Lord Dahrendorf was responsible for the European

Community's Foreign Relations and Trade, and later for Research, Science and Education. He actively supported a stronger Europe. As Commissioner he was a sharp critic of European Union bureaucracy while he was passionately in favour of a European Parliament exercising greater power.