

LECTURE 2

EUROPEAN UNION SOCIAL POLICY: from the Treaty of Rome to the Social Charter of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union

- 1. identify the role social policy has played in the development of the European Union;**
- 2. examine the role of social policy in European Union integration theory**
 - how the development of European Union social policy has related to theories of European integration**

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The Social Charter of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union

1. Introduction

2. Twelve areas of fundamental social rights for workers

- (i) Freedom of movement**
- (ii) Employment and remuneration**
- (iii) Improvements in living and working conditions**
- (iv) Social protection**
- (v) Freedom of association and collective bargaining**
- (vi) Vocational training**
- (vii) Equal treatment for men and women**
- (viii) Rights to information, consultation and participation**
- (ix) Health and safety**
- (x) Protection of children and adolescents**
- (xi) Elderly persons**
- (xii) Disabled persons**

3. The implementation of the Charter

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*Reasons for social policy in the E.U being stronger
by the mid-1990s*

- 1. The European Union could no longer be ignored;**
- 2. Internal E.U. institutional changes;**
- 3. A supportive E.U. Commission;**
- 4. The development of new social policy non-governmental organisations (NGOs);**
- 5. The majority of trade unions and ‘leftist’ parties in E.U. states had become committed to the E.U.;**
- 6. Three new Member States joined in 1994 (Austria, Finland and Sweden) – all with strong social policy traditions**

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“The social dimension permeates all our discussions and everything we do ... Think what a boost it would be for democracy and social justice if we could demonstrate that we are capable of working together to create a better integrated society open to all.”

*(Jacques Delors, Head of E.U. Commission,
speech, October 1989)*

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Two key questions raised by expansion of E.U. social policy in late 1980s and in the 1990s:

- 1. Why did this expansion of E.U. social policy occur, and can it be sustained?**
- 2. Is the growth of E.U. social policy a *positive* development?**

- 1. Why did this expansion of E.U. social policy occur, and can it be sustained?**
 - a) Realist*
 - b) Functionalist*
- 2. Is the growth of E.U. social policy a *positive* development?**
 - a) the political 'right'*
 - b) the political 'left'*

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THEORIES OF EUROPEAN UNION INTEGRATION

1. FEDERALISM

- 3 MAIN ASSUMPTIONS:

- a) societies are complex and diverse;**
- b) societies are pluralistic**
- c) since societies are diverse and pluralistic, institutions which protect diversity and autonomy, but which produce unity, are required.**

2. FUNCTIONALISM

- the functions of different elements of societies (including at social policy level) would encourage and produce co-operation and integration.

3. NEO-FUNCTIONALISM

- based on principle of 'spillover' (as integration occurs in one area/sector of the E.U. the benefits would 'spillover' into other sectors, and produce integration in them).