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Towards a new strategy for social democracy

It is a tumultuous time in which a series of important elections (local in Italy, regional in Germany, national in Denmark, senatorial in France) will raise questions about the conservative paradigm and on the other hand, economic and financial turmoil which also raises questions about the neoliberal economic model. On Monday 3 October, from 7-9pm, three former Prime ministers along with Paul Magnette and Isabelle Durant will participate in a debate at the ULB about the new strategy which will give the opportunity for social democracy to structure the 21st century.

This debate is organized by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) in partnership with the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of ULB and the Renner Institute, to launch Vol. III of the research program "Next Left" which aims at developing social democracy in the 21st century. This public debate will be moderated by the Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of ULB, Professor Jean-Michel De Waele.

The three former prime ministers who will attend this event will be **Massimo D'Alema** (President of the FEPS), **Alfred Gusenbauer** (Chair of the FEPS research programme "Next Left") and **Poul Nyrup Rasmussen** (President of the Party of European Socialists). **Paul Magnette**, Federal Minister for Climate and Energy and **Isabelle Durant**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens will also be present.

The FEPS research programme **Next Left** began after the terrible results of the 2009 European elections; terrible not only in terms of results for the Left but also for European democracy in terms of participation. This volume's release marks a significant transition in the intellectual debate on the future of European social democracy. It shows great progression from **the question of "what went wrong?"** and replaces it with a number of interesting proposals on **"what shall be done to make social democracy the political force to shape the 21st century?"**

Last but not least, there is one strong message that the book puts forward. **The future of continental social democracy depends on how much it will be able to Europeanise its national members and how much it will be able to ensure further deepening and strengthening of the European project.**

This debate is open to everybody concerned by the future of Europe, and will be followed by a buffet.

The Vol. III "**Next Left Toward a new strategy**" will be for sale. The PDF version is already accessible on demand.

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