



International Association on Social Quality

Bredeweg 8

1098 BP Amsterdam

Phone: + 31 (0)20 6654923

Email: info@socialquality.org

www.socialquality.org

Europe After Brexit

Dear Colleague,

Twenty years ago a multi-disciplinary group of European academics drew up a declaration on the social quality of Europe. It was prompted by the potentially damaging one-sided development of the EU and urged policy makers to pay more attention to the non-economic dimensions of European societies. The declaration was intended to establish the basic requirements for a new approach to European development, which we call social quality, and to try to counteract the dominant narrow neoliberal economism. We did not succeed, and the growth in inequality and environmental unsustainability has gone hand in hand with neo-liberal policy makers' neglect of social quality. The UK Brexit vote and the rise of the extreme right in several European countries are in no small part the consequences of this neglect.

Nonetheless the Amsterdam Declaration did represent a clear statement and a political stand of sorts. It was signed by more than one thousand academics and policy makers and was presented to the President of the European Parliament. Now, in deep anger about the Brexit campaign and its outcome and in fear that other countries might follow suit, my colleague Steve Corbett and I have revised the Amsterdam Declaration and applied it to the challenges confronting Europe today. It is intended primarily to serve as a warning to other EU Member States and a rallying cry for progressive opinion that supports social quality in opposition to unacceptable levels of inequality and environmental degradation.

Please would you signify your support for this declaration by sending an email to declaration@socialquality.org with your name and affiliation, and pass it on to others who might do likewise. The declaration and current list of signatories can be accessed at www.socialquality.org/declaration-2017/. We are open to suggestions for both improvement in the document and how to maximise its impact.

With best wishes

Alan Walker

Chair, International Association on Social Quality