

How does Europe respond?

Digital revolution
and transformation of work

Third Seminar
on Socioeconomic Ethics

2023-2025

FUNDACIÓN

PabloVI

SEMINARS



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Presentation

The Pablo VI Foundation is pleased to announce its third seminar on socio-economic ethics, which will take place from December 2023 to June 2025. Following *Digital Footprint: Servitude or Service?* and *The Transformation of Work*, this new cycle of multidisciplinary discussions aims to reflect on the institutional response to these challenges within the context of European construction.

Aligned with the guidelines set by its Board of Directors, the seminar will consist of 15 monthly

sessions featuring an expert committee comprising economists, sociologists, philosophers, theologians, journalists, and individuals with practical experience in business and politics. All sessions will be accessible on the Pablo VI Foundation's YouTube channel.

The program also includes an international day open to the public on *Participatory European Citizenship in Christian Social Thought*, in collaboration with the Istituto Paolo VI in Brescia, Italy.

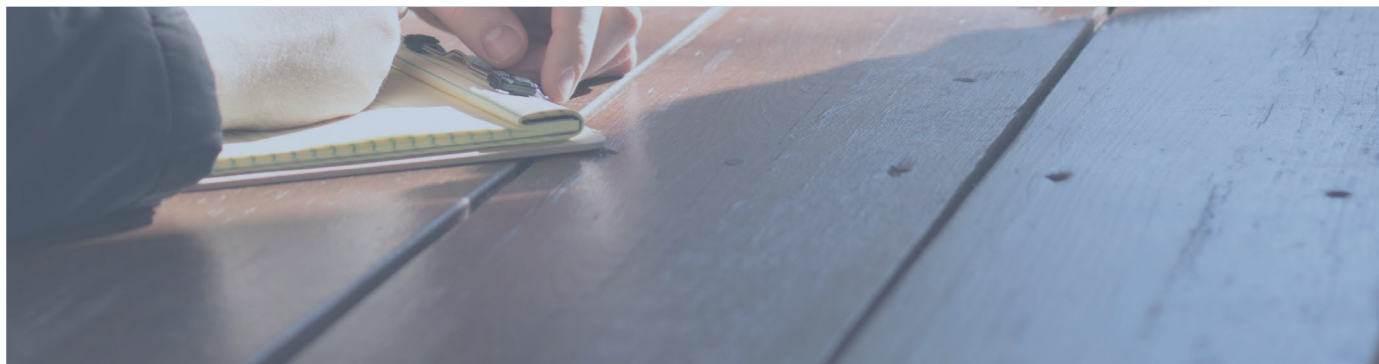
Method

The regular sessions of the seminar have a duration of 120 minutes. They begin with a 30-minute presentation, followed by one or several comments of 15 minutes each. The texts are distributed in advance to the Expert Committee. In the discussion, all participants are given the floor successively for 3-minute interventions, with available time for speakers to respond and expand on their initial presentation. A final session is planned where the general rapporteur will propose a conclusive synthetic vision, agreed upon with the Board of Directors.

The audience can attend the sessions in person and virtually on the Pablo VI Foundation's YouTube channel, with the option to freely access the recording for all interested parties. A summary of each session is prepared and disseminated, including the nominal synthesis of the presentations, a summary of the debate without attributing opinions, and the list of participating experts. The revised presentations and summaries are subsequently published in a book.



Participants



Board of Directors

It is composed of individuals of recognized prestige in the fields of economics, politics, and philosophy (see page 8). They will meet twice a year (at the beginning and end of the course) to oversee the seminar's strategy, monitor its progress, and validate the educational activities carried out.

Committee of Experts

It is composed of a group of specialists and experts in the subjects under discussion in the seminar, as outlined on page 9. They will meet approximately monthly to address the topics defined in the thematic blocks (see pages 11-15).

Staff

The synthesis of the meetings will be handled by a member of the Communication Department of the Pablo VI Foundation.

Board of Directors

1. **Francisco Aldecoa Luzárraga.** President of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement
2. **Jesús Avezuela Cárcel.** General director of the Paul VI Foundation
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5. **Richard Benjamins.** Ex Chief AI & Data Strategist, Telefónica
6. **Agustín Blanco Martín.** Director of the J.M. Martín Patino Chair of the Culture of Encounter, Pontifical Comillas University
7. **José Manuel González Páramo.** Economist, Member of the Royal Academy of Moral and Political Sciences
8. **Alfredo Marcos Martínez.** Professor of Philosophy of Science, University of Valladolid
9. + **Eugenio Nasarre Goicoechea,** Vice President of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement
10. **Urquiola de Palacio.** Outgoing President of the International Union of Lawyers, President of the Madrid Arbitration Court, and Managing Partner at Palacio & Asociados.
11. **Áurea Roldán Martín.** Principal Legal Counsel of the Council of State
12. **David Santos Sánchez.** Chief Legal Officer, INDRA
13. **Domingo Sugranyes Bickel.** Director of the Seminar on Socioeconomic Ethics, Pablo VI Foundation
14. **Francesc Torralba.** Professor of Ethics at Ramon Llull University

Committee of Experts

1. **José Ramón Amor Pan.** Director of the Academic Area, Pablo VI Foundation
2. **Javier Barnes Vázquez.** Full Professor of Administrative Law, Pompeu Fabra University
3. **Diego Bodas Sagi.** Lead Data Scientist, Mapfre
4. **José Luis Calvo.** Co-founder, Diverger
5. **Esther de la Torre Gordaliza.** Global Sustainability Area- Inclusive Growth, BBVA
6. **Susana del Río Villar.** Director of the Expert Group "Convention on the Future of Europe," Fide Foundation. Professor of EU at the Master's program of the Center for Political and Constitutional Studies
7. **Rafael Doménech.** Head of Economic Analysis, BBVA Research
8. **Jaume Duch Guillot.** General Director of Communication and Spokesperson, European Parliament
9. **Rubén García Servert,** Lieutenant General(r), Military Advisor at Indra
10. **Lucila Finkel,** Sociologist, Complutense University of Madrid
11. **Raúl González Fabre.** Engineer and Philosopher, Pontifical Comillas University
12. **Paloma Llana.** Eidas
13. **Francisco Javier López Martín.** Former Secretary General of Madrid, CCOO
14. **Miguel López-Quesada Gil.** President, Dircom
15. **Sara Lumbreras Sancho.** Associate Professor Full Professor, Pontifical Comillas University
16. **Victoria Martín de la Torre.** European Parliament
17. **Miguel Ángel Martínez López.** Director of Innovation, YBVR
18. **Julio Martínez Martínez.** Professor of Moral Theology, Pontifical Comillas University
19. **Agustín José Menéndez.** European Fiscal Union and Social Policies, Complutense University of Madrid
20. **Alfredo Pastor Bodmer.** Economist, Emeritus, IESE (Instituto de Estudios Superiores de la Empresa)
21. **Florentino Portero Rodríguez.** Historian, Emeritus, UNED (National Distance Education University) and Francisco de Vitoria University
22. **Javier Prades López.** Chancellor, San Dámaso University
23. **Alberto Priego Moreno.** International Relations, Pontifical Comillas University
24. **Juan Pablo Riesgo.** Managing Partner of EY Insights and Partner of People Advisory Services, Ernst & Young
25. **Sergio Rodríguez López-Ros.** Vice Chancellor for Institutional Relations, Abat Oliva CEU University
26. **Emilio Sáenz-Francés.** Director of the Department of International Relations, Pontifical Comillas University
27. **Gloria Sánchez Soriano.** Vice President - Institutional Relations and Public Policy, Santander Group. On secondment at the Institute of International Finance.
28. **Ignacio Signes,** Legal Counsel of the European Union Court of Justice
29. **Fabián Torres Suárez.** Dean, Official College of Industrial Engineers of Madrid
30. **Francesco Vanni d'Archirafi.** Chairman of the Board of Directors, Euroclear Holding
31. **José Luis Zofío.** Professor of Foundations of Economic Analysis, Autonomous University of Madrid



Program of Sessions of the Expert Committee

INTRODUCTION

14.12.2023 **Europe and the New Challenges in Public Opinion**

Introduction: **Domingo Sugranyes**, director of the Seminar

Lecture: **Sergio Rodríguez Lopez-Ros**, Vice Chancellor of Abat Oliba CEU University, Barcelona

Comments: **Alfredo Marcos**, philosopher, University of Valladolid

Lucila Finkel, Sociologist, Complutense University of Madrid

08.02.2024 **Economy and Politics: Reaction to Technological and Geopolitical Challenges vs Ideals of Institutional Construction**

Lecture: **Ignasi Guardans Cambó**, Associate Professor of Political Analysis, SciencesPo, Paris

Comment: **Mariano Guindal**, journalist

14.03.2024 **The 'Brussels Effect': Exemplary Regulation or Fragmentation of Global Technological Governance?**

Lecture: **Idoia Salazar**, President of OdiselA

Comment: **José Luis Calvo**, co-founder of Diverger

23 April 2024

International Conference

National and International Construction in Christian Social Thought: Towards Participatory European Citizenship

Simultaneous Translation Spanish – English – Italian

09:00h	Welcome and guests reception
09:15h	Opening: Greetings from Mons. Ginés García Beltrán y Prof. Angelo Maffei, Presidents of the Pablo VI Foundation and the Paolo VI Institute Introduction: Jesús Avezuela , general director of Pablo VI Foundation Introduction of the event: Domingo Sugranyes , director of the Seminar
09:35h	Paper: The post-war construction of Europe in the thought of Pope Paul VI Prof. Simona Negruzzo , Università degli Studi di Pavia Comments: Dr. Juan María Laboa , Emeritus Professor, Pontifical Comillas University Moderator: Prof. Belén Becerril , CEU San Pablo University
10:50h	Paper: The Division of Powers between the EU and Member States: How does it affect Citizen Participation? Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo , Chief Counsel, Consejo de Estado Comments: Dr. Markus Schlagnitweit , director, Catholic Social Academy of Austria Dott. Carlo Muzzi , journalist, Il Giornale di Brescia Moderator: Michele Bonetti , President, Tovini Foundation
12:00h	Break

12:20h	Papers: Towards European Citizenship: the Fundamental Values of the European Union Prof. Francesco Bestagno , Legal Adviser at the Italian Permanent Representation to the EU A Values-Based Approach to the EU: Intercultural Dialogue and Active Citizenship Prof. Leonce Bekemans , Jean Monnet Chair of Globalization, Intercultural Dialogue, and Inclusivity in the EU, University of Padua Moderator: Pierpaolo Camadini , President, Opera per l'Educazione Cristiana
13:30h	Lunch break
15:00h	Paper: Christian Churches in European Construction: Response to Secularization? HE Mons. Mariano Crociata , president of COMECE Comments: Dr. Tomas Halik , Charles University in Prague Fr. Manuel Barrios , general secretary COMECE Pastor Alfredo Abad , President of the Spanish Evangelical Church Moderator: Rafael Vázquez , Secretary for Interconfessional Relations of the Spanish Bishops' Conference
16:20h	Final Debate: Towards a European Citizen Consciousness? Herman van Rompuy , former President of the European Council Romano Prodi , former President of the European Commission Adrian Pabst , Deputy Director, National Institute of Economic and Social Research Ana Palacio , former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain Victoria Martín de la Torre , European Parliament Julio Martínez Martínez SJ , Professor of Moral Theology, Universidad Pontificia Comillas Íñigo Méndez de Vigo , former Minister of Education and Government Spokesperson
17:50h	End of the day by Jesús Avezuela , general director of Pablo VI Foundation, and Domingo Sugranyes , director of the Seminar
18:00h	Conclusion of the event

First phase: MATERIALS FOR A EUROPEAN CITIZEN RESPONSE TO CURRENT CHALLENGES

- 11.04.2024 **Demographics: Southern and Eastern Europe, from Emigration to Immigration Countries**
Lecture: **Mercedes Fernández**, Pontifical Comillas University
Comments: **Joaquín Recaño**, Associate Researcher, Center for Demographics Studies
- 09.05.2024 **Cultural Landscapes in Europe: Secularization, Transnational Trends, Culture Wars**
Lecture: **Jesús Conill**, Valencia University
Lecture: **Emilio Lamo de Espinosa**, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Royal Academy of Moral and Political Sciences
- 13.06.2024 **Technocracy and Politics: Virtues and Flaws in the Pursuit of European Consensus**
Lecture: **Emilio Sáenz-Francés**, Pontifical Comillas University
Comments: **José María Lassalle Ruiz**, Director of the Forum for Technological Humanism, ESADE

Second phase: EUROPE FACING CURRENT CHALLENGES

- 12.09.2024 **The ‘European Model’ in Global Geopolitics: Does the “Social Market Economy” Have a Future?**
Lecture: **Alfredo Pastor**, Economist, Emeritus, IESE
Comments: **Jorge Díaz Lanchas**, Assistant Professor of Economics, ICADE / Comillas Pontifical University
- 10.10.2024 **Should Europe Establish a Common Defense?**
Lecture: **Alberto Priego Moreno**, Pontifical Comillas University
Comments: **Rubén García Servert**, Lieutenant General (r), Military Advisor at Indra

- 14.11.2024 **“Frugal” Countries, North-South and East-West Divisions in European Institutional Decisions**
Lecture: **Jaime Duch Gillot**, Director-General for Communication Spokesperson for the European Parliament
Comments: **Carlos Martínez Mongay**, Ex-director General of the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission
- 12.12.2024 **Digitization and Oligopolies: Technology, the Struggle for a Level Playing Field, and User Protection**
Lecture: **Richard Benjamins**, exChief AI & Data Strategist, Telefónica
Comments: **Ignacio Signes**, Legal Counsel of the European Union Court of Justice
- 13.02.2025 **European Investment in the “green economy”**
Lecture: **Claudia Antuña**, AFI
- 13.03.2025 **Financial and monetary sustainability in Europe**
Lecture: **José Manuel González-Páramo**, Professor of Economics at IESE and President of European DataWarehouse GmbH
- 10.04.2025 **Tax and Social Protection in Europe**
Lecture: **Agustín José Menéndez**, Complutense University of Madrid
- 08.05.2025 **Technology, Transformation of Work, and Income Distribution in Europe**
Lecture: **Rafael Doménech**, BBVA

CONCLUSIONS

- 26.06.2025 **Europe: A Common Homeland in the Face of an Uncertain Future?**
Summary and Conclusions
Round Table

Theme

Institutions to Address Challenges

In two previous seminars, the Pablo VI Foundation established a broad multidisciplinary debate on “Digital Footprint: Servitude or Service?” (2019-2021) and “The Transformation of Work” (2021-2023). From these meetings, a general consideration emerges: orchestrating changes for the common good does not depend so much on technology itself or on geopolitics and international competition – these are unstoppable facts – but rather on a deep and necessary reflection on the pursued goals and the adaptation of institutions. There are uncertainties and threats, and it is within the context of guiding ideas and the functioning of institutions that new directions must be discerned and taken.

The European Union was born and developed to respond to the challenges of post-war reconstruction and globalization. It brings to reality an unprecedented intuition in history: simultaneously pursuing peaceful reconstruction among different nations through the establishment of common political institutions in-

volving 27 states today, and creating a unified internal market, as expected from an economic power capable of competing and exercising its responsibilities on the international geopolitical stage. Current technological and social challenges demand transnational responses more than ever. However, in the context of the digital revolution and the transformation of work, Europe presents a distinctive profile as a kind of a discerning consumer: it may not lead in the most advanced technologies but aims to be at the forefront in seeking a legal and political model for citizen protection and environmental damage correction. Can European institutions provide an appropriate framework for current challenges? Will they have the support of European citizens? To answer these questions, in addition to addressing the issues posed by the digital revolution and the ongoing transformation in the world of work, it is necessary to reflect on the history and present of European construction.

European Governance: An Effective Response to Today’s Global Challenges?

European citizenship exists legally. The concept evokes a long tradition and a history marked by continental institutional and ideological currents. Despite many fratricidal conflicts throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, and especially since 1945, this trend has grown and has led to the peaceful innovation of European institutions. In the second half of the 20th century, Europeans acquired a heritage of social and economic rights, effective even if not always accompanied by the necessary sense of responsibility. In the European Union, citizens find a possibility for direct political expression only in the elections to the European Parliament. The modus operandi of the community institutions presents itself as an unprecedented blend of technocracy and control through common interstate and judicial bodies. To what extent do these realities correspond to the citizen’s perception? And, above all, how effective is this institutional structure for a European response to new technological, social, and environmental challenges?

In this debate – which is taken for granted and receives little attention in public opinion – the perception that Europeans have of their status as citizens remains distinct from their feelings of national identity: the perception of European citizenship and its reality largely depend on treaties, agreements, and legal and economic practices that slowly solidify. Exchanges of goods and services have increased considerably within the Union; movements of people as well, albeit to a lesser extent. In the years of economic growth after the Second World War, there were significant movements of workers from the Iberian Peninsula and Italy to Northern Europe. Later, with the fall of regimes under Soviet influence, there were large population movements from East to West. Internal migration in search of skilled jobs with better pay is gradually growing. Europe as a whole, demographically deficient, has become a magnet for populations from other continents, bringing with them different cultural and religious traditions.

European Construction and Christian Inspiration

The extraordinary scientific and economic development, the increase in the consumption of goods and services, medical advances, the reduction of working hours, the opening of borders, and travel facilities are contributing to shaping current scenarios characterized by growing secularization and the diminishing influence of traditional religious institutions.

Christian social thought was one of the sources of inspiration for the founders of the Union, nourished by solidary and participatory aspirations. More recently, the “principle of subsidiarity” from the Maastricht Treaty (1992), stating that all decisions should be taken at the most immediate level compatible with their resolution, directly stems from Pope Leo XIII’s encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. In the Catholic Church, during the Second Vatican Council (1959-1965) and the pontificate of Pope Paul VI (1963-1978), doctrinal and theological reflection was still focused on Western Europe, even though the profound changes of the subsequent years were already intuited; the doctrine then embraced the realities of economic growth within the broader framework of integral development. Pope John Paul II, drawing on his experience with the economies of Eastern Europe, made a significant turn by updating social doctrine to the realities of the social market economy and business, with its virtues and dangers. Thirty years later, Catholic social doctrine needs another profound update in the face of the current technological and geopolitical transformation.

However, today the center of the Church has shifted to other continents, with a greater presence from Eastern Europe, North America, and Asia, and, above all, with a majority weight from Latin America and Africa. Pope Francis issues a loving challenge: “Europe can contribute, within the international scenario, its specific originality, outlined in the last century when, from the crucible of world conflicts, it ignited the spark of reconciliation, making possible the dream of building tomorrow with yesterday’s enemy, of opening paths of dialogue, itineraries of inclusion, developing a diplomacy of peace that extinguishes conflicts and eases tensions, capable of capturing the faintest signs of détente and reading between the lines more twisted” (speech delivered in Lisbon, August 2, 2023).

In this context, where European Christians find themselves in a minority situation, it is worth asking how, for example, the ideas that inspired Paul VI’s message in *Populorum Progressio* and the guidelines of the Second Vatican Council on “the Church in the world today” can be understood. What influence have they had on the evolution of society and the Church in Europe? To what extent did they pave the way for the agenda of ecclesial and pastoral reforms that inspire Pope Francis’s pontificate? What new steps will be necessary to inspire policies for the common good in the changing world of technology and current work?





Publication

The **thematic sessions** will be conducted **openly** to facilitate discussion and engagement. The presentations and conclusions will be **published on the website** for consultation and analysis, both **in video and text formats**.

The objective of this seminar is to reach final **conclusions and proposals/recommendations** that will be published and presented in various forums.

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