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Pierre Defraigne, an economist and European civil servant from 1970 to 2005, is currently Executive Director of the Madariaga - College of Europe Foundation. Deputy Director-General in DG Trade after having been Chef de Cabinet for Pascal Lamy (European Commissioner for Trade), Pierre Defraigne was Director for North-South Relations from 1985 to 1999, and previously Chef de Cabinet for Etienne Davignon (then Vice-President of the European Commission). He set up Eur-IFRI, the Brussels branch of the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), which he managed from 2005 to 2008. Pierre Defraigne is a lecturer in political economy at the College of Europe (Bruges) and at the Institute for European Studies (UCL and FUSL). He is also a visiting professor at Zhejiang University (China). His interests focus on international economic policies, political economy and relations with developing countries.

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Ramón Peña-Casas is a sociologist. He worked for several years as a researcher at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and then at the research institute of the Brussels regional employment service. He joined the OSE team in 2000. His main fields of interest relate to monitoring and analysing economic and social issues discussed in the European policy arena, particularly from an empirical comparative perspective. His expertise concerns, broadly, the complex relationships between work, welfare and social protection and their interpretation in the framework of EU policy processes such as the various 'Open Methods of Coordination' in the fields of social inclusion, social protection (pensions, etc.) and employment (European Employment Strategy). He also monitors issues related to social dialogue and restructuring.

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