

Democracy First!



JUNE 28-29 2017

Brussels

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FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



In partnership with:



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
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AN INTRODUCTION TO CALL TO EUROPE

Every year the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) hosts its annual flagship conference Call to Europe, which has become a reference point for the progressive family in Europe and beyond. It brings together a unique multi-stakeholder community of progressive politicians, civil society, academia and media to discuss issues of common concern and develop concrete positive and innovative responses to contemporary European challenges in the most interactive and inclusive way. Call to Europe brings Europe closer to its citizens. Europe's future and the lives of future generations will be shaped with the engagement of the most promising talents coming from all corners of our Union. Join us for the 7th iteration of Call to Europe 'Democracy First!' because our ideas, together with yours, will be transformed into actions that will impact the progressive community on the European stage.



CONNECT WITH FEPS

FEPS is the only progressive think tank at the European level that fosters open, provocative and fresh debates to stimulate new thinking in Europe and in the Progressive movement.

<http://www.feps-europe.eu/en/>

<http://www.calltoeurope.eu>

Day #1 - Bibliothèque Solvay Leopoldpark, 137 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels

Day #2 - Management Centre Europe (MCE) Conference Centre

Rue de l'Aqueduc 118, 1050 Brussels



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European democracy is permanently challenged. The institutional set up is still based on the logic of transnational representation. There is little space for citizens to interact with European politics and express their opinions. When, in 1979, the direct elections to the European Parliament were introduced, hopes were dashed, as the expected change did not happen. European citizens see their votes as 'second order'. They see them as merely used to test ideas and give feedback to the parties in between general elections. Every European election until 2014 saw a declining turnout. Diverse attempts to improve the situation – such as the Treaty of Maastricht that introduced the European Union – were not game changers.

Even worse - at the time the citizens were given a chance to speak up on the quality of democracy and the proposal to establish a European Constitution, the answer given in 2005 in two EEC founding states (France and the Netherlands) was a resounding "no". Although a pause for reflection and then the Lisbon Treaty were to set Europe off on a new path towards more democracy, it would seem that the old conflicts not only prevailed, but became enhanced.

Tensions between national and EU governing institutions are growing. In recent years, its existence has been exposed, when European Council members were trying not to accept the European Parliament's nominee for the President of the European Commission.

The fight between the tradition of consensual decision-making and the demand for politicisation of the alternatives, as far as choosing the trajectory for the future of Europe, continues intensively.

The symbol of this was the debate on sustainability of a 'grand coalition' in the light of the recent election of the President of the European Parliament. There is continued wrestling between the institutions and citizens. Citizens feel disempowered and subjected to the strategies they would never offer legitimising a mandate for. For example, the popular resistance to austerity policies, which are perceived as coming from the EU, are at the source of a rise in new kinds of Euro-rejectionist attitudes.

Resolving these conflicts will determine the Future of Democracy in Europe and will be at the core of the debate framing the context of the European Elections in 2019. Motivated to anticipate them, and in a direct response to the European Commissions' White Paper, FEPS intends to use its annual flagship event - Call to Europe VII to debate:

- Democracy First – Rewriting the Rules of the European Economy
- Democracy First – Strengthening Democracy in Europe and in the Member States



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CONFERENCE DAY#1

Wednesday, 28th June 2017

Venue : Bibliothèque Solvay

Leopoldpark, 137 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels

(Translation provided : EN - FR - IT)

Overall conference moderation by: Ernst STETTER, Secretary General, FEPS

Conference Report: coordinated and prepared by Michele FIORILLO member of the FEPS Young Academics Network

17:00 – 18:00 REGISTRATION

18:00 – 18:15 OPENING REMARKS

Gianni PITTELLA, President of S&D Group, European Parliament, Italy

18:15 – 19:15 PHILOSOPHY MEETS POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Fishbowl format)

Moderated by: Béatrice DELVAUX, Editor in Chief, Le Soir, Belgium

Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, First Vice-President, Committee of the Regions, Belgium

Nicolas SCHMIT, Minister of Labour, Employment and Immigration, Luxembourg

Georgios KAMINIS, Mayor of Athens, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Greece

in debate with:

Sławomir SIERAKOWSKI, Head of Krytyka Polityczna and political philosopher, Poland

Philippe VAN PARIJS, Philosopher and Economist, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

Susan GEORGE, Author of 17 books, President of the Transnational Institute Amsterdam and honorary President of Attac France, France

19:15 – 20:30 CLOSING DAY#1 & RECEPTION Bibliothèque Solvay Terrace

Massimo D'ALEMA, President of FEPS and former Prime Minister of Italy



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CONFERENCE DAY#2

Thursday, 29th June 2017

Venue : Management Centre Europe (MCE) Conference Centre

Rue de l'Aqueduc 118, 1050 Brussels

(Translation provided : EN - FR)

Overall conference moderation by: Ernst STETTER, Secretary General, FEPS

Conference Report: coordinated and prepared by Michele FIORILLO member of the FEPS Young Academics Network

09:00 – 09:30 WELCOME COFFEE & REGISTRATION

09:30 – 09:45 OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE & KEY NOTE

Massimo D'ALEMA, President of FEPS and former Prime Minister of Italy

09:45 – 10:45 DEBATE: DEMOCRACY FIRST RE-WRITING THE RULES OF THE EU ECONOMY

Moderator: Daniela Vincenti, Editor in Chief, EURACTIV, Belgium

Joseph STIGLITZ, Nobel Memorial Prize Laureate in Economic Sciences,
Economist and Professor at Columbia University, USA

Pierre MOSCOVICI, EU Commissioner of Economic and Financial Affairs,
Taxation & Customs, France

10:45 – 13:15 SESSION 1 – DEMOCRACY FIRST RE-WRITING THE RULES OF THE EU ECONOMY

" The background for this debate derives from the FEPS research project "Re-writing the Rules of European Economy: For Employment, Growth and Stability Pact", an initiative aimed to be a new European sister publication to the successful "Re-writing the Rules of American Economy: And agenda for shared prosperity and growth". The project has been realised together with Professor J. Stiglitz and with the support of Renner Institut and Policy Network. "



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European Communities were founded as a project guided by economic integration. The States, united by communality of interests, would aim to cooperate to multiply overall wealth and would not seek open conflicts. It has ensured peace and stability, allowing the European economy to grow. That has brought prosperity for members and social progress for citizens. But while economic and then monetary integration would proceed, and markets would integrate, democratic architecture to guide those processes remained insufficient. At the time that their design in the 1980s would entail the neo-liberal course, the EU emerged from Maastricht as an unfinished and imbalanced project. The deficiencies were only to multiply. The 2008 crisis made the European economy stagnate, and the subsequent terrible policies contributed to a rise in unemployment and poverty. In those circumstances, citizens felt particularly disempowered. They believed that the EU and its politicians have not served them, focusing instead on saving those who caused the crisis and shifting burden onto the citizens. In a year of important elections, the key question is:

Can Progressives develop a credible agenda to re-write the rules and bring new prospects for an economy that works for all ?

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POLITICIANS

Maria João RODRIGUES, Vice-President,
S&D Group, MEP, Portugal
Udo BULLMANN, Vice-President, S&D
Group, MEP, Germany
Paulo TRIGO PEREIRA, MP, Professor
Lisbon School of Economics, Portugal
Paolo GUERRIERI, Member of the Senate,
Professor, Sapienza University, Italy

CIVIL SOCIETY

Roçio SAMPERE, Director, Felipe González
Foundation, Spain
Margit SCHRATZENSTALLER, Deputy
Director, WIFO, Austria
Maria JEPSEN, Director of Research, ETUI,
Belgium
Jan-Erik STØSTAD, Secretary General,
SAMAK, Norway

ACADEMICS

Anton HEMERIJCK, Professor,
European University Institute, The Netherlands
Stephany GRIFFITH-JONES, Professor, IPD
Columbia University, UK
Peter BOFINGER, Professor, University of
Würzburg, Germany
Isabel ORTIZ, IPD Columbia University, USA

MEDIA

Bernardo DE MIGUEL, Cinco Dias, Spain
Joan CONDIJTS, Les Echos, Belgium
Adriana CERRETELLI, Journalist,
Il Sole 24 Ore, Italy
Peter S. GOODMAN, European Economics
Correspondent for the New York Times, US

13:15 – 13:30 CLOSING OF SESSION 1

Sergei STANISHEV, President of the Party of European Socialists, Bulgaria

13:30 – 14:15 LIGHT LUNCH



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14:15 – 14:30 OPENING OF SESSION 2

Bruno LIEBHABERG, Chair of the Scientific Council of FEPS, Belgium

14:30 – 17:30 SESSION 2 – DEMOCRACY FIRST IN EUROPE AND IN THE MEMBER STATES

The European elections of 2014 saw record low turnout across the board. They ended with an Assembly that is the most fragmented and polarised ever. The era of civic permissive consensus regarding Europe is over and voters have effectively given a yellow card to traditional parties acting on the EU level. Consequently, many ballots have been cast in favour of extremists who use the European Parliament as a springboard to broadcast nationalistic messages. As the legislative period continues, even more citizens disconnect and disapprove of the EU. They question Europe's mission and they doubt if the Union can act effectively. These sentiments also motivated the Leave vote in the UK referendum and the ideas have spread. There is now a fertile ground for the new kind of populist, anti-Europeanism to flourish. The key questions, two years before the next vote, are:

**Can Scenario 5 – for more integration - be the path for the EU to embark on after 2019?
Can Progressives lead?**

**Can Progressives put up a fight and be the ones to stop the tide of extremism
from rising further in the member states?**

Moderator: **Matthew Laza**, Director, Policy Network, UK



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POLITICIANS

Javier MORENO SANCHEZ, Secretary General, S&D, Spain

João ALBUQUERQUE, President, YES, Portugal

Miapetra KUMPULA-NATRI, MEP, S&D Group, Finland

Jo LEINEN, MEP, S&D Group, Germany

Pedro S. PEREIRA, MEP, S&D Group, Portugal

Balázs BÁRÁNY, Member of MSZP National Presidency and Solymár local council, Hungary

Bogusław LIBERADZKI, MEP, S&D Group, Poland

CIVIL SOCIETY

Anna DIAMANTOPOULOU, President, TO DIKTIO, former Minister of Education, Greece

Dimitri LEMAIRE, Particitiz, Belgium

Elisa LIRONI, Manager, ECAS Digital Democracy, Italy

Mohamed FAHMI, President, Eyes on Europe, Belgium

Barbara NOWACKA, Head of Inicjatywa Polska, Poland

Leonie MARTIN, Vice President, Young European Federalists, Belgium

Ruth REICHSTEIN, Representative of Pulse of Europe, Belgium

Isabelle LENARDUZZI, Founder and Managing Director, JUMP, Belgium

Laura-Kristine KRAUSE, Leader of Future of Democracy Programme, Das Progressive Zentrum, Germany

ACADEMICS

Eleonora POLI, Research Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy

Luciano BARDI, Chairman and Political Science Professor, University of Pisa, Italy

Jean YVES-CAMUS, Director, Jean Jaurès Observatory of Political Radicalism, France

Robert LADRECH, European Politics Professor, Keele University, UK

Catherine FIESCHI, Political Scientist, Founder, Counterpoint

André KROUWEL, Professor, Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Jérôme JAMIN, Professor, University of Liège, Belgium

Tara Paterson, Researcher, Fabian Society, UK

Stefan Haußner, PhD Student, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

MEDIA

Jennifer BAKER, EU Policy Correspondent, UK

Thomas MEYER, Der Standard, Austria

María TEJERO, El Confidencial, Spain (tbc)

Katalin LANDABURU, France 24 (tbc)

17:30 – 17:45 BEER MAT COMPETITION

17:45 – 18:00 CLOSING OF CALL TO EUROPE CONFERENCE

Zita GURMAI, Vice-President of FEPS and President of PES Women, Hungary

18:00 – 22:30 RECEPTION ArtBar "LaPlace33", Place du Chatelain 33, 1050 Ixelles, Brussels

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**Call to
Europe VII**

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