
21st-CENTURY DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE #SOU2019

The State of the Union conference, organised by the European University Institute (EUI), is an annual event for high-level reflection on the European Union. Now in its ninth year, The State of the Union has become a reference point for European policy-makers, academics and civil society representatives, as well as business and opinion leaders. The event is regularly attended by heads of state and government, as well as by the presidents of all the EU institutions.

The 2019 edition will have a special emphasis on 21st-Century Democracy in Europe, a theme of particular relevance in the run-up to the European elections at the end of May 2019. We will therefore debate and reflect on the democratic functioning of the European Union, its member states, and their capacity to respond to the aspirations and needs of future generations. 30 years on, we will also assess the significance of the democratic transition in Eastern Europe. This edition will also feature a televised debate amongst the candidates for the position of president of the European Commission, “Spitzenkandidaten”, to be broadcast across the continent.

On 2 May, the conference will take place at the EUI’s Villa Salviati, home of the Historical Archives of the European Union. The programme foresees several parallel sessions, each devised by a member of the EUI with relevant scientific expertise. On 3 May, participants will reconvene in the historic surroundings of Palazzo Vecchio, the seat of Florence’s city council. Representatives of the EU and national institutions will contribute their views on the conference’s theme. The event will conclude on 4 May at Villa Salviati with an Open Day of cultural activities.

Among the topics of the ninth edition:

- Democracy and the European elections;
- The rule of law and the legal powers of the EU;
- Disinformation and fake news;
- 30 years since the start of the democratic transition in Eastern Europe;
- Democratic legitimacy of immigration policies;
- Youth, a European Union fit for the next generation;
- Trust in the Single Market for banking and finance;
- Democratising the EU’s external action;
- Global Governance trends to 2030.

The State of the Union 2019 will take place in Florence:

Thursday 2 May Conference at Villa Salviati, EUI
Friday 3 May Conference at Palazzo Vecchio, Florence City Council
Saturday 4 May Open Day at Villa Salviati, EUI
The Scientific Committee for The State of the Union 2019 is composed of:

- **Stefano Cappiello**, Director General, Directorate for Legal Affairs, Banking and Financial Systems, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance
- **Madeleine de Cock Buning**, Professor, School of Transnational Governance, EUI
- **Renaud Dehousse**, President, EUI
- **Vincenzo Grassi**, Secretary-General, EUI
- **Gábor Halmai**, Professor, Law Department, EUI
- **Juho Härkönen**, Professor, Political and Social Sciences Department, EUI
- **Andrea Ichino**, Professor, Economics Department, EUI
- **Marco Incerti**, Director, Communications Service, EUI
- **Brigid Laffan**, Director, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), EUI
- **Joanna Wawrzyniak**, Professor, History and Civilization Department, EUI

Among the invited Speakers:

- **Giuseppe Conte**, Prime Minister of Italy
- **Hans Dahlgren**, Minister for EU Affairs, Sweden
- **Klaus Iohannis**, President of Romania
- **Véra Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, European Commission
- **Ska Keller**, Lead Candidate, European Greens Party
- **Jean-Yves Le Drian**, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
- **Cecilia Malmström**, Commissioner for Trade, European Commission
- **Enzo Moavero Milanesi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy
- **Riina Sikkut**, Minister of Health and Labour, Republic of Estonia
- **Frans Timmermans**, First Vice-President of the European Commission, and Lead Candidate, Party of European Socialists
- **Guy Verhofstadt**, Lead Candidate, Alliance of Liberal and Democrats for Europe
- **Manfred Weber**, Lead Candidate, European People’s Party
- **Ana Paula Zacarias**, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Portugal
- **Members of the European Parliament**
- **Leading International Academics**
- **International journalists**
Thursday 2 May 2019: Villa Salviati, European University Institute

The language of the event will be English.

8.30 – 21.30 Registration throughout the day

8.30 – 09.45 Networking Breakfast - Villa Salviati Courtyard and Gardens

9.45 – 10.00 Welcome - Room: SALA DEL CONSIGLIO - Livestreamed in listening rooms.

Gunta Arāja, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sciences, Latvia, and Chair of the High Council, European University Institute

Renaud Dehousse, President, European University Institute

10.00 – 10.30 Plenary Session – Room: SALA DEL CONSIGLIO - Livestreamed in listening rooms.

Opening Address by Enzo Moavero Milanesi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

“21st-Century Democracy in Europe”

This address will be delivered in Italian with translation into English.

10.45 – 12.00 Parallel Session A.1 – Room: SALA DEGLI STEMMI

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU: 20 years after its proclamation and 10 years after its entry into force as law

December 2019 will mark the 10th anniversary of the EU Charter becoming an integral and binding part of EU primary law. Over these ten years, we have witnessed a new commitment to a “fundamental rights culture” at EU level and a Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) that has moved towards becoming a fundamental rights court. What is the contribution of the Charter in this regard? What is the role and potential of the Charter in protecting and promoting democracy in the EU, at the local, national and European levels? And what has been the role, if at all, of the Charter during the financial crisis and the wave of austerity-inspired policy-making? Did, and does, the Charter make a substantial difference to law and policy-making at EU level? And what about the ‘life of the Charter’ at national level, has it made a difference?

Moderator: Sophie Duroy, Coordinator, Fundamental Rights Working Group, Department of Law, EUI

Speakers:

Michael O’Flaherty, Director, EU Fundamental Rights Agency

Allan Rosas, Judge, Court of Justice of the European Union

Silvana Sciarra, Judge, Italian Constitutional Court

Sonya Walkila, Senior Adviser, Legislative Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Finland

10.45 – 12.00 Parallel Session A.2 – Room: SALA DE GASPERI

The impact of ICTs on political behaviour in European Parliament elections: Increasing turnout?

Voting Advice Applications (VAA) are online tools implemented before elections and designed to help voters compare their policy preferences on major issues with the respective positions of political parties and candidates. As a result, these tools indicate the political proximity between the individual voters, parties and candidates running for election. Numerous studies suggest that the existence and usage of VAAs increase
turnout in elections because they facilitate the decision-making of undecided voters. Furthermore, several studies indicate that VAAs influence voters’ choices to varying degrees. The aim of the panel is to assess the available evidence on VAAs and their potential contribution to the European elections. The speakers, who are all involved in large-scale transnational VAA platforms, will consider the merits and potential shortcomings of such technologies.

Moderator: Brigid Laffan, Director, RSCAS, EUI

Speakers:
Diego Garzia, Founding Convenor, European Consortium for Political Research, and Senior Research Fellow, University of Lucerne
Stefan Marschall, Chair in German Politics, Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf
Laura Sudulich, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Kent

10.45 – 12.00 Parallel Session A.3 – Room: SALA DEL CONSIGLIO
Basic Income: The future of social policy or an expensive fad?
Session supported by the Academy of Finland Strategic Research Council-funded project “Tackling Inequalities in Time of Austerity (TITA)”

Basic Income has become an increasingly popular topic in debates on the future of social welfare policies. It has been proposed as a means of securing economic wellbeing and security in times of economic change, and criticised for being too expensive and for disincentivising work. This session debates the advantages and disadvantages of Basic Income and offers reflections on the experiences and first results from the Finnish Basic Income experiment, which provided a monthly unconditional cash transfer of €560 over two years to 2,000 unemployed individuals, whereas an identical control group remained under the existing benefit scheme. What were the main employment and welfare impacts? Did the Finnish and other similar experiments make us any wiser? Is Basic Income the future of social policy, or an expensive fad?

Moderator: Ellen Immergut, Professor of Political Sciences, EUI

Speakers:
Olli Kangas, Principal Investigator, Finnish Universal Basic Income Experiment, and Professor of Practice, University of Turku
Hilmar Schneider, Professor and CEO, Institute of Labour Economics (IZA), Bonn
Pasquale Tridico, President, Italian National Institute of Social Security (INPS)
Philippe Van Parijs, Professor of Philosophy, Université Catholique de Louvain, and Robert Schuman Fellow, RSCAS, EUI

10.45 – 12.00 Parallel Session A.4 – Room: SALA LOUNGE
The future of party democracy: Cartel parties and their challengers at the European level - A panel in honour of Professor Peter Mair

This panel draws on the body of work on party organisation by Peter Mair and Richard Katz culminating in Democracy and the Cartelization of Political Parties (Oxford University Press 2018), as well as on the Horizontal Euroscepticism (Bardi 2014) project based on the premise that cartel parties have grown less responsive to citizens’ expectations. Cartel parties are increasingly part of the state, and increasingly removed from society. Dissensus among their supporters has grown, causing declining levels of attachment in traditional support groups and declining vote shares for the mainstream parties. This process also affects the EU and its democracy. European political parties, which represent the party cartel at EU level, have demonstrated an
inability to identify and give adequate responses to the issues that concern European citizens. Anti-Europeans have effectively become the agenda-setters in the political debate, not only increasing the public appeal of criticism towards the EU, but also exacerbating tensions between member states. With a focus on the 2019 European elections, the panel brings together leading scholars in the field of Party Democracy and Euroscepticism to discuss this phenomenon.

Moderator: **Stefano Bartolini**, Peter Mair Chair in Comparative Politics, EUI

Speakers:

**Luciano Bardi**, President, Observatory on Political Parties and Representation, University of Pisa and Professor, Alcide de Gasperi Research Centre, EUI

**Richard Katz**, Professor of Political Science, John Hopkins University, Baltimore

**Moderator:** Stefano Bartolini, Peter Mair Chair in Comparative Politics, EUI

**Speakers:**

**Luciano Bardi**, President, Observatory on Political Parties and Representation, University of Pisa and Professor, Alcide de Gasperi Research Centre, EUI

**Richard Katz**, Professor of Political Science, John Hopkins University, Baltimore

12.15 – 13.30 Parallel Session B.1 – Room: SALA LOUNGE

**Power of the powerless: Democratic politics from below in an age of distrust**

The panel seeks to present and discuss the various forms democratic participation has taken outside of the established political channels, through bottom-up organised and spontaneous movements. Whether Occupy Wall Street (USA), the Indignados (Spain) or the Gilets Jaunes (France), the at times months-long anti-governmental protests, (Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia) have all called into question the legitimacy of political “elites” and the enshrined ways of democratic politics. The nobility of the political vocation has withered dramatically. This is an age in which a variety of forms of democratic regression, “soft despotism” (Tocqueville), authoritarian patterns of leadership are appearing and apolitical or anti-political features are rearing their heads. Distrust in elites, political leaders and mainstream parties has given rise to bottom-up political currents that are the voice of the angry, disaffected citizens who feel a sense of disenfranchisement and powerlessness. Different alternative bottom-up forms of vivere civile (Machiavelli), and civic political engagement are manifesting themselves. What have these civic-political movements and voices brought to democracy at the beginning of the century? What are the ideas for a re-legitimisation of democracy and European politics that are emerging in the 21st century on the continent?

Moderator: **Ivan Vejvoda**, Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna

Speakers:

**Rosa Balfour**, Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Brussels

**Heather Grabbe**, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute

**Mary Kaldor**, Professor of Global Governance, London School of Economics

12.15 – 13.30 Parallel Session B.2 – Room: SALA DE GASPERI

**Generation(s) of the crises: How to address intergenerational inequalities in the EU?**

Young Europeans are often presented as a “generation of the crises”. Crises in multiple forms (financial, economic, environmental and migration) slowly eroded the affection of the youth for the European project. European decision-makers do not seem to understand youth’s concerns and favour the interests of older generations, which form a core part of their electorates. Not only are European policies shaped by the ruling (older) generation, they also seem to clash with new and future generations’ expectations. This multidimensional and intergenerational gap puts the EU in a paradoxical situation: if the EU does not properly consider its future generations, how can it tackle the challenges ahead? How can the silver economy be reconciled with young people in a sustainable manner? Will a social Europe be able to provide both
opportunities for young people and security for older generations? Despite this gloomy outlook, several pan-European initiatives are emerging, driven by young generations, which aim at reforming Europe in an innovative way. The panel will critically reflect on their emergence and on how to address intergenerational inequalities in the EU. Panellists will discuss whether the European intergenerational gaps actually are a dead-end, what has gone wrong with European politics and policy so far, and how Europe can address younger generations’ needs and concerns whilst endorsing their vision of a reformed EU.

Moderator: Christy Ann Petit, Researcher, and Coordinator, Thoughts for Europe, EUI

Speakers:
Mario Pagano, Researcher, and Coordinator, Engaged Academics, EUI
Lídia Pereira, President, Youth of the European People’s Party
Riina Sikkut, Minister of Health and Labour, Republic of Estonia
Philippe Van Parijs, Professor of Philosophy, Université Catholique de Louvain, and Robert Schuman Fellow, RSCAS, EUI

12.15 – 13.30 Parallel Session B.3 – Room: SALA DEGLI STEMMMI
Immigration as a challenge or revitalizer of European democracy?

Immigration to Europe has, among other things, raised debates about its relationship with democracy. Does multiculturalism challenge European democracy? Or can it be revitalized by bringing new participants and debates to European democratic forums? What is the democratic legitimacy of immigration policies and who should have the right to decide upon them? The purpose of this session is to debate these and other questions of European democracy and decision-making in an era of immigration from within and outside Europe.

Moderator: Elias Dinas, Swiss Chair in Federalism, Democracy and International Governance, EUI

Speakers:
Cameron Abadi, Deputy Editor, Foreign Policy
Ruud Koopmans, Professor of Sociology and Migration Research, Berlin Social Science Centre (WZB)
Cécile Kashetu Kyenge, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

12.15 – 13.30 Parallel Session B.4 – Room: SALA DEL CONSIGLIO
Rule of law oversight in the EU: Can value conditionality be reinforced?

The panellists will discuss the ways in which the European Union coped with recent deviations from the shared values of rule of law, democracy, and fundamental rights in some of the member states in Central and Eastern Europe. The main question to be answered by the panellists is whether the EU has the tools and the willingness to enforce compliance with the core values of the EU outlined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union. The panellists will assess how the Article 7 procedures triggered against Poland and Hungary can be evaluated from the perspective of the EU and the two member states concerned.

Moderator: Carlos Closa, Professor, School of Transnational Governance, EUI

Address: Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President, European Commission
Followed by a discussion with:

Tamás Meszerics, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Kim Lane Scheppele, Professor of Sociology and International Affairs, Princeton University

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch Break – Villa Salviati Courtyard and Gardens

14.45 – 16.00 Parallel Session C.1 – Room: SALA DEGLI STEMMI

*Do we really need politicians? E-democracy vs. representative democracy*

In many countries, politicians are seen as untrustworthy and politics as a rigged game. This trust crisis poses serious challenges to the "vertical" dimension of democracy, which has so far been crucial for the functioning of democratic institutions. The questions this panel will aim to address include: What are the remedies to this trust crisis? Should we accept the end of political intermediaries and invest in the "horizontal" dimension of democracy by expanding direct participation and e-democracy? Or should we fix politics by improving the selection and incentives of elected officials?

Moderator: Andrea Mattozzi, Head of Economics Department, EUI

Speakers:
David Farrell, Professor and Head, School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin
Tommaso Nannicini, Member of the Italian Senate, and Professor, Bocconi University
Hans-Gert Pöttering, President, European Parliament Former Members Association, and Former President, European Parliament

14.45 – 16.00 Parallel Session C.2 – Room: SALA DEL CONSIGLIO

*The future of democracy and governance: Global trends to 2030*

The European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) is a foresight network of officials from the various EU institutions who look at how a range of global trends, e.g. economic, social and geo-political, will shape the agenda for policy-makers in Europe over the coming decades. Their latest report - Global Trends to 2030: Challenges and Choices for Europe – will be published this spring, in advance of the new 2019-2024 EU political cycle. The lead author of the ESPAS report, Florence Gaub, and other colleagues who have been closely involved in the project will share with the audience some of their thinking and conclusions about global trends shaping democracy and governance, both nationally and internationally.

Moderator: Brigid Laffan, Director, RSCAS, EUI

Speakers:
Jim Cloos, Deputy Director-General, General and Institutional Policy, General Secretariat of the EU Council of Ministers
Florence Gaub, Deputy Director, EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris
Miguel Maduro, Director, School of Transnational Governance, EUI
Ann Mettler, Director-General, European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission
Anthony Teasdale, Director General, European Parliamentary Research Service
14.45 – 17.30  **Extended Parallel Session C.3 – Room: SALA LOUNGE**

**30 years after: What has the 1989 democratic transition brought to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe?**

*Session supported by “Europe’s Futures – Ideas for Action”, a partnership of ERSTE Foundation and the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM)*

In 1989, peaceful transitions started in the countries of the former Soviet bloc, with the round-table discussions in Poland and Hungary, and with the ‘Velvet Revolution’ in what was then known as Czechoslovakia. Soon after they set up the Visegrád Group with a view to better represent their interests at the EU level. More recently, however, parties with populist tendencies have come into power in some of the four countries creating concerns about the rise of illiberalism. This session will consider the developments in the region and their root causes.

14.45 – 16.00  **Part 1: The historical circumstances of the democratic transition from an outside perspective.** What is the current political role of the Visegrad Group in particular, and Central Europe in general? What do they have in common and what divides Central European countries?

Moderator:  
**Jiří Přibáň**, Professor of Law, University of Cardiff

Speakers:  
**Béla Greskovits**, Professor, Central European University and RSCAS, EUI  
**Věra Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, European Commission  
**Michal Kopeček**, Director, Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena  
**Philipp Ther**, Professor of Central European History, University of Vienna

16.15 – 17.30  **Part 2: The impact of the democratic transition in East Central Europe from an insider perspective.** What happened, and why, to the once liberal democracies? Was the democratic transition premature? What are the similarities and the differences in the four countries? What are the perspectives for their future?

Moderator:  
**Gábor Halmai**, Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law, EUI

Speakers:  
**Dorothee Bohle**, Professor of Political Science, EUI  
**Bálint Magyar**, Sociologist and Senior Core Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Central European University  
**Magdaléna Vášáryová**, Former Ambassador of Slovakia, and Public Intellectual

16.15 – 17.30  **Parallel Session D.1 – Room: SALA DEL CONSIGLIO**

**A more democratic EU external action**

The panellists will discuss how the EU external action has evolved over the past ten years since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and assess whether it has developed into a more democratic policy, i.e. more accountable, transparent and inclusive. Building on their own first-hand experience, they will look in particular at the decision-making processes, the formal and informal evolution of the role of each EU institution in this area and the inter-institutional dynamics. They will also share their analysis on how the EU foreign and security policy could further develop in the coming years and under which conditions it could strengthen both its impact and its democratic legitimacy.
Moderator: **Alexandre Stutzmann**, Director for Committees, Directorate-General External Policies, European Parliament

Speakers:
- **Cecilia Malmström**, Commissioner for Trade, European Commission
- **Marietje Schaake**, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Foreign Affairs
- **Ana Paula Zacarias**, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Portugal

**16.15 – 17.30**

**Parallel Session D.2 – Room: SALA DEGLI STEMMI**

*Capture of politics by business*

Session supported by the Oxford University Press journal ‘Economic Policy’

In several countries, we have observed the growth of companies with an economic power that is becoming larger than those of many nations. Such economic power has frequently been transformed into political power, in turn generating more revenue for these firms. This phenomenon has been labelled by Luigi Zingales as the “…Medici vicious circle: where money is used to get political power and political power is used to make money”. This session will discuss whether market forces should be free to guide these processes, or whether they are dangerous and should be controlled. And in the latter case, how?

A conversation between **Sergei Guriev**, Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and **Luigi Zingales**, Professor, University of Chicago Booth School of Business

**16.15 – 17.30**

**Parallel Session D.3 – Room: SALA DE GASPERI**

*Doing what’s right for the climate while winning public support*

The Paris Agreement on climate change includes commitments by all participating states, regardless of whether they are developed or developing countries. Many states have not yet done much towards meeting their mitigation commitments and all need to do more. If, as scientists advise, we need to transform our economies and radically change lifestyles, how can we reconcile preserving our climate system while retaining public support for action? Economists strongly advocate carbon pricing as the most efficient way of reducing emissions, but carbon taxes are seen as regressive by some, while emissions trading can put the competitiveness of businesses at risk. The alternatives to carbon pricing do not seem more appealing, as strict performance standards add to costs; banning certain goods, such as incandescent light bulbs, has proven unpopular and behavioural measures are seen as too intrusive. So what options are left for policy-makers?

Moderator: **Jos Delbeke**, Professor, School of Transnational Governance, EUI and KU Leuven

Speakers:
- **Ottmar Edenhofer**, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- **Martin L. Weitzman**, Research Professor of Economics, Harvard University
- **Baroness Bryony Worthington**, Executive Director, Environmental Defense Fund

**17.30 – 18.00**

Networking Break – Villa Salviati Gardens
18.00 – 19.30 Debate amongst the “Spitzenkandidaten”
Co-hosted by the EUI and the Financial Times

Introduction: Renaud Dehousse, President, European University Institute

Moderator: Martin Sandbu, European Economics Commentator, Financial Times

Speakers:
Ska Keller, European Greens Party
Frans Timmermans, Party of European Socialists
Guy Verhofstadt, Alliance of Liberal and Democrats for Europe
Manfred Weber, European People’s Party.

19.30 – 22.00 Cocktail and Networking Dinner – Villa Salviati Courtyard and Gardens
Friday 3 May 2019: Salone dei Cinquecento, Palazzo Vecchio

Simultaneous translation into English and Italian will be available.

7.30 – 17.30 Registration throughout the day – Cortile di Michelozzo

09.30 – 09.45 Welcome
Dario Nardella, Mayor, Municipality of Florence
Enrico Rossi, President, Tuscany Region
Leonardo Bassilichi, President, Chamber of Commerce, Florence
Renaud Dehousse, President, EUI

09.45 – 10.10 Institutional welcome: Enzo Moavero Milanesi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

10.10 – 10.45 The State of the Union Address
Is there a crisis of democracy in Europe?
Hanspeter Kriesi, Stein Rokkan Chair in Comparative Politics, EUI

10.45 – 11.30 Break

11.30 – 12.00 High level Discussion
The Future of the European Union as a mission for all of us
Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania in conversation with Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger, Foreign Editor, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

12.00 – 12.30 High Level Address
L’Europe à la croisée des chemins
Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
This address will be delivered in French with translation into English and Italian.

12.45 – 13.45 Lunch Break – Cortile della Dogana

14.00 – 15.30 Panel Debate
Restoring people’s trust in the Single Market for banking and finance

The economic crisis has triggered a retrenchment of cross-border banking and finance in Europe. While the reforms of the last ten years achieved tremendous progress in the build-up of a common regulatory and supervisory framework across Europe, banking and financial activities are still organised along national borders, even within the euro area. This national fragmentation is ultimately driven by a lack of trust. Trust is missing among national authorities on the one hand and among national electorates on the other. The first continue to limit cross-border banking, as long as the conundrum between risk-reduction and risk-sharing is not resolved. The latter, in particular households and businesses, struggle to perceive the benefits stemming from banking and financial integration in Europe, while they appreciated full well the social costs generated by excessive financial growth and macroeconomic imbalances. Yet, as the US response to the crisis shows, integrated markets prove to be more resilient at absorbing shocks and restoring financing opportunities. The session aims to discuss the technical and political stalemate in which Europe seems to find itself with respect to these issues. In particular, it aims to investigate both the institutional underpinnings and courses of action needed to overcome this lack of trust and how to restore confidence with the goal of achieving an integrated European financial system.
Moderator: **Chiara De Felice**, EU Economic Correspondent, ANSA

Speakers:
**Andrea Enria**, Chair, Supervisory Board, European Central Bank  
**Sylvie Goulard**, Deputy Governor, Bank of France  
**Jakob von Weizsäcker**, Chief Economist, Federal Ministry of Finance, Germany

15.30 – 16.00  Break

16.00 – 17.30 Panel Debate

*Tackling disinformation and strengthening election integrity to support democracy*

Digital technologies are increasingly part of democratic processes. From online campaigning to informing public debate, technology is becoming an integral part of elections and political campaigns. At the same time, election environments are increasingly vulnerable to cyber-enabled interference and disinformation campaigns. With the European elections around the corner, it is urgent to step up efforts to secure free and fair democratic processes, as advocated in the report of the High-Level Expert Group on fake news, the European Commission Communication on online disinformation, the Commission Action Plan on disinformation and the Communication on Securing Free and Fair Elections. This panel takes stock of the measures that have been adopted at the European level, as well as of best practices that are being developed globally in cooperation with industry. The toolkit includes the Disinformation Code of Practice, the European network of independent fact-checkers, the European Election Cooperation Network, the Rapid Alert System, industry-led security and disinformation workshops, and other efforts towards increasing digital media literacy. Have we done enough? Is more, or other, action needed? Is cybersecurity being sufficiently embedded into election resilience? What role can independent regulatory authorities and technology actors play? Are there, apart from the positive, also negative effects to the actions that have been taken?

Moderator: **Madeleine de Cock Buning**, Professor, School of Transnational Governance, EUI, and Chair, European Commission High-Level Expert Group on Fake News and Disinformation

Speakers:
**Hans Dahlgren**, Minister for EU Affairs, Sweden  
**John Frank**, Vice-President for EU Government Affairs, Microsoft  
**Roula Khalaf**, Deputy Editor, Financial Times  
**Ľuboš Kukliš**, Chair, European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services

17.30 – 18.00 Closing Address

**Giuseppe Conte**, Prime Minister of Italy