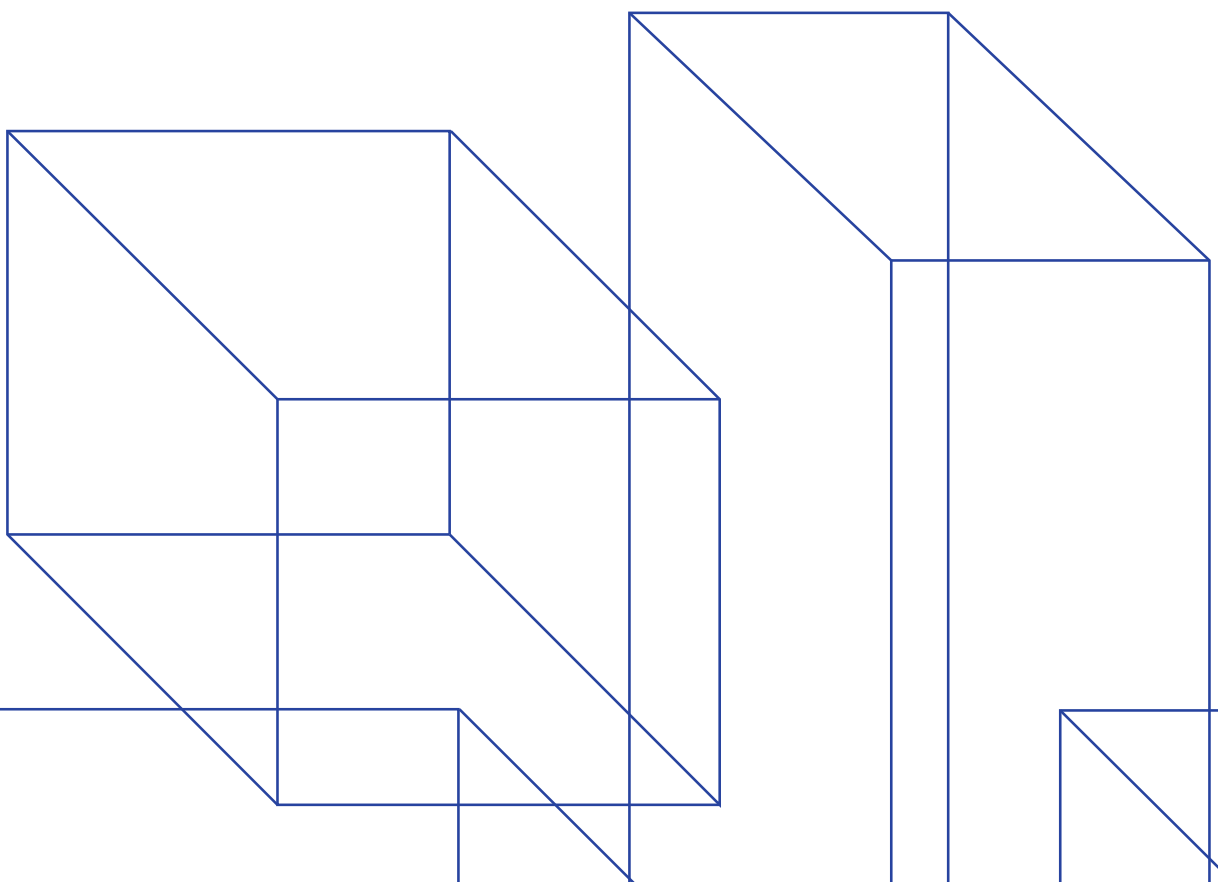


# THE STATE OF THE UNION

*Building Europe in times of uncertainty*

**PROGRAMME**

**4-5 MAY**



# THE STATE OF THE UNION

13<sup>th</sup> Edition | May 2023, Florence | In-person

## *Building Europe in times of uncertainty*

The 13th edition of **The State of the Union** will take place **in-person** in Florence from **4 to 6 May 2023**. On **4 and 5 May** international leaders and experts will tackle the challenges and opportunities Europe is facing in a rapidly changing world. This 2023 edition will focus on the most pressing issues on the European agenda, including the war in Ukraine and its complex geopolitical, economic, and legal ramifications and its repercussions on the daily lives of citizens. Important EU objectives, such as the promotion of social sustainability and inclusion, the upholding of the rule of law, and the digital transition will also feature prominently in the programme. The conference focuses on key issues split into **five key topics**:

- **Challenges to democracy**
- **Geopolitics and EU priorities**
- **Green transition and energy security**
- **Rethinking the global economic scenario**
- **The digital and tech transition**

The format is a unique opportunity for international leaders and experts to congregate in person before a distinguished and informed audience. Contributions will garner substantial international media attention, also thanks to established **media partnerships** with ANSA, Euronews, Financial Times, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Mediaset, and Politico.

[The State of the Union 2023](#) will take place over three days in Florence.

- On **Thursday, 4 May** at the [EUI's stunning hilltop hub](#). The conference programme will centre on numerous **in-person** sessions, which will explore the 2023 themes through an inclusive debate and from an array of academic and policy perspectives. Programme will be live streamed widely on the [SOU website](#).
- On **Friday, 5 May** SOU2023 conference will move to [Palazzo Vecchio](#), home to the Florence City Council. Heads of state, EU and international leaders, representatives of industry and civil society, will contribute to the debate through **in-person** interviews and high-level panels. In the **afternoon**, an innovative and dynamic format, held in **Italian**, will engage the younger generation, who will become the protagonist of the event - [SOU4YOU](#). Programmes will be live streamed widely on the [SOU website](#).
- On **Saturday 6 May**, the EUI will open the doors and gardens of [Villa Salviati](#) to the public, home to the Historical Archives of the European Union - [OPEN DAY](#).

The [Scientific Committee](#) for The State of the Union 2023 is composed of:

- **Deirdre Curtin**, Dean, Graduate Studies and Professor, Department of Law, EUI
- **Renaud Dehousse**, President, EUI
- **Marco Del Punta**, Secretary General, EUI
- **Franca Maria Feisel**, Researcher, Department of Law and Co-Coordinator, Ponte Europa, EUI
- **Stephanie Hofmann**, Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences and Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI
- **Marco Incerti**, Director, Communications Service, EUI
- **Erik Jones**, Director, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI
- **Ruth Rubio Marín**, Professor, School of Transnational Governance, EUI

- **Leonardo Meeus**, Executive Director, Florence School of Regulation, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI
- **Nicolas Petit**, Professor, Department of Law and Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI
- **Andrea Renda**, Professor, School of Transnational Governance, EUI
- **Waltraud Schelkle**, Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences and Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI

## Speakers

**A selection of confirmed institutional speakers:** *(in alphabetical order)*

- **Brando Benifei**, Member, European Parliament
- **Benedetta Berti**, Head of Policy Planning, NATO
- **Tobias Billström**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- **Josep Borrell Fontelles**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President, European Commission
- **Cristian Busoi**, Chair, ITRE Committee, European Parliament
- **Nadia Calviño**, First Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Economic Affairs and Digitalisation, Spain
- **Dita Charanzova**, Vice-President, European Parliament
- **Beatrice Covassi**, Member, European Parliament
- **Arnaud Danjean**, Subcommittee on Security and Defense, European Parliament
- **Salvatore De Meo**, AFCO Chair, European Parliament
- **Emanuela Del Re**, Special Representative of the EU for the Sahel
- **Frank Elderson**, Member of the Executive Board, European Central Bank
- **Timothy Garton Ash**, Professor of European Studies, University of Oxford
- **Paolo Gentiloni**, Commissioner for Economy, European Commission
- **Sylvie Goulard**, Member of the French Diplomatic Service, Republic of France
- **Ditte Juul Jørgensen**, Director-General for Energy, European Commission
- **Rastislav Káčer**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovak Republic
- **Eva Maydell**, Member, European Parliament
- **Mairead McGuinness**, Commissioner for Financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union, European Commission
- **Karen Melchior**, Member, European Parliament
- **Anders Nordström**, Ambassador for Global Health, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- **Borut Pahor**, Former President, Republic of Slovenia
- **Norbert Röttgen**, Member, German Bundestag
- **Alexander Schallenberg**, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Republic of Austria
- **Alexander Stubb**, Former Prime Minister of Finland
- **Antonio Tajani**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy
- **Janusz Czesław Wojciechowski**, Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission

## SOU2023 - *Building Europe in times of uncertainty*

The language of the conference is **English**.

**Thursday, 4 May 2023 | Badia Fiesolana, European University Institute**

09.00-19.30	<i>Registration throughout the day</i>
09.40-09.45	<b>Plenary REFETTORIO</b>
09:40-09:45	<i>Welcome to the 13th edition of <b>The State of the Union</b></i> <b>Renaud Dehousse</b> , President, European University Institute
09.45-10.45	<b>Parallel panels</b>
09.45-10.45	<b>REFETTORIO</b>
09.45-10.45	<b>Governing, fast and slow (and democratically)?</b> <i>Opening: Sandrine Dixson-Declève</i> , Co-President, Club of Rome Present crises, such as climate change, energy security, and inflation, test the democratic character of the European Union and its Member States. Decision makers have to consider long-term objectives, attaining which will, more often than not, require short-term sacrifices from large parts of society. The incentives in competitive democratic politics often favor temporary fixes and half-hearted political responses in order to avoid electoral punishment. At the same time, an epistocratic political elite that enacts top-down, supposedly "right", policies, fundamentally goes against the principles of democracy. Such approach threatens to further erode societal cohesion within the European Union and its Member States, already under strain after two years of pandemic, rising inflation, and the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Against this background, this panel will ask how European democracies can pursue both effective and sustainable solutions to present crises, without compromising fundamental democratic principles and social cohesion.  <i>Co-Moderators:</i> <b>Franca Maria Feisel</b> , Researcher, European University Institute, and Coordinator, Ponte Europa <b>Miguel Mota Delgado</b> , Researcher, European University Institute, and Member, Ponte Europa  <i>Speakers:</i> <b>Milena Lazarevic</b> , Programme Director, European Policy Centre (CEP), Belgrade <b>Anna Sobczak</b> , Policy Coordinator (DG ENER), European Commission, and EU Fellow, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute
09.45-10.45	<b>TEATRO</b>
09.45-10.45	<b>Responsible artificial intelligence: Can Europe be a global leader?</b> <i>Opening: Nadia Calviño</i> , First Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Economic Affairs and Digitalisation, Spain The EU has been among the first countries in the world to state its intention to regulate certain uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The proposed EU AI Act, presented in April 2021, is however still being discussed by EU co-legislators, and is likely to enter into force only in 2025. Meanwhile, new policy frameworks are being adopted in the U.S., as well as in the UK, China and in Canada; at the international level, the OECD, the Global Partnership for AI (GPAI) and UNESCO promote in various ways convergence on the responsible development of AI. In December 2022, during the Ministerial of the Trade and Technology Council, the U.S. and the EU announced an ambitious joint roadmap for trustworthy AI and risk management, which promises to become a blueprint for broader international convergence. Will the EU get its act together on the AI Act, in time to exert its influence on future international rules for AI?  <i>Moderator: Nicolas Petit</i> , Professor, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Virginia Dignum**, Professor, Umeå University

**Jean-Marc Leclerc**, Director EU Affairs, IBM

**Sandra Wachter**, Professor, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford

10.45-10.55 *Break*

10.55-11.15 **Plenary REFETTORIO**

*Introductory remarks by Renaud Dehousse*, President, European University Institute

10.55-11.00

*Reading by Marco Del Panta*, Secretary General, European University Institute, *of the message from the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella*

*Opening address:*

11.00-11.15

**Building Europe in times of uncertainty**

**Antonio Tajani**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy

11.15-11.30 *Break*

11.30-12.30 **Parallel panels**

11.30-12.30

**REFETTORIO**

**The EU's Global Gateway: from aid to partnership?**

Announced in the State of the Union speech by Ursula von der Leyen in September 2021, the EU "Global Gateway" is seen as Europe's response to large-scale strategies such as China's Belt and Road initiative. The Global Gateway promises a lot, including the mobilisation of 300 billion euros in the coming years, mostly by reorienting existing EU budget lines, but also leveraging private investment and boosting cooperation with Member States in so-called "Team Europe" initiatives. Accordingly, the Global Gateway will need support from institutions at all levels of government, as well as stakeholders in Europe and in partner countries. It will also need to thrive in a world characterised by rising political tensions, and new opportunities to join forces with like-minded countries to promote sustainable development and respect for fundamental rights. What are the preconditions for the Global Gateway to succeed? Should the EU seek to replicate its "twin transition" strategy around the world, or should it be more pragmatic in seizing existing opportunities, partnering with powerful players when needed? Under what conditions will the private sector join forces with the EU in infrastructure projects around the world?

*Moderator: Stefano Manservigi*, Professor, European University Institute

*Co-Moderator: Elizabeth Maloba*, Policy Leader Fellow, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Rita Bissoonauth**, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office to the AUC, ECA and Rep. to Ethiopia

**Emanuela Del Re**, Special Representative of the EU for the Sahel

**Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir**, Director, OECD Development Centre

**Pilvi Torsti**, Director, European Training Foundation and Former Member, Finnish Parliament

11.30-12.30

**TEATRO**

**De-democratisation and opposition to gender equality politics in Europe**

In spite of the EU's constitutional commitment to gender equality and mainstreaming, over the last decade, several EU member states have experienced growth of far-right parties with an explicit anti-gender, anti-feminist and/or homo-transphobic component, with spill-over effects on more mainstream parties and politics which have rolled back on their commitment to gender equality and democratic values. This panel will address the intersections of such de-democratisation processes with gender and other inequalities, by focusing on contemporary forms of 'opposition to gender equality' and their relationship to democratic backsliding.

*Moderator: Ruth Rubio Marín*, Professor, European University Institute

*Co-Moderator:* **Lucrecia Rubio Grundell**, MSCA-COFOUND-UNA4CAREER, and Postdoctoral fellow, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

*Speakers:*

**Neil Datta**, Executive Director, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

**Maria Jepsen**, Deputy Director, Eurofound

**Johanna Kantola**, Professor, European Politics, Helsinki University

**Carlien Scheele**, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality

12:30-14:00 *Lunch*

14:10-15:10 **Parallel panels**

**REFETTORIO**

14:10-15:10

**Implementing the CoFoE: Has the time come for Treaty change?**

*Opening:* **Salvatore De Meo**, AFCO Chair, European Parliament

Amidst a multitude of interconnected risks and increasingly complex transnational challenges, are the European Treaties still fit for purpose? Last updated in 2007, the EU's foundational legal instruments and principles are not always apt to address the emerging phenomenon of the 'polycrisis'. In May 2022, the citizen-led Conference on the Future of Europe (COFE) presented a total of 49 proposals and 325 recommendations to the European institutions detailing their vision for the Union they want, many of which require Treaty change. The European Parliament has adopted a Resolution favouring a re-opening of the Treaties and work is ongoing to identify specific policy areas where amendments may be due. Will the EU be able to deliver better on a newfound vision for the Union, or continue along the path of incrementalism?

*Moderator:* **Kalypso Nicolaidis**, Professor, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Alberto Alemanno**, Jean Monnet Professor, HEC Paris

**Brando Benifei**, Member, European Parliament

**Thu Nguyen**, Policy Fellow, Jacques Delors Centre

**TEATRO**

14:10-15:10

**The geopolitics of the energy transition: Is strategic autonomy the solution or the problem?**

This panel will address the growing concerns over global scarcity of critical raw materials, advanced technologies and skilled labour as countries transition to renewable energy. Access to all three is key to realise this transition. But as countries and continents scramble for autonomy and self-reliance, there will inevitably be winners and losers – or is it possible to strive for a 'just transition'. What is the impact of major national initiatives to boost self-sufficiency of critical resources on the wider global community? Are energy markets likely to remain open – regionally and globally? Can we learn from the past over-dependency on oil and gas and avoid repeating past mistakes? How will this impact relations with trade partners? These are urgent issues that necessitate a wide-ranging debate. This panel will draw on a rich range of academic and professional expertise and experience from several continents.

*Moderator:* **Leigh Hancher**, Professor, European University Institute

*Co-moderator:* **Max Münchmeyer**, Researcher, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Matthias Berninger**, Executive Vice President, Public Affairs, Science, Sustainability & HSE, Bayer

**Christopher Knittel**, George P. Shultz Professor, MIT Sloan School of Management

**Helen Thompson**, Professor, Cambridge University

**Georg Zachmann**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel

15:10-15:20 *Break*

15:20-16:20 **Parallel panels**

15:20-16:20

**REFETTORIO**
**Global health: After the panic, can we avoid the neglect?**

**Opening:** **Anders Nordström**, Ambassador for Global Health, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Over three years of COVID-19 pandemic have left deep scars in the economy and society, with mid- to long-term impacts that scholars and policymakers are only starting to identify and measure. Experts agree that February 2020 was a “lost month” due to hesitancy in declaring SARS-COV-2 a pandemic; 2021 was a “lost year” in the quest for more equitable access to knowledge and technology for more decentralised vaccine production, and we now face a “lost decade” for sustainable development. Yet, global priorities have already shifted towards new challenges, from inflation to the looming recession, the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis, while proposed reforms in global health governance appear to be unlikely to fix the root causes of the deadliest pandemic of the past century. This panel will discuss the main lessons the world can learn from COVID-19, as well as actions that are needed today to strengthen global resilience in the face of ongoing and future health emergencies. The panel will also discuss Europe’s new global health strategy (adopted by the end of 2022), and whether its ambition to become a leading actor in global health is matched by current reforms, governance and resources.

*Moderator:* **Andrea Renda**, Professor, European University Institute

*Co-Moderator:* **Daiva Repeckaite**, Policy Leader Fellow, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Oxana Domenti**, Representative to the European Union, WHO

**Heidi Larson**, Director, Vaccine Confidence Project

**Peter Piot**, Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

15:20-16:20

**TEATRO**
**Crisis management and the sharing of catastrophic risks**

Europe may be made by crisis, but that does not mean the impact of crisis management is the same everywhere. On the contrary, the implications are often very different, depending on the wealth of national endowments, the strength of public finances, and the quality of public administration. Nowhere is this truer than in the massive efforts required for the digital and green transition coming in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. In the course of dealing with permanent crisis, the EU has developed a number of policy schemes to back up member states in their national responses. This panel will discuss whether these schemes amount to a system of reinsurance and the lessons to be drawn from its achievements and failures for even bigger challenges, such as climate change and geopolitical conflict.

*Moderator:* **Waltraud Schelkle**, Professor, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Laszlo Andor**, Secretary General, Foundation for European Progressive Studies

**Thorsten Beck**, Professor, European University Institute

**Sylvie Goulard**, Member of the French Diplomatic Service, Republic of France

**Kathleen R. McNamara**, Professor, Georgetown University

16:20-16:30

**Break**

16:30-17:30

**Parallel panels**

16:30-17:30

**TEATRO**
**The citizen is not a dataset**

AI-informed decision-making is increasingly creating inroads into highly consequential public domains. Intellectual property and secrecy considerations should not without more trump democratic public values considerations in such critical domains. Reliance on proprietary models entails that algorithm set-up, methodology, and functioning will remain undisclosed to the public bodies, including to those adversely affected by

decisions informed by it and/or to citizens, removing any opportunity for scrutiny and meaningful democratic oversight. In a context where the users are public authorities – increasingly operating and using high-risk systems in areas hugely sensitive for citizens and their lives – it is urgent and salient to rethink democratic accountability in this specific context. Is emerging legislation, like the EU AI Act, and other regulatory initiatives elsewhere adequately engaging with end users as (democratic) citizens? How are public values adequately protected in proprietary models? What more is required of private companies engaging with the public interest?

*Moderator:* **Deirdre Curtin**, Professor, European University Institute

*Co-moderator:* **Francisco De Abreu Duarte**, Researcher, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Brando Benifei**, Member, European Parliament

**Madalina Busuioc**, Professor, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

**Sofia Ranchordas**, Professor, University of Tilburg and LUISS

**Marc Rotenberg**, President and Founder, Center for AI and Digital Policy

### REFETTORIO

16:30-17:30

#### Fragmentation, disorder, and the reconstruction of Europe's global role

*Opening:* **Timothy Garton Ash**, Professor of European Studies, University of Oxford

The global order is changing and possibly fragmenting at a time when our most important challenges – climate, energy, pandemic, migration – are reaching global dimensions. Future generations will possibly face these challenges with fewer opportunities for effective global coordination. This is the context within which the Dahrendorf Programme at the University of Oxford has brought together eight leading institutions of higher learning from Asia, Europe, and North America to ask how young people perceive Europe both from within the European Union and from the perspective of other continents. In this panel, we will ask provocative and important questions pertaining to the future relevance of Europe. What is Europe's contribution to world order, either real or potential? How do other parts of the world think about Europe and how does Europe think about other parts of the world? What is Europe? The answers will provide us with insights on what connects or disconnects us in Europe and the rest of the world and will outline the potential for younger generations to reimagine Europe and to reconstruct Europe's global role.

*Moderator:* **Kalypso Nicolaïdis**, Professor, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Senem Aydin-Düzgit**, Professor, Sabancı University

**Xiaoyu Lu**, Professor, Peking University

**Hartmut Mayer**, Director, European Studies Centre, University of Oxford

17:30-17:40

*Break*

17:40-18:40

Parallel panels

### TEATRO

17:40-18:40

#### Should the European Union create its own superstar tech firms?

Much of the conversation about the EU initiatives towards the digital economy focuses on policy and regulatory leadership. However, talks about the “Brussels effect” crowd out existential economic questions like the EU's struggle to produce new, fast-growing, and innovative companies that are key to economic prosperity and strategic autonomy. This panel will discuss what the EU can do to create its own tech “giants”. A particular attention will be paid to issues related to the completion of the single market, in particular through further integration of financial, product and services markets.

*Moderator:* **Aoife White**, Technology and Competition Editor, Politico Europe

*Speakers:*



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**Jean François Bobier**, Partner and Director, Technology Advantage practice, Boston Consulting Group

**Dita Charanzova**, Vice-President, European Parliament

**Nicolas Colin**, Co-Founder and Director, The Family

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17:40-18:40

**REFETTORIO**

**Does globalisation have a future?**

**Opening: Mairead McGuinness**, Commissioner for Financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union, European Commission

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The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have raised important questions about the vulnerabilities attached to global supply chains. Governments have responded by re-shoring and friend-shoring important areas of activity. Yet not all minerals are equally distributed and not all productive technologies are equally available. Some comparative advantage and some specialisation in the distribution of labour must remain. The question is whether this level of activity is enough to justify the maintenance of a global economic system with all the institutions that it entails for the governance of trade, payments, and cross-border investment. Does globalisation have a future or is the global economy fundamentally changed?

*Moderator:* **George Papakonstantinou**, Professor, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Alicia Garcia Herrero**, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, NATIXIS

**Misha Glenny**, Rector, IWM

**Ben Hall**, Europe Editor, Financial Times

**Jan Mischke**, Partner, McKinsey Global Institute

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18:50-19:20

*Closing Conversation Plenary* **REFETTORIO**

**The New European Security Order**

*Conversation with* **Borut Pahor**, Former President, Republic of Slovenia *and*

**Alexander Stubb**, Director, and Professor, School of Transnational Governance, EUI

*Moderator:* **Suzanne Lynch**, Europe's Chief Brussels Correspondent, Politico

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19:20 - 22:30

*Social Event, Gardens of Badia Fiesolana*

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# SOU2023 - *Building Europe in times of uncertainty*

The language of the event is English.

**Friday, 5 May 2023 | Palazzo Vecchio**

08:00-15:00	<p>Registration throughout the day <i>Master of Ceremonies</i> <b>Méabh Mc Mahon</b>, European affairs correspondent, Euronews</p>
09:00-09:15	<p><i>Welcome by</i> <b>Dario Nardella</b>, Mayor, City of Florence <b>Eugenio Giani</b>, President, Tuscany Region <b>Renaud Dehousse</b>, President, European University Institute</p>
09:15-09:40	<p><i>SOU2023 institutional opening</i> <b>What future for the European foreign policy?</b> <i>Conversation between</i> <b>Josep Borrell Fontelles</b>, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President, European Commission <i>and</i> <b>Méabh Mc Mahon</b>, European affairs correspondent, Euronews</p>
09:40-10:00	<p><i>Reaction to</i> <b>What future for the European foreign policy?</b> <i>Conversation with</i> <b>Arnaud Danjean</b>, Subcommittee on Security and Defence, European Parliament <i>and</i> <b>Norbert Röttgen</b>, Member, German Bundestag <i>Moderator:</i> <b>Méabh Mc Mahon</b>, European affairs correspondent, Euronews</p>
10:00-11:00	<p><b>A silver lining from the energy crisis? Strengthening the delivery of the EU's net-zero goal, citizen welfare and energy security in responding to the energy crisis</b> <b>Opening on green finance:</b> <b>Frank Elderson</b>, Member of the Executive Board, and Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board, European Central Bank</p> <p>Europe is facing the most serious energy crisis in its history. Deliveries from Russia, previously the EU's largest gas supplier, have been reduced to a fraction of 2020 volumes. Europe's energy security of supply is under threat and energy prices have skyrocketed. In response, the EU has adopted new legal acts at unprecedented speed and EU Member States are providing support to households and industry. But these necessary short-term reactions have also led to challenges – and opportunities – to decarbonisation goals. Accelerating delivery on the core measures – energy efficiency and massive investments in renewable energy – must be the foundation of the EU's response, as well as rapidly diversifying gas supplies away from Russia. How can Europe's industrial competitiveness be maintained in the transitional phase, and how can we ensure that energy poverty across the whole EU is avoided?</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Andris Piebalgs</b>, Professor, European University Institute <i>Co-moderator:</i> <b>Marzia Sesini</b>, Research Associate, European University Institute</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <b>Cristian Busoi</b>, Chair, ITRE Committee, European Parliament <b>Marco Buti</b>, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Economy, European Commission <b>Ditte Juul Jørgensen</b>, Director-General for Energy, European Commission</p>
11:00-11:30	<p><b>Love thy neighbour: Central European politics and the war in Ukraine</b> <i>Conversation between</i> <b>Rastislav Káčar</b>, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovak Republic <i>and</i> <b>Alexander Schallenberg</b>, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Republic of Austria <i>Moderator:</i> <b>Peggy Hollinger</b>, International Business Editor, Financial Times</p>
11:30-12:00	<p><b>The State of the Union 2023 Lecture – Q&amp;A</b></p>

At the peak of the sovereign debt crisis in 2013, Angela Merkel summarised the dominant thinking of the time, by implicating that Europe is not competitive because, comprising only 7% of the world's population, contributing the 25% of the world's GDP, it spends 50% of the global outlays on social protection. The idea that there is a trade-off between social protection and competitiveness goes back to the founding moments of the Single Market and EMU in the 1980s and 1990s. An internal market level-playing field, laced with a monetary union, lacking a lender-of-last-result facility, and a fiscal compact based on the infamous no-bailout clause, and 3% and 60% threshold for public deficits and debt, were believed to help keep member states' allegedly 'wasteful' welfare in check. How different Europe looks like today. The ECB has become, as it should, a formidable lender of last resort in the wake of the Great Recession; the EU has finally come round on macroeconomic stabilisation through SURE and fiscal solidarity with the RRF. These shifts were decidedly prefaced by two key lessons in welfare provision arising from the experience of the global financial crisis. In hindsight, the more inclusive welfare states of the EU buffered the Great Recession the best for both the macroeconomy and poverty mitigation, and, among them, the most active ones bounced back from the COVID-19 pandemic the fastest. Welfare provision, if it organised around the principles of inclusive buffers, gender-balanced life-course and labour market transitions, and life-long human capital stock development and maintenance, is a formidable productive factor. It took some time for EU policy makers to come round on the positive consensus and to establish an E(M)U holding environment for active (social investment) welfare states to prosper.

**Anton Hemerijck**, Professor, European University Institute

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**12:00 – 12:10** *Presentation of the **Solidarity in Europe Survey**: joint project EUI - YouGov, by **Luís Russo**, Researcher, European University Institute*

**12:10 - 13:30** **Light Lunch**

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*Welcome to the afternoon session of SOU2023*

**13:30-13:35** **Antonio Mazzeo**, President of the Regional Council, Tuscany Region  
**Carlo Corazza**, Head, European Parliament Liaison Office, Italy  
**Carlo Mannoni**, Fondazione di Sardegna

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**13:35-13:50** **A Sager, greener, and freer Europe**  
*Conversation between **Tobias Billström**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sweden and **Méabh Mc Mahon**, European affairs correspondent, Euronews*

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**13:50-14:50** **What European security architecture for the future?**

Many observe that Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine is a "turning point in our history" (Draghi, Macron). The war brought transatlantic allies together, it changed the EU membership prospects for the countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe and accelerated the creation of new institutional layers such as the European Political Community. It also hardened the cleavage between Russia and the EU. How can we envision a European security architecture for the future? What is the accession process meant to accomplish? This panel will feature expertise in peace and conflict from various international organisations such as the EU, NATO, and the OSCE.

*Moderator:* **Erik Jones**, Director, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

*Speakers:*

**Benedetta Berti**, Head of Policy Planning, NATO

**Kristi Raik**, Deputy Director, International Centre for Defence and Security

**Nathalie Tocci**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali

**Tuula Yrjölä**, Director, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), and Deputy Head, OSCE Secretariat

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**14:50-15:10** *Closing session **Towards a fairer and greener European economy***  
*Conversation between **Paolo Gentiloni**, Commissioner for Economy, European Commission and **Suzanne Lynch**, Europe's Chief Brussels Correspondent, Politico*

**15.30 – 21.00 | venerdì, 5 maggio 2023 | Palazzo Vecchio**

**SOU4YOU**

**The State of the Union per i giovani cittadini  
Europei - Edizione 2023 - FdE**

**Entrata: Cortile del Michelozzo**

**15.30 - 18.30: Cortile della Dogana**

**16.45 - 19.30: Salone de' Cinquecento**

**20.00 - 21.30: Salone de' Cinquecento – PLAY**

Programma - [LINK](#)

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