



THE STATE OF THE UNION 2024

Conference programme

Badia Fiesolana, 23 and 24 May

Palazzo Vecchio, afternoon of 24 May

WORK IN PROGRESS

THE STATE OF THE UNION

23 – 24 May 2024, Florence | 14th Edition

[The State of the Union conference](#), established in 2011, serves as a premier platform to showcase the exceptional research undertaken at the [European University Institute \(EUI\)](#). Founded in 1972, the EUI is a unique postgraduate research institution and intergovernmental organization. Located in the heart of Tuscany, it fosters a vibrant intellectual community where scholars from across Europe and beyond collaborate on critical issues facing the continent. The State of the Union conference embodies this spirit of collaboration, bringing together leading EUI researchers with prominent policymakers and practitioners to explore solutions to complex challenges shaping the future of Europe.

SOU2024 – A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW

The 14th edition of The State of the Union conference, held on 23 and 24 May 2024, in Florence, promises a comprehensive exploration of critical issues facing the European Union today. Over two days, the conference will feature a dynamic blend of high-level conversations, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, fostering inclusive dialogue among prominent figures, academics, policymakers, and stakeholders from across Europe and beyond.

FOCUS ON CURRENT EVENTS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

The conference program reflects the current geopolitical climate and brings together critical discussions on Europe's future. From navigating the geopolitical landscape and economic uncertainties to tackling climate change and the digital revolution, the conference explores how to build a more resilient and prosperous Europe.

Key themes include the future of enlargement, economic policies, and the upcoming European elections. Sustainability takes centre stage with discussions on a green energy transition that fosters regional cohesion and combats climate change. Digital transformation is another focus, with experts exploring how to boost competitiveness, create a robust digital public infrastructure, and navigate the complexities of AI and blockchain regulation. The conference doesn't shy away from pressing issues like strengthening democracy, foreign interference, and the war in Ukraine.

The event also features a unique participatory session designed to encourage public engagement in shaping Europe's destiny. Join the State of the Union Conference and be part of the conversation on building a better future for all.

HIGH-PROFILE SPEAKERS AND INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

Over hundred and fifty high-profile speakers are confirmed to participate, including presidents, prime ministers, commissioners, CEOs, academics, and experts. These figures will lead high-level conversations and engage in panel discussions, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas.

Interactive discussions are a cornerstone of the conference format. Each panel and conversation will be designed to encourage audience participation, ensuring a truly inclusive forum for exploring solutions to complex challenges.

ENHANCING GENDER BALANCE AND INCLUSIVITY

The organizers are committed to achieving a strong gender balance among speakers and stakeholders. They are actively working to ensure representation from diverse backgrounds, including internal EUI researchers and external financing partners. This commitment to inclusivity will enrich the conference with a variety of perspectives and experiences.

A LOOK AHEAD

The State of the Union 2024 conference promises to be a stimulating and thought-provoking event. By bringing together a diverse range of voices, the conference will provide a valuable platform for shaping the future of Europe in an increasingly complex world.

THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The conference is steered by a Scientific Committee composed of representatives from across the EUI. These experts leverage their diverse knowledge and professional networks to design the programme, in cooperation with colleagues, students, alumni, and other stakeholders from all parts of the Institute.

Marco Del Punta,

Secretary General, EUI (Chair)

Monika Baar,

Professor and Joint Chair, Department of History and Robert Schuman Centre, EUI

Elena Calsamiglia,

Researcher, Department of Law, EUI

Jeffrey T. Checkel,

Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences, EUI

Marco Incerti,

Director, Communications Service, EUI

Erik Jones,

Director, RSCAS, EUI

Fabrizia Mealli,

Professor, Department of Economics, EUI

Kalypso Nicolaïdis,

Professor, STG, EUI

Georgios Papakonstantinou,

Acting Director and Dean of Executive Education, STG, EUI

Nicolas Petit,

Head of Department, Department of Law, EUI

AMONGST THE HIGH-PROFILE SPEAKERS | **CONFIRMED** | In alphabetical order

The State of the Union 2024 brings together a distinguished group of thought leaders to delve into Europe's most pressing issues. This impressive roster includes presidents, prime ministers, EU commissioners, CEOs, and renowned academics, offering a wealth of experience and diverse perspectives.

- **Leila Benali**, Minister for the Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco
- **Laurence Boone**, Former Secretary of State for European Affairs, France
- **Josep Borrell Fontelles**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President, European Commission
- **Nadia Calviño**, President, European Investment Bank
- **Martin Dvořák**, Minister for European Affairs, Czech Republic
- **Elsa Fornero**, Former Minister of Labour and Social Policies, Italy
- **Pierre Gramegna**, Managing Director, European Stability Mechanism (ESM)
- **Wopke Hoekstra**, Commissioner for Climate Action, European Commission
- **Věra Jourová**, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, European Commission
- **Kaja Kallas**, Prime Minister, Estonia (**Considering**)
- **Enrico Letta**, Former Prime Minister, Italy, and President, Jacques Delors Institute
- **Ursula Owusu-Ekufu**, Minister of Communications and Digitalisation, Ghana
- **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, President of the Republic, Portugal
- **Katerina Sakellariopoulou**, President of the Republic, Greece
- **Margaritis Schinas**, Vice-President for the Promotion of the European Way of Life, European Commission
- **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, CEO, New America
- **Dubravka Šuica**, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission
- **Andrzej Szeptycki**, Under-Secretary of State, Poland
- **Antonio Tajani**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy
- **Donald Tusk**, Prime Minister, Poland (**Considering**)

The State of the Union 2024 | Programme as of 15 April 2024

Thursday 23 May 2024 | European University Institute, Badia Fiesolana

NOTE: Number of panels, high-level conversations and their timings are indicative and subject to change.

11:30-20:00	Registration throughout the day
11:30-13:00	Arrival and Tuscan tasting
13:00-20:00	<i>Master of ceremonies</i> Méabh Mc Mahon , European affairs correspondent, Euronews (Confirmed)
13:00-13:10	Opening of the 14th edition of The State of the Union Patrizia Nanz , President, EUI (Confirmed) Eugenio Giani , President, Tuscan Region (Confirmed) Anna Ravoni , Mayor, City of Fiesole (Confirmed) Carlo Corazza , Director, European Parliament Office in Italy (Confirmed)
13:10-14:20	High-level conversation Format to be confirmed – Title tbc Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa , President of the Republic, Portugal (Confirmed), Katerina Sakellaropoulou , President of the Republic, Greece (Confirmed) and EUI Researcher tbc Moderator: Henry Foy , Brussels Bureau Chief, Financial Times (Confirmed)
14:20-14:30	Break
14:30-15:40	N. 3 Parallel panels
14:30-15:40 <i>Geopolitics and the Enlargement of the EU</i> EUI Scientific Coordinator: Erik Jones Kalypso Nicolaidis	A brave new EU: Rethinking the (geo)politics of enlargement The tectonic shift in global geopolitics caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine has irrevocably linked the security architecture of the European Union (EU) to the question of the Union’s enlargement. This policy has proven ineffective in the Western Balkans, raising questions as to its credibility for integrating the Eastern Partnership countries, including Ukraine. How can the EU become politically, institutionally, and financially prepared for 30+ members? What will such a Union look like, and what place will the current aspiring members have in it? In this panel, we discuss the modalities in which the EU’s enlargement policy can be reformed to best balance the challenge of the new geopolitical reality against the internal need for institutional reform and democratic legitimacy. We propose avenues through which the Union could have a greater impact on the transformation of (potential) candidate countries locked in protracted political and economic transitions. <i>Opening:</i> Martin Dvořák , Minister for European Affairs, Czech Republic (Confirmed) <i>Moderator:</i> Jelena Džankić , Professor, Global Governance Programme, EUI (Confirmed) <i>Co-moderator:</i> Georgian-Marius Ghincea , Researcher, Political and Social Sciences, EUI (Confirmed) <i>Speakers:</i> Anna Jarosz-Friis , Director, Ukraine Service, DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission (Confirmed) Hennadiy Maksak , Executive Director, Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” (Confirmed) Milena Mihajlović , Programme Director, European Policy Centre (CEP) (Confirmed) Nathalie Tocci , Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, and Professor, STG, EUI (Confirmed)
14:30-15:40 <i>Climate change green transition</i>	Bertelsmann Stiftung How can the green energy transition succeed without harming regional cohesion in Europe?

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Erik Jones
Malte Zabel

The latest research by Bertelsmann Stiftung on the EU economy comes to a surprising conclusion: Less-developed, rural regions in the EU could gain significantly in economic prosperity from a transition to renewable energy, while urban areas with high energy demands could face setbacks. In short, it's well worth it for rural regions to pursue a renewable energy overhaul although their support is currently rather limited, while urban areas with high support for green policies could face future financial and political hurdles due to rising costs and political "greenlash." This panel will grapple with the implications of these findings for policymakers, businesses and consumers and address questions like:

- How can policymakers ensure buy-in from rural regions by highlighting these benefits? And what can be done to forestall waning support for green energy policies in urban areas?
- How can rural and urban regions work together to leverage the strengths of each to meet the needs of the other? What can be done to end up with a mutually beneficiary outcome?
- What synergies can be leveraged between the EU's cohesion policy and energy policy? Can cohesion policy support energy policy goals?

Moderator: **Paul Adamson**, Founder, Encompass Europe (Confirmed)

Co-moderator: **Nathan Crist**, Project Manager, Europe's Future Program, Bertelsmann Stiftung (Confirmed)

Speakers:

Catherine Fieschi, Visiting Fellow, RSCAS, EUI (Confirmed)

Thomas Schwab, Project Manager, Europe's Future Program, Bertelsmann Stiftung (Confirmed)

Anna Sobczak, Policy Coordinator for the Strategic Energy Technology Plan, DG for Energy, European Commission (Considering)

14:30-15:40

Industrial policy

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
**Georgios
Papakonstantinou**

European competitiveness of the single market: What the future holds

This panel will explore the rationale and contours of an emerging EU industrial policy and address the debate between protection vs. protectionism in the context of ongoing work to reform the EU Single Market and define a new strategy for competitiveness at EU level. The green transition will be discussed as a test case for this new strategy. Does it try to accelerate the green transition through promotion and protection of more sustainable products and production methods? Or does it prioritise geopolitical competition for resources like rare earths that may feed into the green transition but above all benefits established players in the fossil-based economy?

Moderator: **Waltraud Schelkle**, Joint Chair for European Public Policy, EUI (Confirmed)

Co-moderator: **Jordy Weyns**, Researcher, Political and Social Sciences, EUI (Confirmed)

Speakers:

Enrico Letta, Former Prime Minister, Italy, and President, Jacques Delors Institute (Confirmed)

Jan Mischke, Partner, McKinsey Global Institute (Confirmed)

Markus Reinisch, Vice President for Europe Public Policy, Meta (Confirmed)

Daniela Schwarzer, Member of the Executive Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung (Confirmed)

Laurence Tubiana, CEO, European Climate Foundation (ECF) (Confirmed)

15:40-15:45

Break

15:45-16:55

N. 3 Parallel panels

15:45-16:55

Demography

Ageing society: Threat or opportunity?

The European Union faces a complex challenge characterised by increasing life expectancy, diminishing fertility rates, and the ensuing phenomenon of

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Fabrizia Mealli

demographic aging. This pervasive trend, though varying in intensity among member states, necessitates sustainable policy responses to address its multifaceted socioeconomic repercussions. Key considerations involve adapting welfare state policies to accommodate evolving occupational patterns, productivity levels, and changing social benefit provisions. This panel seeks to explore pivotal topics such as promoting active and healthy aging, sustaining welfare systems amidst youth labor market participation, leveraging migration to address declining birth rates, and navigating the delicate balance between pro-natal policies and women's workforce engagement. Additionally, the panel will delve into the implications of a shrinking working-age population on technology adoption, automation, and the potential role of artificial intelligence in mitigating these challenges. Moreover, it will scrutinize whether immigration offers a more efficient and climate-friendly solution to the strain on social security and pension systems compared to pursuing higher fertility rates.

Opening: **Dubravka Šuica**, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

Moderator: **Alexander Monge-Naranjo**, Head of Department, Department of Economics, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Co-moderator: **Edoardo Frattola**, Economist, Bank of Italy and Researcher, Economics, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Arnstein Aassve, Professor of Demography, Bocconi University ([Confirmed](#))

Elsa Fornero, Professor of Political Economics, University of Turin ([Confirmed](#))

Franca van Hooren, Professor of Political Science, University of Amsterdam ([Confirmed](#))

15:45-16:55

Digital transition

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Nicolas Petit

The state of generative AI

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is gaining traction in Europe and the rest of the world. Thanks to large language models, AI systems have learned to speak and write. They can engage in meaningful conversations and can produce a vast range of texts, from literary essays to computer programs. Multimodal systems can shift from one to the other mode of expression, generating images or sounds from texts or viceversa. We are still wondering what technological and social prospect are opened by this amazing and to a large extent unexpected breakthrough, while popular applications such as GPT or Midjourney are already reshaping the way we produce and consume knowledge, including text, image, video or sound generation. GenAI is likely to have a major impact on our understandings of labor, creativity, speech, or identity, as it enters domains that we have so far assumed to be ultimately human. But what, exactly, is this technology about? What are its capabilities, limits and development prospects? How should we regulate it? Do the AI-Act rules on foundation systems provide an adequate framework? This panel focuses on the challenges brought about by this technology, it examines how its technological potential can be harnessed for good and its risks mitigated and discusses its regulation.

Moderator: **Giovanni Sartor**, Professor, Legal Informatics and Legal Theory, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Co-moderator: **Francisco De Abreu Duarte**, Researcher, Law, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Rima Alaily, Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Microsoft ([Confirmed](#))

Audrey Herblin-Stoop, Head of Global Public Affairs, Mistral AI ([Confirmed](#))

Orly Lobel, Warren Distinguished Professor of Law, and Director, Center for Employment and Labor Policy, University of San Diego ([Confirmed](#))

Roberto Navigli, Professor of Natural Language Processing, Sapienza University of Rome ([Confirmed](#))

15:45-16:55

Industrial policy

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Marco Buti
Cosimo Pacciani

Paul Nemitz, Principal Adviser on the Digital Transition, DG for Justice and Consumers, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

Marco Pancini, Head of EU Affairs, Meta ([Confirmed](#))

Poste Italiane

The last mile of European integration: adapting the European public goods for the digital era

During the recent crises (Covid-19 and Ukraine), the EU developed a number of policies and instruments representing a break with past practice and revamping the discussion on European public goods. The urgent needs associated to the supply of vital services and the acceleration of a series of macro-trends (e.g. digitalization and climate change's adaptation) will require a new understanding on how European Public Goods are defined, financed and distributed among all European citizens, also in forms of services of general interest.

This panel will explore the concept and contours of European public goods, the key role of developing "own resources" at EU level in this regard and how, in the context of their distribution through publicly or privately managed platforms, the EPCs will have a key role on creating more cohesion in Europe.

Opening: **Marcello Messori**, Professor, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Moderator: **Marco Buti**, Tommaso Padoa Schioppa Chair, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Robin Brooks, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution ([Confirmed](#))

Silvia Merler, Head of Research, Algebris, and Fellow, Bruegel ([Confirmed](#))

Silvia Rovere, President, Poste Italiane ([Confirmed](#))

Eric Von Breska, Director, DG for Budget, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

16:55-17:00

Break

17:00-18:10

N. 3 Parallel panels

17:00-18:10

Democracy

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Kalypso Nicolaïdis

Bolstering democracy in the EU: A progress report

This roundtable will discuss the record of the EU on bolstering democracy since the last European Parliament elections in 2019 and ask what next for the EU. It will include a discussion of the Democratic Resilience package, the Conference on the Future of Europe, the new European Citizen Panels in Spring 2023 and 2024, the EP's Agora and the European Citizens Initiative record as well as the Defense of Democracy Package issued in December 2023.

Opening: **Dubravka Šuica**, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

Moderator: **Kalypso Nicolaïdis**, Lead, Transnational Democracy Cluster, EUI, and the EUI-led 'Democratic Odyssey' project ([Confirmed](#))

Roundtable with:

Franca Feisel, PhD Researcher, Department of Law, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Réka Heszterényi, Master Student, Florence School of Transnational Governance, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

James Mackay, Research Associate, Florence School of Transnational Governance, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Domínik Rehbaum, PhD Researcher, Department of Political and Social Sciences, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

17:00-18:10

Digital transition

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Meta

Strengthening EU digital competitiveness: Stoking the engine

This panel will discuss the independent report delivered by the European University Institute's (EUI) Centre for a Digital Society (CDS) commissioned by CCIA. The concept of the report is that not enough attention has been paid in

Pier Luigi Parcu

recent years to the need to strengthen EU competitiveness throughout the digital space, and it delves into why the EU has been less successful than the USA or China. An overview of the state of play and what effective action is needed to deal with known deficits will be provided.

Moderator: **Pier Luigi Parcu**, Director Centre for a Digital Society and Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, RSC, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Co-moderator: **Journalist**, Media Partner [tbc](#)

Speakers:

Daniel Friedlaender, Senior Vice President, and Head of Office, CCIA Europe ([Confirmed](#))

J. Scott Marcus, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS, Part-Time Assistant Professor, RSCAS, EUI, and Senior Fellow, Bruegel ([Confirmed](#))

Maria Alessandra Rossi, Associate Professor of Economic Policy, University of Chieti-Pescara, and Part-time Professor, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Amaryllis Verhoeven, Acting Director, Tourism, Textiles, Digital Transformation of Industry, and Social Economy, DG GROW, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

European Industry representative

17:00-18:10

*Climate change
green transition*

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Leonardo Meeus

Florence School of Regulation

The internal market and the EU green deal: Friends or foes?

We are celebrating the 30 years of the EU internal market. The internal market process also led to the development and integration of energy markets in Europe delivering millions or billions of euros in annual benefits. By pooling our resources, we increased our resilience against energy shocks, but we also increased our interdependencies. In the next decades, billions or trillions will be invested to live up to the ambitious decarbonization targets of the EU Green Deal and the Fit-for-55 package. To what extent will Member States continue to rely on energy markets to guide these investments? Will we increase cooperation across borders or favor local solutions? How can we avoid that EU Member States voluntarily or involuntarily free-ride our shared energy security at the expense of others?

Moderator: **Leonardo Meeus**, Director, Florence School of Regulation, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Co-moderator: **EUI researcher** or **Journalist**, Media Partner [tbc](#)

Speakers:

Anna Colucci, Director for Energy and Environment, DG for Competition, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

Leigh Hancher, Professor, FSR, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Clara Poletti, Chair, Board of Regulators of the EU Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators and Commissioner, Italian Energy Regulatory Authority ([Confirmed](#))

Mechthild Wörsdörfer, Deputy Director General, DG for Energy, European Commission ([Considering](#))

18:10-19:00

Plenary sessions

18:10-18:45

High-level conversation [title tbc](#)

18:45-19:00

Presentation of the solidarity in Europe survey: Joint project EUI – YouGov

Presented by: **Dietlind Stolle**, Visiting Fellow, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

19:00-20:00

Democracy

Participatory event at The State of the Union 2024 | Cloister, Badia Fiesolana

A state of union for all: Interactive dialogue on Europe's future with the public

The EUI is hosting a unique event that combines elements of democratic discussion and immersive theatre! This session aims to stimulate open political dialogue using emotional intelligence and playful, interactive activities. It will represent a radically inclusive space to discuss the 2024 European Parliament elections. This event supports the "Democratic Odyssey"

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

**Kalypso
Nicolaïdis**

initiative and explores innovative ways to involve citizens in future European elections.

The participation is open to EUI researchers, citizens, VIPs, politicians, and anyone interested in the topic.

What are the goals? We aim to:

- Increase participation from the EUI community and SOU participants.
- Help participants develop emotional intelligence.
- Contribute to the design of a Citizens Assembly model, focusing on creative facilitation techniques.
- Build on the "Democratic Odyssey" project's work toward a permanent citizens assembly in the European Union.

20:00-23:00

Social event | Gardens, Badia Fiesolana

NOTE: Number of panels, high-level conversations and their timings are indicative and subject to change.

BADIA FIESOLANA

08:00-09:00

Arrival and Tuscan breakfast

08:00-15:00

Registration throughout the day

08:45-09:00

Master of ceremonies

Méabh Mc Mahon, European affairs correspondent, Euronews (Confirmed)

09:00-10:10

N. 3 Parallel panels

09:00-10:10

Digital transition

EUI scientific
coordinator:
Nicolas Petit

Tech diplomacy: International cooperation for sustainable digital transition

The pivotal role of technology in today's global order has led to new transnational disputes. Facing governance and security challenges in emerging tech areas - from artificial intelligence to semiconductors, and from cybersecurity to internet governance - Tech Diplomacy has become a critical dimension of diplomatic dialogues. Here, state actors, industry, and civil society engage in both multilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The purpose of this roundtable is to examine the efficacy and constraints of existing diplomatic practices in the tech sector's international collaboration. Special focus will be given to the evolving interplay between technology and diplomacy, including the identification of effective practices and key participants in the realm of tech diplomacy. The discussion benefits from perspectives from tech diplomats, industry leaders, and scholars, who are approaching international cooperation in the tech sector from various angles.

Moderator: **Andrea Calderaro**, Visiting Fellow, RSCAS, EUI (Confirmed)

Co-moderator: **Nicolas Petit**, Head of Department, Department of Law, EUI (Confirmed)

Speakers:

Francesca Bria, President, Italian National Innovation Fund and Board Member, RAI (Confirmed)

Manon Le Blanc, EU Cyber Diplomat, EEAS (Confirmed)

Ursula Owusu-Ekufu, Minister of Communications, Ghana (Confirmed)

Anne-Marie Slaughter, CEO, New America (Confirmed)

09:00-10:10

Industrial policy

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
**Georgios
Papakonstantinou**

Are we out of the woods? The new economic policy mix

This panel will discuss post-inflation crisis economic scenarios from a global and European perspective and reconsider the challenges that these poses to economic policy in Europe. Managing high levels of debt, financing the many "transitions" and the post-war reconstruction(s), and strengthening resilience to tail risk, will require a reconsideration of the mode in which different policy institutions interact, in guaranteeing sustainable growth, stability and inclusiveness. Many factors point to a return of secular stagnation, with low growth and low or negative interest rates. A high level of geopolitical and economic uncertainty in the post COVID-19 world, however, raises the possibility that low growth will coexist with high borrowing costs in many countries. How can Europe improve its capacity to prevent such scenario, while creating the macroeconomic and financial premise for an efficient redirection of its high-quality resources towards innovative sectors and exploit the full potential of the single market?

Opening: **Laurence Boone**, Former Secretary of State for European Affairs, France (Confirmed)

Moderator: **Giancarlo Corsetti**, Professor, Economics, EUI (Confirmed)

Co-moderator: **Journalist, Media Partner** tbc

Speakers:

Daniela Gabor, Professor, UWE Bristol (Confirmed)

09:00-10:10

Geopolitics

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Erik Jones

Kalypso

Nicolaïdis

Pierre Olivier Gourinchas, Economic Counsellor and Director of the Research Department, International Monetary Fund ([Confirmed](#))

Sylvain Johansson, Director and Senior Partner, McKinsey Global Institute ([Confirmed](#))

Jeromin Zettelmeyer, Director, Bruegel ([Confirmed](#))

War, human rights, and double standards

The European Union's response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine was seen as determined and united. Accordingly, European member states pulled together to offer temporary protection to millions of Ukrainians displaced by the conflict. European institutions organised and coordinated unprecedented sanctions. European people experienced a profound energy crisis and began an equally profound energy transition. And, at least up to the end of 2023, all levels of governments worked to help support Ukraine with both humanitarian and military assistance in that country's efforts to resist and repel Russian aggression. Within Europe, this showunder of solidarity was cause for celebration in most seats of power. Outside Europe, however, the reception was very different. Many voices expressed dismay at the economic and humanitarian consequences of a prolonged conflict. Many also questioned why European responses to Ukraine were so different from European responses to other conflicts and refugee flows. Hamas' attack on the South of Israel and the Israeli government's response in Gaza only deepened concern about European commitment to the protection of human rights, and about its double standards and racialised politics, both within and outside Europe. Such concerns are not easily dismissed. They chip away at European self-perception of civilian power or normative power even as they threaten to undermine Europe's relations with other countries and its role in a changing world order. The challenge for European leaders is to explain such a gap in perception and action and ultimately the connection between European policy and European proclaimed values.

Opening: **Andrzej Szeptycki**, Under-Secretary of State, Poland ([Confirmed](#))

Moderator: **Catherine Fieschi**, Visiting Fellow, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Jan Beagle, Director-General, International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) ([Confirmed](#))

Pietro Ducci, Director-General, DG EXPO, European Parliament ([Confirmed](#))

Alice Ekman, Senior Analyst in charge of Asia, EU Institute for Security Studies ([Confirmed](#))

Revital Madar, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

10:10-10:15

Break

10:15-11:25

N. 3 Parallel panels

10:15-11:25

*Climate change
Green transition*

EUI scientific
coordinator:

Fabrizia Mealli

Resilient economies and institutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change

The frequency of natural disasters due to climate change is increasing, and institutions across different geographic areas are not equally ready to cope with such events. In fact, the lack of adequate institutional responses is likely to exacerbate the consequences of these events. Making the EU and developing countries better able to cope with the devastating consequences of climate change requires an articulated policy mix around carbon price, and resilient and reactive institutions and processes. Many economical, political and social lessons can be drawn from the recent health and war crises but also natural disasters. This panel will explore feasible manners to enhance resiliency to climate change pursuing the European Green Deal agenda, taking into consideration the climate mitigation policies. It will also address how to better prepare agriculture, biodiversity, the health system and our economies in general to cope with climate change and how to protect the most vulnerable populations in developing countries and in Europe.

Moderator: **Simone Borghesi**, Director of the Climate Area, Florence School of Regulation, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Co-moderator: **Fabrizia Mealli**, Professor, Economics, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Hans-Martin Füssel, Climate Change Adaptation Expert, European Environment Agency (EEA) ([Confirmed](#))

Shonali Pachauri, Research group leader, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) ([Confirmed](#))

Massamba Thiolye, Project Executive UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub, UN Climate Change Secretariat ([Confirmed](#))

Mira Manini Tiwari, Research Associate, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

10:15-11:25

Economy

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Erik Jones

Giancarlo Corsetti

New modes of European Macroeconomic Governance

New forms of European macroeconomic governance The European Union has reinvented macroeconomic governance over the past fifteen years – by rewriting the rules for fiscal policy coordination, creating new institutions for macroeconomic and financial stabilization, and, through Next Generation EU, developing a new pattern for promoting country-specific reforms by tying them to common European projects backed by common European resources. The result is an unprecedented form of cross-border macroeconomic policy coordination that does not look like a ‘federation’ but is certainly much more than exists in any international organization. The purpose of this panel is to take stock of the current arrangement – which is based to a large extent on instruments that are either officially ‘temporary’ or that have yet to be tested – and to explore what it tells us about the nature and direction of European integration.

Opening: **Pierre Gramegna**, Managing Director, European Stability Mechanism (ESM) ([Confirmed](#))

Moderator: **Benedicta Marzinotto**, Jean Monnet Fellow, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Co-moderator: **Journalist, Media Partner** tbc

Speakers:

Laurence Boone, Former Secretary of State for European Affairs, France ([Confirmed](#))

Declan Costello, Deputy Director-General, DG ECFIN, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

Pierre Gramegna, Managing Director, European Stability Mechanism (ESM) ([Confirmed](#))

Atanas Pekanov, Economist, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) and Former Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Bulgaria ([Confirmed](#))

10:15-11:25

Geopolitics

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Marco Incerti

Paolo Cesarini

European Media and Information Fund (EMIF) and Countering Foreign Interference (CFI)

Blurring Lines: Foreign interference and local proxies

This panel, jointly organised by the European Media and Information Fund (EMIF) and the European Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)-led Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) project, will discuss foreign interference in Europe, and the role that local proxies play in supporting and amplifying their harmful effects.

The central focus of the panel is the interplay between state-backed foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI); the EU member states and partner countries that they target; and local proxies (such as paramilitary organisations, local political actors and media outlets, mercenary groups, etc) within these states. These local proxies have been known to further amplify and disseminate manipulated narratives within their networks. Moreover, based on relevant research, the European Parliament’s ING2 Special Committee on foreign interference in all democratic processes in the European Union, including disinformation, has pointed out these issues as highly problematic and in need of urgent attention. In the context of the upcoming European elections, held shortly after this event, FIMI threats are particularly salient and even more

acutely relevant to address as effectively as possible leveraging existing tools or developing new measures.

Opening: **Věra Jourová**, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

Moderator: **Paolo Cesarini**, Programme Director, European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) and the European Media and Information Fund (EMIF) ([Confirmed](#))

Co-moderator: **Nad'a Kovalčíková**, Senior Analyst and CFI Project Director, EUISS ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Aude Maio Coliche, Director for Strategic Communication and Foresight, EU Diplomatic Service, EEAS ([Confirmed](#))

Jakub Kalenský, Deputy Director of COI Hybrid Influence, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats and Visiting professor, College of Europe ([Confirmed](#))

Irène Mingasson, Head of Unit, Rapid Response Europe, Asia & Americas, European Commission ([Invited](#))

Gianni Riotta, Director, LUISS School of Journalism Data Lab Luiss/IDMO ([Confirmed](#))

Clint Watts, General Manager, Threat Analysis Center, Microsoft ([Confirmed](#))

11:25-11:30

Break

11:30-12:40

N. 3 Parallel panels

11:30-12:40

Industrial Policy

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Elena Calsamiglia

Rethinking sustainability in Europe in the path to sustainability

To deliver on the European Green Deal, European institutions have put in place several initiatives aiming to reform the EU economic and financial system to address the climate and sustainability crisis. However, these reform efforts do not seem to be heading in the right direction. Many are facing technical and political obstacles to be implemented. At the same time, increased widespread awareness of the multiple dimensions of the sustainability crisis is sparking debates as to the real effectiveness of these initiatives. According to some, the capitalist economic system is no more fit for the contemporary socio-economic reality, and a more radical reform is urgently needed to safeguard the health of the planet and future generations. Against this backdrop, a number of questions arise. Can capitalism be reconciled with the transition to sustainability? Does the transition require a deeper transformation of the existing economic model and of the underlying social contract? If so, what are the main obstacles for this shift of paradigm in Europe? How does the inherent interconnection and competitiveness of the global economy affect and influence the EU space of action? Bringing together academics, practitioners and policymakers, this panel will explore innovations, challenges and contradictions of EU policy on redressing capitalism.

Moderator: **Elena Calsamiglia**, PhD Researcher, Department of Law, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Co-moderator: **Sophie Hölscher**, PhD Researcher, Department of Law, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Kenneth Amaeshi, Professor, STG, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Dan Dionisie, Head of Unit, Company law JUST.A.3, DG for Justice and Consumers, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

Ioannis Kampourakis, Assistant Professor in Law and Markets, Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam ([Confirmed](#))

Caroline Paulick-Thiel, Executive Director, Politics for Tomorrow ([Confirmed](#))

11:30-12:40

Democracy

European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

The 2024 European elections: A crossroads for democracy

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Marco Incerti

In June around 400 million EU citizens will go to the polls to cast a vote that will have a momentous impact on Europe's future. Once again, the elections will represent a crucial moment for the European Parliament to underline its role in legitimating a multilevel democratic political system. How do we make sure that people are able to and interested in participating in the European elections? What role will party-political dynamics play at the national and European levels? How do we ensure free and fair elections, not affected by major disinformation campaigns and foreign interference? These key questions will be addressed by a panel comprised of officials, academics, and practitioners, who will also strive to put forward innovative proposals to make the exercise more effective.

Moderator: **Etienne Bassot**, Director, Directorate Members' Research Service, European Parliament ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Simon Hix, Professor of Comparative Politics, EUI

Pascale Joannin, Managing Director, Robert Schuman Foundation ([Confirmed](#))

Silvia Kotanidis, Policy Analyst, Citizens' Policies Unit, EPRS ([Confirmed](#))

Micaela del Monte, Head of Citizens Policies Unit, EPRS ([Confirmed](#))

11:30-12:40

Democracy

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Erik Jones
Goran Buldioski

Open Society Foundations

Building Ukraine back better

The 'reconstruction' of Ukraine in response to Russia's brutal war of aggression began on the second day of the conflict and will continue for the foreseeable future. What was immediately obvious is that the challenge for policymakers – and for the Ukrainian people – goes far beyond reconstruction. They have to prepare Ukraine for a future within the European Union and in the context of a more hostile and competitive global environment. To face this challenge, they will need to help restore Ukrainian society as they rebuild and modernize the country's infrastructure, industry, political institutions, and social services. They will also have to bring back the millions of people displaced by the conflict even as they help to heal the wounds – both physical and psychological – suffered by all those who have experienced the horrific violence that the Russian government unleashed. Building Ukraine back better will require a holistic approach that goes beyond conventional notions of post-conflict stabilization and takes into account the essential human dimension that the word 'better' necessarily entails.

Moderator: **Simone Tholens**, Professor, Conflict and Interventions Initiative, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Goran Buldioski, Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, Open Society Foundations ([Confirmed](#))

Aida Hozic, Associate Professor, University of Florida ([Confirmed](#))

Anna Jarosz-Friis, Director, Ukraine Service, DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission ([Confirmed](#))

Miriam Kosmehl, Senior Expert Eastern Europe and European Neighbourhood, Bertelsmann Stiftung ([Confirmed](#))

12:40-14:00

Lunch | Gardens, Badia Fiesolana

14:00-15:15

Transfer by shuttle to Palazzo Vecchio

PALAZZO VECCHIO

14:15-19:00

Arrival and registration throughout the day – Cortile del Michelozzo

14:15-15:15

Networking coffee – Sala d'Arme

15:30-19:00

Master of ceremonies

Méabh Mc Mahon, European affairs correspondent, Euronews ([Confirmed](#))

15:30-15:45

Welcome to the 14th edition of **The State of the Union**

Marco Del Panta, Secretary General, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Eugenio Giani, President, Tuscan Region ([Confirmed](#))

Jaume Duch Guillot, Director-General for Communication, European Parliament
(Confirmed)

15:45-16:30 Plenary conversations – Salone dei Cinquecento

15:45-16:10 **High-level conversation – Format to be confirmed – Title tbc**
Josep Borrell Fontelles, HR-VP, European Commission (Confirmed) and **EUI Researcher tbc**

Moderator: **Méabh McMahon**, European affairs correspondent, Euronews
(Confirmed)

16:10-16:30 **High-level conversation – Format to be confirmed – Title tbc**
Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President, European Commission (Confirmed) and **EUI Researcher tbc**

Moderator: **Barbara Moens**, Chief EU Correspondent, Politico

16:30-17:30 Parallel panels – Salone dei Cinquecento / Sala Lorenzo il Magnifico

16:30-17:30
*Climate change
green transition*

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Fabrizia Mealli

Investing in the Mediterranean neighborhood as part of EU's new geopolitical context

The wars in Ukraine and Israel require the EU to redefine its geopolitical orientation, also from an industrial perspective. A key element is its policy towards its neighborhood, not least in the Mediterranean. Such a review may comprise more infrastructure investments and a strengthening of the industrial cooperation on the climate and energy transition as well as on the digital economy. Important legislation on these issues has been finalized by the Von der Leyen commission, but important implementation issues remain to be solved. Huge investments are necessary and new cooperation opportunities arise in the form of new pipelines for gas and hydrogen (or derivatives), massive availability of renewable energy (solar, wind), need for more electricity transmission lines, etc. Will the EIB raise the stakes of triggering these investments? Does the Commission have an integrated plan?

Opening: **Nadia Calviño**, President, European Investment Bank (Confirmed - Remotely connected)

Moderator: **Pilita Clark**, Journalist, Financial Times (Confirmed)

Co-moderator: **Jos Delbeke**, EIB Climate Chair, and Professor, STG, EUI
(Confirmed)

Speakers:

Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco (Confirmed)

Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner for Climate Action, European Commission
(Confirmed)

Evangelos Mytilineos, Chairman and CEO, Mytilineos Holdings (Considering)

Laurence Tubiana, CEO, European Climate Foundation (ECF) (Confirmed)

16:30-17:30
Digital transition

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
**Anna Renata
Pisarkiewicz
Massimiliano
Gambardella
Cristiano Zagari**

PagoPa
Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for inclusion and digital innovation

The Preamble of the 'European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade' underscores Europe's commitment to advancing a digital model centered around individuals, rooted in European values and EU rights, while reasserting universal human rights. It advocates for technology that empowers individuals to pursue their aspirations within a secure environment that upholds fundamental human rights. Recent regulatory and practical developments suggest that Digital Public Infrastructures (DPI) can constitute an essential means to align with this vision. An open, secure, inclusive, and market-friendly DPI, complemented by industry and coordinated policy reforms, can serve as a catalyst for citizen-friendly societal and economic transformation. It facilitates improved public services, fosters social and digital inclusion, and supports interoperability, particularly in areas such as identity, payments, and consensual data sharing. This integration of goals and tools promises substantial

value growth through the 'network effect'. To delve deeper into this subject, the panel seeks to address the following points: assessing the current landscape of DPI within Europe, identifying exemplary practices as benchmarks, and determining common elements for European nations to consider when developing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in this field.

Moderator: **Anna Renata Pisarkiewicz**, Research Fellow, RSCAS, EUI (Confirmed)

Co-moderator: **Journalist**, Politico tbc

Opening:

Ivonne Forno, President, HIT Foundation (Invited)

Alessandro Moricca, CEO, PagoPA S.p.A. (Invited)

Speakers:

Paolo De Rosa, Policy Officer for eID Technical Framework, DG CONNECT, European Commission (Confirmed)

Barbara Ubaldi, Head Digital Government and Data Unit, OECD (Confirmed)

João Ricardo Vasconcelos, Senior Governance Specialist, GovTech, World Bank, Wien (Confirmed)

17:30-18:30

Parallel panels – Salone dei Cinquecento – Sala Lorenzo il Magnifico

17:30-18:30

Democracy

Geopolitics

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Erik Jones

What vision for the future of Europe?

A presentation of “Europe 2040: Tomorrow is today” report based upon the exchanges between the participants of the First European Conclave and endorsed by the Conclave Board: Piero Benassi, Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Étienne Davignon, Philippe Étienne, Aart de Geus, Peter Grk, Guillaume Klossa, Maria João Rodrigues, Grégoire Roos, Daniela Schwarzer, Erika Staël von Holstein, Loukas Tsoukalis, António Vitorino, followed by a discussion with the audience. **Abstract to be revised**

Opening: **Loukas Tsoukalis**, Professor, University of Athens and President, ELIAMEP (Confirmed)

Moderator: **Erik Jones**, Director, RSCAS, EUI (Confirmed)

Speakers:

Nadiia Koval, Head of Information and Analytics Department, Ukrainian Institute (Confirmed)

Andrew Moravcsik, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University (Confirmed)

George Papakonstantinou, Director, Florence School of Transnational Governance, EUI (Confirmed)

Anne-Marie Slaughter, CEO, New America (Confirmed)

17:30-18:30

Digital transition

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:

Erik Jones

Ripple

Blockchain regulation: By rules or enforcement?

The development of Digital Assets based on blockchain technology has contributed to economic growth and increased the efficiency of financial systems around the world. Along the way, however, the same technologies have raised concerns about market transparency, security, and volatility. In response, governments and regulators have developed policy frameworks that seek to support the growth of innovative technology and business models, while protecting consumers and financial stability. But different jurisdictions have taken different approaches. The EU has led the way in developing a comprehensive regulatory regime under MiCA; the UK has extended traditional financial regulation to capture this new activity under its Financial Services and Markets Act 2023; and the US has taken the approach of 'Regulation by Enforcement'. This panel will discuss the pros and cons of these approaches, what is still left to do in terms of blockchain regulation, and what the implications of all this are for Europe and the world.

Opening: Conversation between **Stu Alderoty**, Chief Legal Officer, Ripple, and **Javier Espinoza**, EU correspondent, Financial Times ([Confirmed](#))

Moderator: **Morshed Mannan**, Research Fellow, RSCAS, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

Speakers:

Stu Alderoty, Chief Legal Officer, Ripple ([Confirmed](#))

Judith Arnal, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS and Board member, Bank of Spain ([Confirmed](#))

Elisabeth Noble, Senior Policy Expert, European Banking Authority ([Confirmed](#))

Ikhtlaq Sidhu, Dean, IE School of Science and Technology ([Confirmed](#))

18:30-19:00

Plenary session - Salone dei Cinquecento

18:30-19:00

Closing Remarks - High-level conversation – Format and title to be confirmed

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