



THE STATE OF THE UNION 2024

Conference programme
Palazzo Vecchio, afternoon of 24 May

WORK IN PROGRESS

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 Pantà,

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, RSC, 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, EU commissioners, representatives of the private sector and renowned academics, offering a wealth of experience and diverse perspectives.

- **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)
- **Pierre Olivier Gourinchas**, Economic Counsellor and Director of the Research Department, International Monetary Fund
- **Věra Jourová**, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, European Commission
- **Enrico Letta**, Former Prime Minister, Italy, and President, Jacques Delors Institute
- **Evangelos Mytilineos**, Chairman and CEO, Mytilineos Holdings
- **Ursula Owusu-Ekufu**, Minister of Communications and Digitalisation, Ghana
- **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, President of the Republic, Portugal
- **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of the Republic, Greece
- **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, CEO, New America
- **Andrzej Szeptycki**, Under Secretary of State and Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland
- **Laurence Tubiana**, CEO, European Climate Foundation (ECF)

The State of the Union 2024 | Programme as of 21 May 2024

Friday, 24 May 2024 | Palazzo Vecchio

NOTE: Number of high-level conversations, and their timings are indicative and subject to change.
Simultaneous translation from English to Italian and vice versa will be provided.

*: This speaker sits in the panel after the opening speech/conversation.

14:15-15:15	Networking coffee – Sala d'Arme
15:30-19:00	<p><i>Master of ceremonies – Throughout the day</i></p> <p>Méabh Mc Mahon, European Affairs Correspondent, Euronews (Confirmed)</p>
15:30-15:45	<p>Welcome to the 14th edition of The State of the Union SALONE DEI 500</p> <p>Alessia Bettini, Deputy Mayor, City of Florence (Confirmed)</p> <p>Marco Del Panta, Secretary General, EUI (Confirmed)</p> <p>Eugenio Giani, President, Tuscan Region (Confirmed)</p> <p>Jaume Duch Guillot, Director-General for Communication, European Parliament (Confirmed)</p>
15:45-16:30	Plenary conversation – Salone dei Cinquecento
15:45-16:25	<p>High-level conversation SALONE DEI 500</p> <p>EU's foreign and security policy in troubled times</p> <p>Josep Borrell Fontelles, HR-VP, European Commission (Confirmed)</p> <p><i>in conversation with</i></p> <p>Stephanie Hofmann, Professor and Joint Chair in International Relations, EUI (Confirmed)</p> <p>Méabh McMahon, European Affairs Correspondent, Euronews (Confirmed)</p>
16:30-17:30	Parallel panels – Salone dei Cinquecento / Sala Lorenzo il Magnifico
<p>16:30-17:30</p> <p><i>Climate change green transition</i></p> <p>EUI Scientific Coordinator: Fabrizia Mealli</p>	<p>Investing in the Mediterranean neighborhood as part of EU's new geopolitical context SALONE DEI 500</p> <p>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?</p> <p><i>Opening:</i> Nadia Calviño, President, European Investment Bank (Confirmed – Pre-recorded message)</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Pilita Clark, Journalist, Financial Times (Confirmed)</p> <p><i>Co-moderator:</i> Jos Delbeke, EIB Climate Chair, and Professor, STG, EUI (Confirmed)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Evangelos Mytilineos, Chairman and CEO, Mytilineos Holdings (Confirmed)</p> <p>Laurence Tubiana, CEO, European Climate Foundation (ECF) (Confirmed)</p> <p>Kurt Vandenberghe, Director-General, Directorate-General Climate Action, European Commission (Confirmed)</p>
<p>16:30-17:30</p> <p><i>Digital transition</i></p>	<p>PagoPa</p> <p>Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for inclusion and digital innovation SALA LORENZO IL MAGNIFICO</p>

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

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, RSC, EUI (Confirmed)
Co-moderator: **Clothilde Goujard**, Senior Technology Reporter, Politico (Confirmed)

Opening:
Ivonne Forno, President, HIT Foundation (Confirmed)
Alessandro Moricca, CEO, PagoPA S.p.A. (Confirmed)

Speakers:
Paolo De Rosa, Policy Officer for eID Technical Framework, DG CONNECT, European Commission (Confirmed)
Felipe González-Zapata, Digital Government Lead, 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? | SALONE DEI 500

Faced with a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, 'the European union must dare to assert itself as a global, sustainable, and responsible power and not only as a participant torn between other powers. In this respect, the EU needs to review its model to be able to produce the common goods that citizens need in domains such as democracy, defence and security, education, science and technology, environment, energy, health, agriculture, or culture ... and that none of the Member States has the capacity or the resources to build alone.' This panel brings together experts from across Europe and North America to discuss the first report of 'The Conclave' outlining a vision for Europe in 2040. The focus will be on geopolitics. Professor Loukas Tsoukalis played a leading role in shaping that part of the report's recommendations.

Opening: * **Loukas Tsoukalis**, Professor, Sciences Po Paris, President of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) (Confirmed)

Moderator: **Erik Jones**, Director, RSC, 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? | SALA LORENZO IL

MAGNIFICO

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

Moderator: **Javier Espinoza**, EU Correspondent, Financial Times

Speakers:

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

Morshed Mannan, Research Fellow, RSC, EUI ([Confirmed](#))

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

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

18:30-18:35

Plenary session - Salone dei Cinquecento

18:30-18:35

Closing of the 14th edition of SOU2024: **Méabh Mc Mahon**, European Affairs Correspondent, Euronews

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