



THE STATE OF THE UNION

THE STATE OF THE UNION 2017 - PROGRAMME

BUILDING A PEOPLE'S EUROPE - #SOU2017

The State of the Union conference, organised by the European University Institute (EUI), is an annual event for high-level reflection on the European Union (EU). Now in its seventh year, it has become a reference point in the EU agenda for policy-makers, civil society representatives, business and opinion leaders, and academics. Presidents, Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, as well as the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Parliament have taken part in the event over the years.

In 2017, The State of the Union, under the title *Building a People's Europe*, will revolve around the theme of **European Citizenship**, a multi-faceted topic of acute relevance across all EU member states. Sessions will deal with the future of citizenship; direct democracy and populism; the impact of the global refugee emergency on Europe; the financial crisis; the labour market and the free movement of people; and security, in a broad sense of the word.

In times of crisis or instability, a clear and nuanced multi-level understanding of the EU's successes, failures and challenges is crucial. By offering a moment for key actors to meet and reflect on Europe's most pressing issues, The State of the Union conference responds to this need.

Topics:

- The Future of European Citizenship
- Direct Democracy, Referenda and Populism
- The Free Movement of Persons and Social Solidarity
- The Global Refugee Emergency
- The Economic and Monetary Integration of the EU
- State Secrecy and Security in Europe

The 2017 State of the Union Conference *Building a People's Europe* will take place in **Florence**.

Thursday, **4 May** Full day conference at the Badia Fiesolana
Friday, **5 May** Full day conference at Palazzo Vecchio
Saturday, **6 May** Open day at Villa Salviati

Thursday, 4 May 2017

Badia Fiesolana

08.30 – 9.30 Registration

09.30 – 10.00 The State of The Union Opening – Refettorio (streaming in Capitolo & Teatro)

Welcome:

Renaud Dehousse, President of the EUI

Introductory Speech:

Pietro Grasso, President of the Italian Senate

10.15 – 11.30 Plenary Session – Refettorio (streaming in Capitolo & Teatro)

Letting the Citizens Decide – Plebiscites and Populists

Direct democracy has a long history and is increasingly becoming part of the dynamic of European Integration. National referendums from Greece and Switzerland to Hungary and the UK are beginning to challenge the institutions and policies of the European Union in complex ways. Each referendum is subject to national influences, and the effects of referendums vary. Yet national voters are also EU citizens, and national governments meeting in the European Council are accountable to referendum voters as well as having obligations to the EU and their partner member states. The EU was partly created to overcome the externalities caused by having so many states in Europe but national ‘voice’ on EU issues including membership may have profound consequences for the Union and other member states. This panel will focus on the effects of national referendums on Europe’s Union.

Chair

Brigid Laffan, Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) and Director of the Global Governance Programme, EUI

Discussant

Ryan Heath, Senior EU Correspondent at POLITICO

Speakers

Mercedes Bresso, Member of the European Parliament

Paolo R. Graziano, Professor of Political Science, University of Padua

Swen Hutter, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Political and Social Sciences (SPS), EUI

Richard Rose, Director of the Centre for the Study of Public Policy at the University of Strathclyde

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

11.45 – 13.00 *Parallel Session I – Refettorio*

Nothing to Hide: Privacy and Surveillance in Europe

‘If you have nothing to hide, you should not worry about government surveillance.’ We hear these arguments all the time. We live moreover in a time where our lives are transparent to others in largely unprecedented ways. Our lives –or the trails of data of our lives– are visible as never before –to other individuals, to public and to private organisations. Do we care or are we resigned to our loss of control? Courts, legislatures and data protection authorities - at all governance levels-struggle with the tradeoff between privacy and security. Is it a false tradeoff?

Chair

Deirdre Curtin, Professor of European Union Law, Department of Law, EUI

Speakers

Francesca Galli, Associate researcher, Faculty of Law; University of Maastricht

Bruno Gencarelli, Head of International Data Flows and Protection Unit, Directorate-General Justice, European Commission

Fernanda Nicola, Professor of Law at the Washington College of Law, American University

Michael O’Flaherty, Director, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

11.45 – 13.00 *Parallel Session II – Teatro*

Genuine Links and Useful Passports: A Decline of Citizenship?

Citizenship is at its core a legal status of nationality that determines which state is responsible for which individual. Both this division of responsibilities between states and the democratic ideal of citizenship as membership in a self-governing community presuppose genuine links between states and their citizens. Numerous phenomena seem to signal that both states and individuals often regard citizenship as a mere tool rather than as a value in itself: the proliferation of multiple nationalities; citizenship programmes for non-resident investors; worldwide access to EU passports for those with the ‘right ancestry’; and stripping terrorist suspects of their citizenship in order to ‘dump’ them on other countries. Is citizenship bound to decline in the 21st century?

Chair

Rainer Bauböck, Professor of Social and Political Theory, SPS Department, EUI

Speakers

Simona Bonafè, Member of the European Parliament

Jelena Dzankic, Research Fellow, RSCAS, EUI

Ayelet Shachar, Director of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen

Maarten Vink, Co-Director of EUDO Citizenship, RSCAS, EUI

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

13.00 – 14.30 Tuscan Lunch Break – Lower Loggia

14.00 – 14.30 Lunch Session – The EUI Refugee Initiative: Leading by Example? – Chiesa

One year has passed since six asylum seekers moved to a flat in the Badia Fiesolana, marking the start of the EUI Refugee Initiative. This initiative will be presented to The State of the Union participants during an informal discussion with the volunteers that manage the project and with the asylum seekers themselves. During the discussion, the successes and challenges of the initiative will be evaluated, opening up to address the following question: can the EUI refugee initiative be emulated by other academic institutions or international organizations?

Chair

Renaud Dehousse, President of the EUI

Speakers

Doman Coulibaly, Guest of the Refugee Initiative

Caterina Francesca Guidi, Research Associate, RSCAS

Mons. Andrea Lombardi, Presidente del Capitolo della Cattedrale di Fiesole

Alessandro Martini, Director Caritas Firenze

Eleonora Milazzo, Researcher, EUI SPS Department

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

14.45 – 16.00 Parallel Session III – Refettorio

Free Movement vs. Social Solidarity: Does EU Citizenship Undermine European Welfare States?

From their inception, the rules for free movement in the EU, which not only allow for unrestricted migration but also for equal access to national welfare states have created tensions between host and home countries. While home countries focus on the benefits free movement brings for labour markets, host countries deplore the costs inflicted on national welfare regimes. These tensions have heightened since the financial crisis has ushered in a new wave of austerity, pushing both for more migration and less welfare. The tensions highlight a more principle incompatibility between social citizenship which is built on solidarity within national borders, and European citizenship which requires open borders, this way undermining the foundations of solidarity. The panel explores whether and how European citizenship can be upheld in these times of crisis without undermining European welfare states, and whether there are solutions to the mutual incompatibilities of European and social citizenship. It also purports to understand the role of youth mobility through programs such as Erasmus in this context.

Chair

Dorothee Bohle, Professor of Political Science, Department of SPS, EUI

Speakers

Magdalena Bernaciak, Senior Researcher, European Trade Union Institute

Maurizio Ferrera, Professor of Political Science, University of Milan

Oliver Garner, Researcher, EUI

Andrew Geddes, Professor of Politics, University of Sheffield; Director, EUI

Migration Policy Center

Georgios Katrougalos, Alternate Foreign Affairs Minister for European Affairs of Greece

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

14.45 – 16.00 Parallel Session IV – Teatro

The Refugee Emergency: Assessing the Political and Policy Responses

Europe is facing its worst refugee emergency since World War II. This has put both existing mechanisms for managing asylum seeking and irregular migration flows, and solidarity among member states to the test. Dealing with the crisis has required a recasting of the EU-Turkey relationship and an overall re-designing of EU foreign policy. The massive flows of asylum seekers have also raised special protection challenges, giving rise to incidents of violent people smuggling. A year after the EU-Turkey Agreement which effectively stopped migration flows entered into force, the time is ripe for a critical mid-term assessment. The aim is to evaluate how adequate the EU and national level political and policy responses to the refugee emergency have been, and to outline some lessons which could inform future responses.

Chair

Anna Triandafyllidou, Robert Schuman Chair, Global Governance Programme
Research Area Director Cultural Pluralism, EUI

Speakers

Eugenio Ambrosi, Regional Director European Economic Area, International
Organization for Migration, Geneva

Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Member of the European Parliament

Georgia Papagianni, Coordinator for Migration, European External Action Service,
Migration and Human Security Division

Alexandra Ricard-Guay, Research Associate, DemandAT, RSCAS, EUI

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

16.15 – 17.45 Parallel Session V – Refettorio

The EU and the Challenge of Economic and Monetary Integration

Since the elaboration of the 1970 Werner Plan on the realization by stages of economic and monetary union in the Community, the issue of economic and monetary integration has been at the core of the European integration process. Nowadays, following the outbreak of the economic and financial crisis, integration in the monetary field and the convergence of national economic policies are among the major challenges facing the EU Institutions and Member States. This debate will reassess the historical course of economic and monetary integration and the challenges ahead through first-hand accounts of some of its main protagonists, focusing on the economic and financial roots of the EC/EU and how international economic crises have shaped the EU as we know it.

Chair

Youssef Cassis, Professor of Economic History, Department of History and Civilization, EUI

Speakers

Andrea Baranes, President, Fondazione Culturale Responsabilità Etica

Eric Bussière, Jean Monnet Professor, University of Paris-Sorbonne

Catherine Schenk, Professor of International Economic History, University of Glasgow

Chiara Zilioli, Director General, Legal Services, European Central Bank

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

16.15 – 17.45 Parallel Session VI – Teatro

Towards a People's Europe: What role for Parliaments in coming decades?

Parliaments are central arenas for democratic representation, participation, deliberation, legislation and scrutiny within the EU's multilevel political system. The European Parliament (EP), the only directly-elected EU institution, is representing European citizens at EU level and strengthens the democratic legitimacy of supranational decision-making and political control. However, these core representative institutions of European democracies have come under discernable pressure due to politicisation and populism. As a result, the European project is contested from within by Eurosceptic, extreme left and extreme right wing political parties in many national parliaments and the EP. Euro-scepticism has mushroomed in civil society, while a certain ideological vacuum at the centre of many national party systems is to be witnessed. Alongside the rising suspicion of experts, these represent phenomena which may undermine parliaments' powers to function as key transmission belts for democratic renewal. Against this backdrop, this panel will discuss the contribution of parliamentarianism and democratic legitimacy to the future of Europe. It will focus on the link between representation, participation and European identity, while examining whether parliaments can still serve as democratic centres for European identity-building.

This panel is organised in co-operation with the European Parliament.

Chair

Gaby Umbach, Strategy and Coordination Unit, European Parliamentary Research Service and Director GlobalStat, EUI

Speakers

Heather Grabbe, Director, Open Society European Policy, Brussels

Brigid Laffan, Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI

Andreas Maurer, Jean Monnet Professor, University of Innsbruck

Anthony Teasdale, Director General of the European Parliamentary Research Service

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

18.00 – 19.30 Tasting of Italian Specialities – Lower Loggia

Friday, 5 May 2017

Palazzo Vecchio – Salone dei Cinquecento

07.30 – 9.00 *Registration – Cortile della Dogana*

09.00 – 09.15 *Welcome – Salone dei Cinquecento*

Dario Nardella, Mayor of Florence

Monica Barni, Vice-President, Tuscany Region

Leonardo Bassilichi, President, Chamber of Commerce of Florence

Renaud Dehousse, President of the EUI

09.15 – 09.30 *Introductory Remarks by Angelino Alfano*, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

9.30 – 10.00 *Address by Antonio Tajani*, President, European Parliament

10.00 – 10.30 *Address by Jean-Claude Juncker*, President, European Commission

10.30 – 11.00 *The State of the Union Address - Still United in Diversity?*

Rainer Bauböck, Professor of Social and Political Theory, SPS Department, EUI

11.00 – 12.15 *Morning Session I*

The European Union at Sixty

This debate on the visions, achievements and unfulfilled promises of the EC-EU will revolve around three issues, formulated as questions to each panellist: 1) In which ways has the EC-EU fulfilled the key goals set at its foundation? 2) Has the EC-EU substantially changed its nature and mission along the way? 3) Can the EU in its current state respond to challenges emerging from the transformation of European society and the global context?

Chair

Federico Romero, Professor of History of Post-War European Cooperation and Integration, Department of History and Civilization, EUI

Speakers

Roberto Gualtieri, Member of the European Parliament

Eirini Karamouzi, Lecturer in Contemporary History, University of Sheffield

Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Professor of Democracy Studies, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin

Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, European Commission

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

12.15 – 12.45 *Investing in Europe*

Address by Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank

Discussant: Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger, Foreign Editor, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

13.00 – 14.30 Tuscan Buffet Lunch Break for the Audience – Sala d’Arme

14.45 – 16.15 Afternoon Session I

The Future of European Citizenship

Michel Barnier will address the state of play on EU citizenship and Brexit, before the panel looks at the questions "is EU citizenship working?" The basic formula of European citizenship, as a supplement but not a replacement for national citizenship, is under pressure. Last year’s Brexit campaign was driven by opposition to one of the most cherished rights EU citizenship provides: the free movement of people. This same free movement has created a new kind of undemocratic inequality, as mobile populations access more opportunities than those who stay at home, and draw primarily on their rights as national citizens. Moreover, as a bundle of rights without duties, EU citizenship has weakened citizens’ engagement outside their own member states. As Europe considers its post-Brexit identity, is a ‘patchwork Union’ of differentiated integration the future for EU citizenship?

14.45 – 15.00 *The Florence Declaration on Citizens' Rights and the Brexit Negotiations*
EU Citizens' Rights: a Priority for the Negotiations with the UK
Michel Barnier, EU's chief Brexit negotiator

15.00 – 16.15 *Chair*
Deirdre Curtin, Professor of European Union Law, Department of Law, EUI

Speakers

Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, European Commission

Miguel Maduro, Founding Director, Global Governance Programme, EUI

Jo Shaw, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh

Philippe Van Parijs, Hoover Chair of Economic and Social Ethics, University of Louvain

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

16.15 – 16.45 *Cooperation and Partnerships, the European Way*

Conversation with **Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President, European Commission

Moderator

Roula Khalaf, Deputy Editor, Financial Times

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

16.45 – 17.30 *Afternoon Session II*

The Global Refugee Emergency and Europe's Response

The number of people seeking asylum in the EU has increased exponentially over the past few years. By 2015, there were a record 1.3 million asylum seekers in the EU. The emergency has led to controversial but also innovative political and policy decisions such as: the imposition of relocation quotas, the creation of special border regimes for the processing of asylum claims, the prioritizing of an EU foreign policy approach that aims to contain irregular migration and asylum seeking through various incentives and rewards to origin and transit countries. At the same time it has also been clear that the refugee flow was so large as to endanger the very political stability of the EU. This panel will take a critical and comprehensive approach towards these developments, seeking to assess what has been achieved and what the crucial challenges are for the present and future, both at the European and global level.

Chair

Anna Triandafyllidou, Robert Schuman Chair, Global Governance Programme
Research Area Director Cultural Pluralism, EUI

Speakers

Loris De Filippi, President of Médecins Sans Frontières, Italy

Ayhan Kaya, Jean Monnet Fellow, EUI and Professor of Politics, Istanbul Bilgi University

Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Joseph Weiler, Professor, NYU Law School

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

17.30 – 18.00 *Perspectives on European Integration after the Rome Declaration and the European Commission White Paper*

Conversation with **Sandro Gozi**, Italian Secretary of State for European Affairs
and **Ann Linde**, Swedish Minister for EU Affairs and Trade

Moderator

Stefano Polli, Vice-Director, Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (ANSA)

18.00 – 18.30 *The Future of Europe and the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU*

Introduction

Vincenzo Grassi, Secretary-General of the EUI

Address by **Kersti Kaljulaid**, President of Estonia

Discussant: **Tony Barber**, Europe Editor, Financial Times

[Q&A with the Audience](#)

18.30 – 19.00 *Closing Address by* **Paolo Gentiloni**, Prime Minister of Italy

The State of the Union 2017 Scientific Committee

Rainer Bauböck, Professor of Social and Political Theory, Department of Political and Social Sciences, EUI

Deirdre Curtin, Joint Chair Professor of European Union Law, Department of Law and Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI

Renaud Dehousse, President of the EUI

Vincenzo Grassi, Secretary-General of the EUI

Brigid Laffan, Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, and Director of the Global Governance Programme, EUI

Federico Romero, Professor of History of Post-War European Cooperation and Integration in the Department of History and Civilization, EUI

Dieter Schlenker, Director of HAEU, Director ad Interim of Communications Service, EUI

Anna Triandafyllidou, Robert Schuman Chair, Global Governance Programme Research Area Director Cultural Pluralism, EUI

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