

## Towards a new EU, a different EU or no EU? Europe ahead of the EP Election

Rome, 29 November 2018

*CeSPI - Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale*

*Piazza Venezia 11 - 00187 Rome*

The seminar will bring together 20 to 25 participants from France, Poland, Germany and Italy. They will include governments' officials, think-tankers, policy advisors and academics. The aim of the seminar is an off-the-record exchange on selected EU policy issues.

The conference is supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung within the frameworks of the ECFR project „European Dialogues about the Future of Europe”.

### PROGRAMME

12:00-12:40 – Welcoming lunch

12:40-12:50 – Opening & introduction:

- *Piotr Buras*, Director of the Warsaw office, ECFR
- *Silvia Francescon*, Director of the Rome office, ECFR

12:50-14:20 Election for the European Parliament 2019: what is at stake?

The EP election 2019 is said to be the watershed moment in the history of the European integration. It can reshape the political scene in Europe and change the way the central EU institution function. The electoral competition is often portrayed as a battle between not just different policy programmes but visions of Europe or, indeed, sets of values represented by the political forces. While the government parties in Italy and Poland challenge the EU consensus underlining the principles of national sovereignty and questioning the legitimacy of Commission's interference into the internal affairs, Emmanuel Macron advocates a different form of disruption: transnational democracy, more Europe and EU sovereignty. The domestic political situation – especially in Italy and Germany – will have profound implications for the developments in the EU ahead of the election. This session will take a stock of the national political discourses as well as expectations towards the EU reform after the election.

- Natalie Nougayrede, ECFR Council Member; Columnist, “The Guardian”
- Marek A. Cichocki, Director, European Centre, Natolin/Warsaw
- Marco Piantini, Coordinator, Europea

**14:20-14:40 – Coffee break**

**14:40-16:10 Focus on Africa: managing migration to the EU**

The numbers of migrants arriving in Europe have drastically fallen down but the political and humanitarian crisis related is by far not over. There is no sustainable solution in place when it comes to the management of the migration through the Mediterranean route, comparable with the EU-Turkey deal which helped halt the flows in the Aegean Sea. Meanwhile it has become obvious that the key for the EU to have a better control of the migration flows lies not within the bloc but in the cooperation with the countries of origin and transit, in particular in Africa. But how reliable and how willing to cooperate are countries like Egypt, Morocco or Libya? What kind of policy should the EU apply towards the Sub-Saharan countries to encourage them to cooperate on readmission, fighting human trafficking and border controls? Is a 'Marshall plan for Africa' the right way forward? What are the expectations of the African partners towards Europe and how should the EU member states respond to them?

- Rainer Münz, Senior Advisor, European Political Strategy Centre, Brussels
- Florian Koch, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES), Berlin; former Head of FES Office in Addis Abeba
- Marco Zupi, Scientific Director, CeSPI
- Shoshana Fine, Policy Fellow, ECFR, London

**16:10-16.30 – Coffee break**

**16.30-18.00 European sovereignty: EU and the global powers competition**

Donald Trump's assault on the Iran nuclear deal and his trade policy raised the question of whether Europeans can pursue a policy agenda on the world stage. The idea of European sovereignty was born as an answer to this new challenge for Europe which is facing today both a new great power competition and the disintegration of the West as we knew it. But there is no consensus in Europe on what exactly this answer should look like and the very concept of the EU sovereignty is often criticised. Can the European sovereignty be reconciled with traditional sovereignty of nation states? Does it inevitably lead to a Transatlantic divorce or can it rather help rescue the U.S.-EU relations from a further degradation? What are the necessary instruments for the EU to develop (in foreign, economic or security policy) to make this concept viable? And how to avoid that the European sovereignty becomes just a cover for a new Franco-German dominance, as feared in some EU capitals?

- Michał Kuź, Jagiellonian Club, Cracow/Warsaw
- Antonio Villafranca, Research Coordinator and Co-Head of the Center on Europe & Global Governance, ISPI
- Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Winfried-Martens-Centre, Brussels