Programme
Thursday, 23 February 2017

**Agenda**

11h30 - 13h00
Registration and Networking

13h00 - 13h05
Welcome and Introduction: Joaquín Almunia, Chairman, CEPS; Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta

13h05 - 14h30
1st Plenary: Reconstructing the Union
Speakers: Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta

**SESSION 1**
14h30 - 15h45
Culture and content in the Digital Single Market
Better regulation: Aligning policies for the long term
Digital energy: Value chains and profits
How might the UK design its own trade policy?
Will banks survive the age of digitalisation?
The ECB's unconventional policies: Time to declare victory and get out?
Is the Youth Guarantee a waste of time and money?
The EU asylum system: Time to move beyond the Dublin logic?
Political Commission or guardian of the treaties?
EU-Turkey 2.0
Brexit

15h45 – 16h15
Chill Out

**SESSION 2**
16h15 - 17h30
Sensors and senses: Trust and privacy in the internet of things
National productivity boards: Old wine in old bottles?
Circular economy. A real opportunity to renew Europe's industry?
Trade policy in the age of populism
Implementing the new regime: Bail-in and systemic risk
EMU governance: A reality check
Are social partners still relevant?
EU migration policies: Are there effective ways to address smuggling?
Judicial activism: Is the EU losing its last communitarian anchor?
Saudi-Iranian relations: What role for the EU in stabilising the Middle East?
Leaving the EU without leaving the single market?

17h30 - 19h00
Cocktail

17h45 – 19h00
Special Sessions

19h00 - 21h30
Walking Dinner
**Friday, 24 February 2017**

**Breakfast Sessions**

08h30 - 09h00  
Registration

09h15 - 10h30  
SESSION 3

10h30 - 11h00  
Chill Out

**LABS**

- Digital Economy & Innovation
- Better Regulation & Sustainable Development
- Energy & Climate
- Trade & the Single Market
- Finance
- Economy
- Social Europe
- Rights & Security
- Institutions
- Europe in the world
- Brexit

**SESSION 3**

09h15 - 10h30

- Open science, open innovation, open to the world?
- Rebooting EU sustainability and decarbonisation
- How disruptive are new urban mobility solutions?
- Effective EU trade policy with 38 decision-makers?
- Strategic Investments and Development Banks
- What is the biggest risk facing the EMU?
- What to do about the failure to integrate refugees into the labour market?
- Who owns privacy law? Enforcement in the tussle between the EU and US
- The squeeze on the political centre: What impact on the EU?
- Eastern promises: Are the Association Agreements living up to expectations?
- More defence in a UK-less EU?

**PRIME TALKS**

11h00 - 12h30

- In troubled waters: Migration challenges in the Mediterranean  
  Speaker: Enrico Letta; Mikolaj Dowgielewicz; Elspeth Guild; Udo Zolles; Rear-admiral Mario Marques
- Between China and the EU: Making the Silk Road run smoothly  
  Speakers: Jens Meier; Djoomart Otorbaev; Mei Xinyu (tbc)
- EU budget reforms for post 2020 - Perfect storm or flop?  
  Speakers: Nadia Calviño; Mario Monti
- Who will continue to carry the torch? Changing Global Climate Change Leaders in the Trump Era  
  Speakers: Teresa Ribera; Myron Ebell; Surya Sethi
- Ex machina: Towards an ethics of Algorithms  
  Speakers: Vince Conitzer; Walter Sinnott-Armstrong; Tim Hwang; Andrea Servida; Kay Firth-Butterfield; Toby Walsh

**2nd Plenary: Scenarios for the EU in a changing world**  
Speakers: Daniel Mitov, Former Minister, Bulgaria; Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, former US Ambassador to the EU

**Food Lab**

13h30 - 15h00  
Special CEPS Ideas Lab lecture: European (dis-)integration in an age of Populism  
Speaker: Timothy Garton Ash, Professor, Oxford University
Agenda

Digital Economy & Innovation
Culture and content in the Digital Single Market
Sensors and senses:
Trust and privacy in the internet of things
Open science, open innovation, open to the world?

Better Regulation & Sustainable Development
Better regulation: Aligning policies for the long term
National productivity boards: Old wine in old bottles?
Rebooting EU sustainability and decarbonisation

Energy & Climate
Digital energy: Value chains and profits
Circular economy:
A real opportunity to renew Europe's industry?
How disruptive are new urban mobility solutions?

Trade & the Single Market
How might the UK design its own trade policy?
Trade policy in the age of populism
Effective EU trade policy with 38 decision-makers?

Finance
Will banks survive the age of digitalisation?
Implementing the new regime: Bail-in and systemic risk
Strategic Investments and Development Banks

Economy
The ECB's unconventional policies:
Time to declare victory and get out?
EMU governance: A reality check
What is the biggest risk facing the EMU?

Social Europe
Is the Youth Guarantee a waste of time and money?
Are social partners still relevant?
What to do about the failure to integrate refugees into the labour market?

Rights & Security
The EU asylum system:
Time to move beyond the Dublin logic?
EU migration policies:
Are there effective ways to address smuggling?
Who owns privacy law? Enforcement in the tussle between the EU and US

Institutions
Political Commission or guardian of the treaties?
Judicial activism:
Is the EU losing its last communitarian anchor?
The squeeze on the political centre: What impact on the EU?

Europe in the World
EU-Turkey 2.0
Saudi-Iranian relations:
What role for the EU in stabilising the Middle East?
Eastern promises:
Are the Association Agreements living up to expectations?

Brexit
Brexit and the City
Leaving the EU without leaving the single market?
More defence in a UK-less EU?

Special Sessions
Presentation of the CEPS Task Force report on EU Reform
The Great Convergence:
Information Technology and the New Globalisation
How United is the United States?
The Euro and the Battle of Ideas

Breakfast Sessions
Advancing Regional Energy Collaboration: Will Central & South-Eastern Europe lead the way?
Je t’aime! Moi non plus? The European Union, its citizens and the struggle for support
Solidarity and the ‘Refugee Crisis’. Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe
Europe's Digital Frontrunners: Powering the Continent's Surprising Internet Success Story?

Prime Talks
In troubled waters: Migration challenges in the Mediterranean
Between China and the EU: Making the Silk Road run smoothly
EU budget reforms for post 2020 - Perfect storm or flop?
Who will continue to carry the torch? Changing Global Climate Change Leaders in the Trump Era
Ex machina: Towards an ethics of Algorithms

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BC
Culture and content in the Digital Single Market
Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45

Content production, namely its promotion and dissemination in a Digital Single Market, has emerged as a European Commission priority since at least 2015. Rules on content portability, the reform of the Information Society Directive, geo-blocking initiatives, e-commerce sector enquiries, the review of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and the proposed creation of an Electronic Communications Code all have a role to play in the promotion of content in a Digital Single Market.

How should these new rules be approached and implemented, and will they really be fit for purpose?

Discussion Leaders: Per Strömbäck, Member of the Board of the Swedish Film Institute, and Editor, Netopia; Patrick Messerlin, Professor, Sciences Po; Pierre-Jean Benghozi, Commissioner, French National Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (ARCEP)

Moderator: Giuseppe Mazziotti, Professor, Trinity College Dublin and Associate Research Fellow, CEPS

Sensors and senses: Trust and privacy in the internet of things
Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30

Machine-to-machine communication represents a new paradigm for information exchange, smart cities, manufacturing and home automation, among other fields. In light of these developments, data protection and security have become ever more important.

How far can end-users and businesses trust the networks and servers they use to ship, receive, and store data? Can the new EU public-private-partnership for cybersecurity enhance the level of preparedness of EU authorities and critical (information) infrastructure operators? This Lab explores current developments in one of the biggest challenges to a secure Digital Single Market.

Discussion Leaders: Nikos Isaris, Deputy Head, Internet of Things Unit, European Commission; Tim Watson, Director, Cyber Security Centre, University of Warwick; Nick Wallace, Senior Policy Analyst, Centre for Data Innovation; Stacey-Ann Elvy, Associate director of the Centre for Business and Financial Law, New York Law School

Moderator: Lorenzo Pupillo, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

Open science, open innovation, open to the world?
Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30

The Juncker Commission, and in particular Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research and Innovation, has set an ambitious goal for the EU. It should become more open in all respects: provide open access to the results of publicly funded research; promote open science and citizen science; engage more transparently with citizens, and endorse open innovation models to tackle societal challenges.

What will this mean for existing science and innovation policy in the EU? And what consequences would, or should follow for the openness of the EU policy process?

Discussion Leaders: Robert Schröder, Member of Cabinet, Commissioner Moedas, European Commission; Reinhilde Veugelers, Professor of Managerial Economics, Strategy and Innovation, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Robert Madelin, Chief Strategist, Fipra International; John Higgins, Director General, DIGITALEUROPE

Moderator: Andrea Renda, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Regulatory Policy Unit, CEPS
Better Regulation & Sustainable Development

**Better regulation: Aligning policies for the long term**
Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45

The better regulation agenda is a pillar of EU policymaking, shaping the way in which new rules are proposed, implemented, evaluated and reviewed over time, as well as how EU institutions interact with stakeholders. Yet, until now the methods used to evaluate proposed rules are far removed from the EU’s key goals.

Can the EU’s better regulation agenda be used to ‘align’ policies for the long term? What changes are needed? What type of multi-level cooperation between policymakers is required? This debate will focus on ways to bring the better regulation agenda from its current ‘adolescent’ stage into full maturity.

**Discussion Leaders:** Anne Bucher, Chair, European Commission Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB); Johannes Ludewig, Chairman, Normenkontrollrat; Céline Kauffmann, Deputy Head, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD; Michael Xuereb, Director, Regulatory Development Unit, Malta Financial Services Authority; Jens Hedström, Chair, Better Regulation working group, BusinessEurope

**Moderator:** Andrea Renda, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

**National productivity boards: Old wine in old bottles?**
Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30

Since the publication of the Five Presidents’ report in June 2015, the idea of establishing productivity boards in every eurozone member country has gained traction, and the ECOFIN Council adopted a specific recommendation to this end in July 2016.

How should these bodies be designed and governed? Should they be independent of government? And if so, how can they interact with the Commission and national governments in the European semester?

**Discussion Leaders:** Fabrice Lenglart, Deputy Commissioner-General, France Stratégie; Sean Dougherty, Senior Economist, OECD; Alessandro Turrini, Head of Macroeconomic Surveillance Unit, DG ECFIN, European Commission; Lorenzo Codogno, Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science; Stefano Micossi, Director General, Assonime, and Member of the CEPS Board

**Moderator:** Andrea Renda, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

**Rebooting EU sustainability and decarbonisation**
Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30

Environmental regulation and policy have long been seen as drivers for innovation, jobs, and growth in the European Union. More recently, however, the Barroso and Juncker Commissions have appeared to be rather ambivalent towards the issue.

How can the EU put in place an ambitious, credible, multi-level effort towards decarbonisation? How can the EU avoid setting medium-term goals (i.e. for 2030) that are incompatible with the longer-term ones (i.e. a zero-carbon economy)? What would be the consequences for employment, poverty eradication and productivity?

This Lab will look at the possible contribution of a revamped EU sustainability and decarbonisation strategy to the reconstruction of Europe.

**Discussion Leaders:** Jos Delbeke, Director General, DG CLIMA, European Commission; Teresa Ribera, Director, IDDRI and Former Secretary of State for Climate & Environment, Spain; Nicholas Ashford, Professor of Technology, MIT and Policy Director, Technology & Law Program; Ingeborg Niestroy, Associate, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and Research Associate, Policy Assessment Group of the Environmental Policy Research Centre, Free University of Berlin

**Moderator:** Enrico Giovannini, Professor, University of Rome Tor Vergata
Digital energy: Value chains and profits
Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45

Climate policy and technological developments are increasingly driving the growth of distributed energy resources, but it is the combination of this innovation and the digitalisation of energy infrastructure that is transforming the energy system at an unprecedented speed. As a result, policymakers, business executives and society at large face many new challenges.

What or who will be making money in this transformation? What roles will there be for electricity generators, grid operators, IT or telecoms companies? Which new business models will work best? Who owns the data and how can security and privacy be ensured?

**Discussion Leaders:** Simone Mori, Executive Vice-President, Head of European Affairs, Enel; Eduardo Posch, Principal Strategist, Industry Trends, Statoil; Mark van Stiphout, Deputy Head of Unit, DG ENERGY, European Commission; Lorenzo Pupillo, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

**Moderator:** Ronnie Belmans, Honorary Chairman, Elia Group and CEO, Energy Ville

Circular economy: A real opportunity to renew Europe's industry?
Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30

The circular economy is increasingly seen by policymakers and researchers as a possible means of boosting the EU's competitiveness and stimulating investment, economic growth and job creation. But changing the linear economic model that has remained dominant since the industrial revolution will not be an easy task.

Are EU industries taking up the challenge of rethinking their business practices? Would the circular economy allow Europe to maintain a strong industrial base and possibly even boost its position in the international marketplace? What role can the EU play in this process?

**Discussion Leaders:** Arnold Tukker, Professor, Industrial Ecology and Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Leiden; Iben Liep Kinch Sohn, Adviser, Confederation of Danish Industry (DI); Martin R. Stuchtey, Founder and Managing Partner, SystemiQ Ltd

**Moderator:** Arno Behrens, Head of Sustainable Resources and Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

How disruptive are new urban mobility solutions?
Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30

The electricity sector is facing profound disruption to its business model, driven by both environmental sustainability policy and technological revolution, such as dramatic cost reductions and digitalisation. Many believe that Europe's transport sector will be confronted with a similar disruption, possibly starting with urban transport. This Lab will assess the most recent trends and attempt to distinguish hype from reality in new solutions.

**Discussion Leaders:** Paul Nieuwenhuis, Co-Director, Centre for Automotive Industry research & Electrical Vehicle Centre of Excellence, Cardiff University; Tapani Touru, Head of Transport System planning group, Helsinki region transport authority; Fabienne Weibel, Head of Public Policy, BlaBlaCar; Thierry Le Boucher, Deputy Senior Vice President, EDF R&D; Elke Bossaert, Managing Director, Mobiel 21; Agata Waclawik-Wejman, Head of Public Policy & Governmental Relations, Uber Technologies

**Moderator:** Christian Egenhofer, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS
How might the UK design its own trade policy?

Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45

The most immediate consequence of BREXIT is that the UK will have to devise and pursue its own trade policy, a daunting task indeed. Not only does the UK suffer from an acute shortage of expert negotiators, it will need to renegotiate with more than 150 partners in the WTO, and the EU (including the UK at that moment) has also concluded many bilateral and regional trade agreements. Moreover, if the UK rejects the EEA model, its greatest problem will be how to devise and negotiate a deep and comprehensive trade agreement with its dominant trade partner: the EU-27.

Discussion Leaders: Robert Madelin, Chief Strategist, Fipra International; Jim Rollo, Professor, University of Sussex

Moderator: Jacques Pelkmans, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

Trade policy in the age of populism

Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30

Although trade policy is still largely determined by the underlying socio-economic interests of the trading partners in any negotiation, a mix of radical political parties, societal movements and selected NGOs have become increasingly influential in campaigns and are typically sceptical or even hostile to trade.

How should EU policymakers address these issues? How dangerous are these campaigns for the long-run model of open economies like the EU?

Discussion Leaders: Carl B. Hamilton, former Trade Minister of Sweden and Special Adviser on Trade Policy to the Eu Commissioner Cecilia Malmström

Moderator: (tba)

Effective EU trade policy with 38 decision-makers?

Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30

This lab will look at the natural tension between the overall legitimacy of EU trade policy and its effectiveness in pursuing clear common goals with common instruments, be it bilaterally, plurilaterally and in the WTO. Even in the cases where the EU has exclusive competence, the decision-making process to agree on a common stance has become ever more complicated and less and less predictable. This despite a quasi-permanent consultation activity with the Council Trade Policy Committee and with the EP and its INTA Committee. The European Parliament now has achieved considerable de-facto powers to influence the trade policy process, even before its formal consent. At the Member States’ and regional levels, societal debates lead to pressures to have more frequent and often ‘late’ interventions by various players, which subsequently prompts other players to put up yet more hurdles on the road to legal agreement by all. Many fear that these tactics are bound to be self-defeating once they are employed by all. And third countries have suddenly become extremely worried about the reliability of EU negotiators, given their mandate.

Discussion Leaders: Marco Bronckers, Professor of WTO Law and European Law, Leiden University; Julie Bynens, General Representative of the Flemish Government to the EU

Moderator: Guillaume Van der Loo, Researcher, CEPS
Will banks survive the age of digitalisation?

Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45

FinTech is turning the financial world upside down. Fast maturation in enabling technologies and algorithms, as well as increasingly exigent consumers and higher pressure from new players, are prompting banks to quickly review their business models. Which specific risks can be triggered by this digital transformation of banks and what should be the approach of policymakers to address these risks?

Discussion Leaders: Alvaro Martin, Head Economist, Digital Regulation, BBVA Research; Michael Stephan, COO & Founder, Raisin; Olivier de Groote, Managing Partner, Deloitte, Belgium

Moderator: Sylvain Bouyon, Research Fellow, CEPS

Implementing the new regime: Bail-in and systemic risk

Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30

The greatest novelty in the response to the financial crisis has taken the form of specific financial resolution frameworks. These frameworks need to ensure that the use of tax payers’ money is minimised through bail-ins of creditors. Is the bail-in regime currently credible? What are the systemic implications of an eventual bail-in?

Discussion Leaders: Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB); José María Roldán, Chairman and CEO, Spanish Banking Association and Vice President, European Banking Federation; Philippe Lamberts, MEP, and member of the ECON Committee

Moderator: Willem Pieter de Groen, Research Fellow, CEPS

Strategic Investments and Development Banks

Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30

The launch of the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) is on-target and it appears destined to finally lead to a change in the functioning of the European Investment Bank. What has been achieved so far, and what have been the effects? Is EFSI crowding out the private sector? What about its role in third countries, and its interaction with other initiatives such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

Discussion Leaders: Benjamin Angel, Director, Treasury and Financial Operations, European Commission, member of the Steering Board, EFSI; Iliyana Tsanova, Deputy Managing Director, EFSI, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Moderator: Karel Lannoo, Chief Executive Officer, CEPS
Economy

The ECB's unconventional policies: Time to declare victory and get out?
Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45

Since the financial crisis the ECB has deployed various non-conventional policy measures, such as the SMP (Securities Markets Programme), the LTRO (longer-term refinancing operations), and more recently the APP (asset purchase programme) to raise inflation and foster investment. Inflation as measured by the GDP deflator has rebounded but core inflation is below 1% and investment remains meagre.

Can the measures (particularly quantitative easing or QE) be seen as a success or a failure? Either way, is it time to implement an exit strategy? And, if so, how can this be done without jeopardising economic growth?

Discussion Leaders: Markus Brunnermeier, Professor, Princeton University; Massimo Rostagno, Director, Monetary Policy, ECB; Frederik Ducrozet, Senior Economist Europe, Pictet Wealth Management
Moderator: Marek Belka, former Prime Minister and Governor Central Bank of Poland

EMU governance: A reality check
Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30

The European Commission claims that the first stage of the reform process of euro-area governance, as called for in the Five Presidents’ report, has been completed. The fiscal rules have been made more ‘intelligent’, a European Fiscal Board has been established and member states have set up national fiscal councils and national productivity boards. Together with the macroeconomic imbalances procedure and the European Semester, an impressive system of macroeconomic policy coordination has been put in place. But does it work in reality?

Discussion Leaders: Pierre Moscovici, Member of the European Commission with the responsibility for for Economic and Financial Affairs; Niels Thygesen, Chairman of the European Fiscal Board; Mario Vella, Governor, Central Bank of Malta
Moderator: Olli Rehn, Member of the Board, Central bank of Finland

What is the biggest risk facing EMU?
Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30

The acute phase of the ‘euro crisis’ is over, but according to many observers the present combination of low growth, persistent unemployment and near deflation is not politically or socially sustainable. What factors might lead to a breakup of the euro? High unemployment, deflation, persistent macroeconomic imbalances, or political risks in some members states?

Discussion Leaders: George Papaconstantinou, former Greek Finance Minister; Katinka Barysch, Director of Political Relations, Allianz SE; Reza Moghadam, Vice-Chairman for Global Capital Markets, Morgan Stanley
Moderator: Aart De Geus, President and CEO, Bertelsmann Stiftung
Is the Youth Guarantee a waste of time and money?
Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45

Youth unemployment has been high on the EU policy agenda since the crisis, but millions of young Europeans are still without employment, or not in education or training. In 2013, policymakers adopted the Youth Guarantee, under which member states commit to offering every citizen under 25 years of age a job, on apprenticeship or a place in higher education within four months of leaving school or losing a job. Some early studies report that the Youth Guarantee is working, but other analysts are more critical.

Since the Youth Guarantee requires substantial investment, could the funds be used more effectively?

Discussion Leaders: Jacqueline O’Reilly, Professor, University of Brighton; Selma Mahfouz, Director, Research and Statistic, Ministry of Employment and Social Dialogue, France; Massimiliano Mascherini, Research Manager, Employment and Change Unit, Eurofund; Carmen Casero Gonzales, Director-General for Social Economy, Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain

Moderator: Miroslav Beblavý, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

Are social partners still relevant?
Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30

Trade union membership has been declining in Europe in recent decades. Its composition has also been transformed, as trade unions struggle to attract some types of workers, especially young people. Nevertheless, trade unions play an important role in shaping relationships between employers and employees, and in managing unemployment insurance schemes in many member states.

At the same time, globalisation and new technologies have strongly impacted Europe’s labour markets: jobs have disappeared, or changed beyond recognition, or become more precarious. Furthermore, new forms of labour, for example the on-demand economy, have brought new challenges. These dynamics also have an impact on employers (are sharing platforms employers?). These phenomena raise the question of whether workers and employers are still represented by traditional social partners: Are social partners still relevant, and what are the alternatives?

Discussion Leaders: Esther Lynch, Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC); Marco Torregrossa, Secretary General, European Forum of Independent Professionals (EFIP); Guglielmo Meardi, Director, Industrial Relations Research Unit, University of Warwick; Laurens Harteveld, Advisor on Labour conditions, AWVN

Moderator: Frank Vandenbroucke, Professor, University of Amsterdam

What to do about the failure to integrate refugees into the labour market?
Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30

Labour market integration of refugees is a challenge, as evidenced by their high levels of unemployment. Many citizens are concerned that newcomers will take their jobs, or live on welfare without contributing to the system, and such sentiments are being fuelled by populist parties. Others have underlined the opportunities that this brings, especially in regions facing serious demographic pressures. Recent initiatives have focused on diploma and skills recognition in an attempt to address the issue, but whether this will be enough to overcome the barriers that refugees encounter remains an open question.

Discussion Leaders: Herbert Brücker, Professor, IAB, Nürnberg; Jelena Drenjanin, Member of the Municipal Council, Huddinge, Sweden; Muhammadi Yonous, Director, Greek Forum of Refugees

Moderator: Mehtap Akgüç, Research Fellow, CEPS
Rights & Security

The EU asylum system: Time to move beyond the Dublin logic?
Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45
This session will discuss the EU Dublin asylum system and the effectiveness of the latest proposals to revisit it, in particular the permanent corrective relocation mechanism. It will also address the performance and challenges of the ‘hotspot’ model in Greece and Italy, and the new role of the proposed EU asylum agency.
Do these proposals establish a common EU asylum system?
Discussion Leaders: Anneliese Baldaccini, Executive Officer, Asylum and Migration, Amnesty International; François Bienfait, Liaison Officer to the EU Institutions, European Asylum Support Office (EASO); Henrik Nielsen, Head of Unit for Border Management and Return Policy, DG HOME, European Commission
Moderator: Sergio Carrera, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS and Head of the Justice and Home Affairs Programme

EU migration policies: Are there effective ways to address smuggling?
Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30
The fight against the smuggling of human beings has come to be seen as a central tenet of the EU’s strategy to address the so-called refugee crisis.
What are the most effective ways to address smuggling in the EU? Is the answer to increase border controls and policing, or should the way forward be to open more legal pathways to Europe?
Discussion Leaders: Hon. Ian Borg, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the EU 2017 Presidency, Government of Malta; Regina Catrambone, Founder, Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS); Brian Donald, Chief of staff, Europol
Moderator: Michele Levoy, Director, PICUM

Who owns privacy law? Enforcement in the tussle between the EU and US
Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30
This session will discuss the challenges for the EU in reconciling personal data protection and extra-territorial law enforcement. Particular attention will be paid to EU-US relations.
How can effective actions against crime and terrorism comply with the EU’s rule of law and legal privacy standards? To what extent does the EU-US Privacy Shield address the past previous short commings of Safe Harbor? Who owns privacy?
Discussion Leaders: Jennifer Daskal, Associate Professor, American University Washington College of Law; Nicole Ozer, Technology and Civil Liberties Policy Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of California; Michael Olmsted, Senior Counsel for the EU and International Criminal Matters, US Department of Justice; Florence Raynal, Deputy Director and Head of the European and International Affairs Department, Commission Nationale Informatique & Libertés (CNIL); Bruno Gencarelli, Head of the International data flows and protection unit, DG JUST, European Commission
Moderator: Valsamis Mitsilegas, Professor of European Criminal Law, Dean for Research and Head of the Department of Law, Queen Mary University London
Institutions

Political Commission or guardian of the treaties?
Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45
From redistributing portfolios among Commissioners to defining a political agenda, President Juncker’s strategy has been lauded by those who think the Commission should be ‘big on big things, small on small things’, cut red tape, reconnect with a jaded public and be a stronger institutional player in European politics. Others claim that Commissioners cannot be completely independent in carrying out their duties if they are expected to follow political guidelines.

How compatible is the concept of a ‘political’ Commission with its mandate as guardian of the treaties?

Discussion Leaders: Catherine Barnard, Professor, University of Cambridge; Jim Cloos, Deputy Director-General, Council of the European Union
Moderator: Tom Nuttall, Charlemagne Columnist, The Economist

Judicial activism: Is the EU losing its last communitarian anchor?
Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30
In 1981, Professor Erik Stein argued that “tucked away in the fairyland Duchy of Luxembourg and blessed, until recently, with the benign neglect of the powers that be and the mass media, the Court of Justice has fashioned a constitutional framework for a federal type structure in Europe”. Brexit has put the matter of national ‘sovereignty’ back on the agenda, and recent judgments in cases involving global corporations have provoked controversy about the Court’s choices in protecting fundamental rights from abuses against executive power. How politicised is the Court? Should a judicial body form and promote its own concept of European integration? The panel tries to explain the Court’s long-term approach to the European integration process and considers whether it has become too judicially active for the Union’s good.

Discussion Leaders: Giuliano Amato, Judge, Constitutional Court of Italy and Professor, European University Institute; Franklin Dehousse, Professor, University of Liège and Former Judge, EU Court of Justice;
Moderator: Deirdre Curtin, Professor, European University Institute

The squeeze on the political centre: What impact on the EU?
Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30
As the EU prepares to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, anti-immigrant, anti-establishment and anti-EU parties are expected to increase their political representation in a series of elections across the continent. Participatory rights, economic security and the protection of citizens from terrorism and uncontrolled migration are seemingly at the heart of public concern. What are the underlying political dynamics at national level? Is a more volatile political landscape across the EU the ‘new normal’? How can the added value of European cooperation be demonstrated in these fields?

Discussion Leaders: Heather Grabbe, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute; Ulrike Guérot, Director, European Democracy Lab, European School of Governance, Berlin; Jiří Přibáň, Professor of Philosophy and Sociology of Law, Cardiff University
Moderator: Marco Zatterin, Deputy Editor, La Stampa
Europe in the world

**EU-Turkey 2.0**

Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45

From the affirmation of Turkey’s candidate country status in 1999, to the peak of the refugee crisis in 2015, the EU has used both the symbolism and framework of its enlargement policy to try and instil change in the country. Reforms have followed, but the pre-accession process has not prevented Turkey from sliding towards ‘civil authoritarianism’. In his foreign policy, President Erdoğan has repositioned Turkey away from its post-World War II allies. What narrative should underpin EU-Turkey relations in the years to come?

**Discussion Leaders:** Nathalie Tocci, Deputy Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI); Sinan Ülgen, Chairman, Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy (EDAM); H.E. Cornelis van Rij, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Turkey

**Moderator:** Toby Vogel, Research Communications Officer, CEPS

**Saudi-Iranian relations: What role for the EU in stabilising the Middle East?**

Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30

The wider Middle East appears to be in free fall, such that grand visions about any new security architecture appear utterly unrealistic. The Islamic State and the proxy wars in Iraq and Syria have sucked in the US, Russia and European states, changing decade-old alliances. Ultimately, however, it is the struggle between Riyadh and Tehran that lies at the core of the region’s geopolitical confrontation. What can and should the EU do to avoid larger-scale conflict and advance the chances of stabilising the Middle East?

**Discussion Leaders:** Julien Barnes-Dacey, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR); Clarisse Pásztory, Head of Erbil Liaison Office, EU Delegation to Iraq, European External Action Service (EEAS); Richard Giragosian, Director, Regional Studies Centre, Yerevan

**Moderator:** Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head, EU Foreign Policy Unit, CEPS

**Easter promises: Are the association agreements living up to expectations?**

Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30

With their Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs), the Association Agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine from the basic of contractual relations between the EU and the countries belonging to the Eastern Partnership. What lessons can be learned from the implementation of these agreements? Are they living up to each side’s expectations? And which extra-territorial effects can be attributed to them?

**Discussion Leaders:** Eka Tkeshelashvili, President, Georgian Institute for Strategic Studies (GISS); Luc Devigne, Director Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia and OSCE, European External Action Service (EEAS); Oleksandr Sushko, Research Director, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Kyiv

**Moderator:** Hrant Kostanyan, Researcher, CEPS
**Brexit**

**Brexit and the City**

*Thursday, 23 February 2017 14h30 – 15h45*

Over the last quarter century, London has grown to become the wholesale financial centre for much of the entire EU. The UK handles 75% of euro-denominated derivatives transactions, and with assets under management worth £5.5 trillion, it is the world’s second-largest asset management centre. But the growth of the UK’s financial sector, which accounts for 8% of the country’s GDP, owes much to the single European market. Accordingly, the vote in the June referendum is likely to deal a heavy blow to the industry, especially with the British government seemingly heading for a ‘hard Brexit’, which would cause London-based firms to lose their passporting rights.

How likely is it that the UK can extract a bespoke deal, with special arrangements for financial institutions? Would the equivalence assessment provide sufficient access to the Single Market if the UK became a third country? What impact would this have on the EU’s financial markets and the plans to set up a Capital Markets Union?

**Discussion Leaders:** Jeremy Browne, Special Representative of the City of London to the EU; Joe V. Bannister, Chairman, Malta Financial Services Authority; Laura Ahto, CEO, Bank of New York Mellon’s European Bank

**Moderator:** Nick Collier, Global Head of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Thomson Reuters

**Leaving the EU without leaving the single market?**

*Thursday, 23 February 2017 16h15 – 17h30*

One of the four pillars of the EU Single Market, namely the Freedom of Movement of people, featured prominently in the British referendum on EU membership, and allegedly was one of the main factors that determined the victory of the Leave camp. In her Conservative party conference speech, Prime Minister Theresa May made it clear that while her government will seek maximum freedom for British companies to trade and operate in the single market, it will not accept freedom of movement nor the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Can a special arrangement be made to allow the UK to have access to the Single Market without fully complying with all of its tenets? Could a parliamentary vote on triggering Art. 50 negotiations change the negotiating stance of the British government? And in case of a Hard Brexit, is there any way to avoid the cliff edge?

**Discussion Leaders:** The Rt Hon. Liz Kendall, MP, member of the Exiting the EU Committee, House of Commons; Laurence W. Gormley, Visiting Professor at European Studies Department, College of Europe

**Moderator:** Jacques Pelkmans, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS; Marco Incerti, Head of Communications, CEPS

**More defence in a UK-less EU?**

*Friday, 24 February 2017 09h15 – 10h30*

The United Kingdom is the strongest European military power within NATO and, together with France, played a leading political role in setting up the EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy. The vote in favour of Brexit was therefore always going to have momentous consequences for the CSDP. Less than three months after the referendum, France and Germany seized the opportunity to leap forward, laying out plans for increased security cooperation, including a joint and permanent EU command headquarters for its civilian and military missions. While scaling back the latter idea, the Foreign Affairs Council in November adopted far-reaching decisions to boost the EU’s strategic autonomy.

Will Brexit have an impact on actual CSDP operations, or will it be limited to its politics and governance? Will the UK be able to contribute to CSDP operations and access the defence market as a third party? How will the EU-UK-NATO dynamics unfold? Will the EU member states provide the necessary resources to implement the ambitious plans agreed by the FAC?

**Discussion Leaders:** Marta Dassù, Chairwoman, ASPEN Institute Italia; Daniel Keohane, Senior Researcher, Centre for Security Studies, Zurich

**Moderator:** Giovanni Faleg, Associate Research Fellow, CEPS

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Special Sessions
Thursday, 23 February 17h45 – 19h00

Presentation of the CEPS Task Force report on EU Reform

The European Union is caught up in an existential crisis. With the spectre of Brexit looming on the horizon, the EU27 have embarked on the ‘Bratislava Process’ to provide the European Union with a vision of the future, to be unveiled on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties. In parallel, a CEPS Task Force of eminent persons has engaged in its own reflection process to offer concrete recommendations to refit the EU for purpose – within the current Treaty framework where possible, and outside that framework if necessary. The issues addressed concern participatory rights and obligations; economic policy and EMU governance; and freedom, security and justice. The seminal ideas from the discussions at the Task Force meetings are being captured in a report, which will be launched during this session.

Speakers: Joaquín Almunia, Chairman of the CEPS Board of Directors and Member of the CEPS Task Force on EU Reform; Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head, EU Foreign Policy Unit, CEPS; Sophia Russack, Researcher, co-rapporteur of the Task Force, CEPS; Rosen Plevneliev, former President of Bulgaria

The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalisation

Richard Baldwin’s new book, The Great Convergence, aims to change the way you understand globalisation and its impact of societies. In a nutshell, the book’s goal is to get you to think about knowledge-led globalisation rather than only about trade-led globalisation.

It argues that revolutionary advances in information technology and computing transformed globalisation around 1990 in ways that few governments and companies have yet to fully understand. Better communication made it feasible for rich-nation firms to move manufacturing stages to developing nations. Offshoring is old hat, but the book invites you to focus less on the trade, investment and offshored jobs, and more on the offshoring of the ideas, intellectual property and knowledge that went with the jobs. After all, to keep the international production network in synch, firms had to send their marketing, managerial and technical knowhow along with the jobs.

These massive knowledge flows fundamental changed the way globalisation affects nations. In rich nations, the new flows broke the monopoly that rich-nation workers had on the use of advanced know-how, ideas and industrial/manufacturing intellectual property – firms could now combine high-tech with low-wage workers in developing nations.

Speakers: Richard Baldwin, Professor, the Graduate Institute, Geneva
Discussant: Luc Soete, Professor of International Economics, Maastricht University
Special Sessions

Thursday, 23 February 17h45 – 19h00

**How United is the United States?**
Issues, polarisation and post-election expectations in American society

Jocelyn Kiley, associate director of US-political research at the Washington, DC-based Pew Research Center will be in Europe in February to conduct briefings on the Center’s post-US-election research. The Center’s data includes information on a wide range of political, economic and social issues with significant domestic and international impact, such as why Americans voted as they did; the degree of US political polarization; societal divisions by education level, generation and race; expectations of and priorities for the Trump administration; and confidence in the new president.

**Speakers:** Jocelyn Kiley, Associate Director of US-Political Research, Pew Research Center

**The Euro and the Battle of Ideas**

Why is Europe’s great monetary endeavour, the Euro, in trouble? A string of economic difficulties in Greece, Ireland, Spain, Italy, and other Eurozone nations has left observers wondering whether the currency union can survive.

Markus Brunnermeier from Princeton University will present his new book, The Euro and the Battle for Ideas, in which he argues that the core problem with the Euro lies in the philosophical differences between the founding countries of the Eurozone, particularly Germany and France.

**Speakers:** Markus Brunnermeier, Professor, Princeton University
Breakfast Sessions

Friday, 24 February 08h00 – 09h00

Advancing Regional Energy Collaboration: Will Central & South-Eastern Europe lead the way?

Central and South-East Europe Gas Connectivity (CESEC) has broadened the scope of regional cooperation in this part of Europe. This positive development has created new impetus in the region to move beyond natural gas networks to market coupling and electricity trading, renewables integration, energy efficiency policies, as well as the development of digital solutions. The breakfast discussion will focus on the upcoming EU priorities, practical ways to advance regional cooperation and how to involve non-governmental stakeholders in the process.

The event will welcome short interventions from regional stakeholders and representatives of the European Commission and European Parliament.

Speakers: Ivo Prokopiev, Chairman, Alfa Finance Holding; Adina CRISAN, Policy Coordinator, DG ENERGY, European Commission
Moderator: Julian Popov, Fellow, European Climate Foundation and former Minister for Environment, Bulgaria

Je t’aime! Moi non plus? The European Union, its citizens and the struggle for support

How can a union of 28 states with a population of over half a billion be reformed to weather future economic crises and political challenges? Finding an answer to this question is extremely difficult because we lack insight into the preferences for reform amongst national elites and local populations. Although EU support has interested scholars for over three decades now, we virtually know nothing about public support for EU reform. Surely, the feasibility and sustainability of EU reform crucially hinges on the support amongst national populations. eupinions examines public support for EU and its reform by developing a theoretical model and employing cutting-edge data collection techniques. Our findings aim to support policymakers to craft EU reform proposals that can secure widespread public support.

Speakers: Catherine de Vries, Professor of Politics, University of Essex; Isabell Hoffmann, Head of eupinions, europeanwide surveys by Bertelsmann Stiftung (Both co-author the regular eupinion reports on public support and populist vote in the EU)

Solidarity and the ‘Refugee Crisis’. Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe

The enlargement of the EU in 2004 and 2007 with Central and Eastern European Countries (CCECs) changed the direction of European integration. Whereas initially focused on economic development and stability, the ‘refugee crisis’ of 2015 brought to the forefront an issue that exposed clear fault lines in the EU. The CCECs governments have been vocal regarding the adequacy of EU responses in distributing responsibility over asylum seekers and in particular, the question of relocations. From the policy and operational responses to the migration flows via the Balkan Route, to the medium and long term proposals for EU’s Common European Asylum System, the key question has been what kind of European solidarity is needed in this field. Key ‘opinion leaders’ will be invited to this Breakfast meeting to discuss perspectives from CCECs on the required solutions for current and future EU policy dilemmas.

Speakers: Karolina Babická, Legal Advisor, International Commission of Jurists; Maciej Duszczczyk, Associate Professor, University of Warsaw; Máriá Pardávi, Co-Chair, Hungarian Helsinki Committee; Vladimir Simonak, Head of Unit on Asylum, Immigration, Integration, Readmission and Free Movement, Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU

Special session in cooperation with OSIFE, for information please contact leonhard.denhertog@ceps.eu
Europe’s Digital Frontrunners: Powering the Continent’s Surprising Internet Success Story?

A common perception exists that Europe is a digital also-ran, running far behind fast-moving Silicon Valley and Asia. Wrong. New research demonstrates that Europe is doing far better than first imagined, with at least large parts of the continent sprinting fast into a digital future. Atomico’s “State of European Tech” study shows how the continent’s startups are thriving, with Europe taking the lead in Artificial Intelligence, new tech hubs emerging in unexpected cities such as Madrid and Copenhagen, and traditional industries awakening, with two-third’s of the continent’s largest companies making a direct investment in a tech company. Boston Consulting Group’s Digital Frontrunners points out how the small export-oriented European Union members are generating jobs and growth by embracing the Internet.

The breakfast will examine whether European policymakers and their much vaunted Digital Single Market are supporting these digital frontrunners - or hindering them. Some 19 small European Union governments, ranging from Denmark to Ireland and Latvia have formed a pro-Internet “like-minded” group.

Discussion Leaders: James Waterworth, Vice President, CCIA; Filiep Deforche, Senior Partner and Managing Director, Boston Consulting Group; Tom Wehmeier, Principal and Head of Research, Atomico; Hosuk Lee Makiyama, Director of Open Political Economy, Network; Christine Muller Andreassen, Advisor, Permanent Representation of Denmark to the EU

Moderator: William Echikson, Head of Digital Forum, CEPS
Prime Talks

Friday, 24 February 11h00 – 12h30

**In troubled Waters: Migration Challenges in the Mediterranean**

Violent conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have resulted in the entry of substantial numbers of asylum seekers to the EU via the Aegean Sea. In response, the EU has reinforced the Frontex agency by creating the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and proposed a package of additional measures aimed at recasting the Common European Asylum System, most importantly the EU Dublin system and the European Asylum Support Office. We question, however, the extent to which these proposals effectively address the key deficiencies in EU border and asylum policies that have been brought to light during the crisis?

This prime talk invites you to take a step back and reconsider ways to tackle migration challenges facing the EU and its cooperation with countries in the Middle East and in Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa: What should be the main EU policy responses? What can we expect from development cooperation and investment in the countries of origin and transit?

**Speakers:** Enrico Letta, President, Jacques Delors Institute, former Prime Minister of Italy; Mikołaj Dowgielewicz, Representative to the EU Institutions, European Investment Bank; Elspeth Guild, Senior Research Fellows at Justice and Home Affair Section, CEPS; Rear-admiral Mário Marques, Chairman, European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF); Udo Zolleis, Senior Official, Ministry of the Interior, the Free State of Bavaria

**Moderator:** (tbc)

**Between China and the EU: Making the Silk Road run smoothly**

With the ‘Belt and Road Initiative’, China builds on the idea of the ancient silk road, connecting China and Europe and opening up a new economic space for trade and investment in and with Central Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. While China has been eagerly promoting the ‘Belt and Road Initiative’, in particular through investment in and financing for infrastructure, Europe’s response has been hesitant to date. Can the Belt and Road Initiative serve to improve connectivity between Europe and Asia? How to ensure that it contributes to sustainable development in Central Asia and other countries? How can European companies benefit from it? Should Europe take a more active policy stance?

**Speakers:** Jens Meier, Chairman of the Management Board, Hamburg Port Authority; Djoomart Otorbaev, Former Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic; Mei Xinyu, Researcher, Ministry of Commerce, China (tbc)

**Moderator:** Astrid Skala-Kuhmann, Director for Global Partnerships, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

**EU budget reforms for post 2020 - Perfect storm or flop?**

The EU budget is confronting challenges on an unprecedented scale. This is not a surprise, because as the number of common challenges increases for the EU as a whole, its financial arm will be called upon to act. The budget, however, was not designed to address effectively and efficiently such challenges, but rather designed as an internal financial transfer system to compensate perceived losers from European integration. While this was an historical necessity, in today’s more integrated EU facing new and difficult challenges, the budget needs to adapt to become an effective financial and fiscal instrument to face common pressing needs. This may require ground breaking reform on the expenditures and resources side in order to allow citizens to have more confidence in the European project. The challenge lies in achieving this reform given the governance structures of the EU budget.

**Speakers:** Nadia Calviño, Director General, DG BUDGET European Commission; Mario Monti, Member of the Italian Senate and Chair of the High Level Group on Own Resources, European Commission

**Moderator:** Jorge Núñez Ferrer, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS
Prime Talks

Friday, 24 February 11h00 – 12h30

Who will continue to carry the torch? Changing Global Climate Change Leaders in the Trump Era

The Paris Agreement on climate would not have been possible without the joint leadership of the US and China. With the election of Donald Trump as President, the character of US leadership and the country's stance on various policy questions seem to be changing dramatically. Who will fill the leadership gap on tackling climate change? China seems an obvious candidate but what form and substance would its leadership take? What role can India play? And will the European Union be able to take advantage of the situation or is its climate ambition taken for granted? Together with key experts from these different regions we will debate the future of global climate change leadership.

Speakers: Teresa Ribera, Director, IDDRI and Former Secretary of State for Climate & Environment, Spain; Myron Ebell, Director, Center for Energy and Environment Competitive Enterprise Institute and Former Head, Transition Team, Environmental Protection Agency US; Surya Sethi, Former Principal Adviser Power and Energy and Core Climate Negotiator, Government of India

Moderator: Christian Egenhofer, Senior Fellow, Head of the Energy and Climate programme, Director of Energy Climate House, CEPS

Ex Machina: Towards an Ethics of Algorithms

Artificial intelligence and algorithms have already come to dominate a part of our lives, and analysts fear that they will dominate human beings in the not-too-distant future. Governments, large companies, academics and even the European Parliament have launched initiatives to ensure that artificial intelligence evolves in a human-friendly way, but this is easier said than done.

What is the path towards sustainable innovation in this pervasive field of technology?

What are the challenges and opportunities that this transition presents?

This Prime Talk will be enlivened by some of the most prominent academics in the field, as well as businesses involved in the quest for a safe, ethical artificial intelligence.

Speakers: Tim Hwang, Public Policy Counsel, Google; Vince Conitzer, Professor, Duke University; Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Professor in Practical Ethics in the Department of Philosophy and the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University; Andrea Servida, Head of Unit “eGovernment and Trust”, European Commission; Kay Firth-Butterfield, Vice Chair of the Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in the Design of Autonomous Systems, IEEE Industry Connections; Toby Walsh, Guest Professor, TU Berlin and Professor, AI, UNSW Australia

Moderator: Andrea Renda, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS
CEPS Academy

Young Thinkers for Europe

To encourage young thinkers to contribute ideas for “Reconstructing Europe”, we have set up additional sessions which complement the main programme and are reserved exclusively for participants under the age of 40.

This initiative is being launched under the auspices of the CEPS Academy, which has organised a variety of educational activities led by CEPS since 2015, with the aim of promoting critical thinking and enabling in-depth learning of real-life EU policy issues.

We believe that these aims can only be achieved through a truly European policy perspective in a European setting. The CEPS Ideas Lab offers precisely such a setting.

This year, 30 seats among the younger participants, will be reserved for promising officials from ministries of national governments of the EU-28 member states plus the Norway, Switzerland, Iceland or Liechtenstein. The event will offer a platform to bring national views into the EU debate and an opportunity for networking with peers in different countries.

All sessions of the Ideas Lab are open to the selected Young Thinkers. In addition, three special sessions are on offer: an opening lunch on the first day of the CEPS Ideas Lab and a breakfast as well as a closing lecture on the second day. Each of these three sessions will consider EU challenges from different levels and angles.

Thursday, 23 February

11:30 – 12:00
Registration and welcome

12:00 – 13:00
Lunch Debate: Ideas and visions of the future of Europe
Speakers: Giuliano Amato, Judge, Constitutional Court of Italy and Professor, European University Institute; Markus Brunnermeier, Professor, Princeton University; H.E. Pieter de Grooijer, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the EU

13:10 – 17:40
Opening of the CEPS Ideas Lab and participation in the main sessions

Friday, 24 February

08:00 – 09:00
Breakfast: Young Thinkers pitch new ideas for Europe
Speakers: Ilze Juhansone, Deputy Secretary-General, European Commission

09:00 – 13:30
Participation in the main sessions of the Ideas Lab

13:30 – 14:30
Lunch

14:30 – 16:00
Closing Lecture: European (dis?)integration in an age of Populism
Speakers: Timothy Garton Ash, Professor of European Studies, Oxford University
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