



# TIME FOR PROGRESS!

Brussels, 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Annual Conference organised by

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN  
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES  
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE  
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



In partnership with



Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament

With the support of :



In cooperation with :



(EN, FR translation provided)

Venue:

**Steigenberger Wiltcher's**, 71 Av. Louise, Place Stéphanie, 1050 - Brussels

Overall conference moderation by: **Dr László Andor**, FEPS Secretary General

Conference Report: coordinated and prepared by FEPS Young Academics Network



With the financial support of the European Parliament



## CONNECT WITH FEPS

The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) is the only progressive think tank at the European level that fosters open, provocative and fresh debates to stimulate new thinking in Europe and in the social democratic movement.

More information at [www.fepeurope.eu](http://www.fepeurope.eu)

## CALL TO EUROPE VIII – TIME FOR PROGRESS!

FEPS in partnership with the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament invite you to the 8<sup>th</sup> Call to Europe conference, the signature conference of FEPS and a reference point for the progressive family in Europe. The conference takes place right after the European elections, which is the perfect time to take stock of the election results, and to stimulate a debate on a progressive policy agenda for the coming years.

And this is needed. Many people wonder whether we can address big worldwide challenges, such as the digital revolution and global warming. They feel that the future is beyond their, or anyone's control. Many citizens look at persistent inequalities, not least on gender, and ask themselves why our political system cannot overcome them.

The inability of European democracy to deliver meaningful change on these topics is fuelling scepticism about our politics and politicians. Therefore, it is time for progress. It's time to channel citizens' concerns about digital rights, their outrage about the lack of action on climate change, and disappointment with persistent gender inequality into a positive agenda.

That is why this Call to Europe conference focuses on four strategic priorities that we believe will be important for social democrats to influence the next European Commission mandate and consequently, to pursue

a progressive agenda that can improve the life of its citizens and re-build trust in the European Union as a political project. We need to:

- Deepen our democracies and promote a new European citizenship. Citizens should be able to genuinely influence the circumstances in which they live, together.
- Take action to achieve gender equality and empower women. A century after women first gained the right to vote, they are still under-represented in politics and public life.
- Shape our digital future. Instead of accepting technologies and visions pushed by others, we can take conscious decisions to create a fair digital future, in which citizens are autonomous, prosperous and happy.
- Defend Climate Justice. The fight against global warming can only be won if the transition is just and addresses social, economic and environmental inequalities, together.

In sum, this year's Call to Europe conference starts from the premise that our digital future is not just determined by technology, that climate change is not just about physics, and that your chances in life should not be conditioned by your gender. These are political issues, for which we need to find progressive policies.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO CALL TO EUROPE

Since its first edition in 2011, **Call to Europe** has become **the signature conference of FEPS** and a reference point for the progressive family in Europe. This is due to its capacity of bringing together a unique multi-stakeholder community of progressive politicians, civil society and media to discuss issues of common concern and develop concrete and positive responses to contemporary European challenges in the most interactive and inclusive way.

**The name Call to Europe stems from FEPS core mission of bridging the gap.** It highlights the need for a dialogue between European citizens and the institutions that represent us all. The aim of this conversation is to ultimately bring us all closer together in defining and facing our shared challenges, as also in joining forces in shaping common paths for the future. Under this notion FEPS has always strived to offer a space that would help forging connections, interact with diverse audiences to forge innovative ideas and above all live by an ideal of an organisation helping to strengthen civic engagement and participation in democratic life.

Consequently, FEPS Call is to have a more **Positive, Participatory** and **Progressive** Europe.

In view of bringing about this vision of Europe, **throughout 2018 FEPS Call to Europe conference travelled across a number of European cities and capitals.** With the invaluable support of FEPS member foundations and partners we collected inspiring ideas across the EU member states on how to strengthen European democracy and empower the progressive movement ahead of and *beyond* the 2019 European elections.

Since the launch of Call to Europe:

- More than **23 debates** took place across the continent
- More than **1 000 participants** joined the discussions
- More than **50 opinion pieces** have been written
- More than **25 000 web-hits** were registered on the project website

**Be part of Call to Europe VIII conference: your voice, support and engagement will shape the future of Europe's democracy and governance!**



**Call to  
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# CALL TO EUROPE VIII

**DAY 1 : Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

STEIGENBERGER WILTCHER'S, 71 Av. Louise, Place Stéphanie, 1050 Brussels

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17:00 - 17:30

**Registration**

17:30 - 17:40

**WELCOME ADDRESS (Ballroom B)**

Dr Ernst STETTER, outgoing FEPS Secretary General, *Germany*

17:40 – 17:55

**KEYNOTE**

MARIA JOÃO RODRIGUES, FEPS President, *Portugal*

MAJ JENSEN, Secretary General, Young European Socialists, *Denmark*

17:55 – 19:30

**WHAT NEXT AFTER EU ELECTIONS?**

The EU elections of 2019 have been proclaimed to be historical. First, because they are marking 40 years jubilee of the direct vote and secondly because they are taking place three decades after the transformations on the east, which allowed to claim democracy be prevailing model. But with that being said, there have been also a changed dynamic that accompanied the campaign: the European Parliament was predicted to emerge as the most fragmented in the history, with the largest representation of the Members that would not be affiliated to any of the traditional groups and with the highest in the history turnover between old and new representatives. With the results now known, there is a vital question what the result and the composition of the new EP means for the political system, especially in terms of the balance of powers, as also how the mandate formulated by the votes casted by the citizens should translate into a new agenda in order to make Europe deliver in these next 5 years.

What do the results after the EU Election Day forecast for the Future of Europe?

What sort of message does European Popular sentiment transmit to political parties and institutions of representation?

How can progressives shape the course of policies when the battle of ideas will be about the question of Europe instead of what sort of Europe there can be in the future?

**Moderated by:**

Dr Ania SKRZYPEK, FEPS Senior Research Fellow, *Poland*

André KROUWEL, Member of FEPS Next Left Group, Professor of Comparative Politics and Communication, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Director of Kieskompas, *The Netherlands*

Evin INCIR, MEP, S&D Group, *Sweden*

Andy HARROP, Secretary General of the Fabian Society, *UK*

Brando BENIFEI, MEP, S&D Group, *Italy*



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**#CallToEurope**

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Jávi LOPEZ, MEP, S&D Group, *Spain* (tbc)

Dr Bartosz RYDLIŃSKI, Chairman of Centrum Im. Ignacego Daszyńskiego, *Poland*

19:30 – 19:45

#### CLOSING REMAKRS

Javier MORENO SANCHEZ, S&D Group Secretary General, *Spain*

19:45 – 21:30

#### CALL TO EUROPE RECEPTION

In the honour of Dr Ernst STETTER, outgoing FEPS Secretary General.  
Thank you for 11 years of Progressive Thinking!

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## CALL TO EUROPE VIII

**DAY 2 : Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

STEIGENBERGER WILTCHER'S, 71 Av. Louise, Place Stéphanie, 1050 Brussels

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08:30 – 08:45

#### WELCOME COFFEE & REGISTRATION

08:45 – 10:00

#### TIME FOR A FEMINIST EUROPE! (*Ballroom C*)

Exactly one century after women won the right to vote or were first elected to parliament in some EU countries, the data show that women continue to be under-represented in politics and public life, in the European Parliament, national parliaments, governments and local assemblies.

The arguments for gender balance in politics are numerous, and benefit not only women and female politicians, but also parties themselves as also the rest of society. After all, women form half the population and need to be better represented in power structures. However, there is now solid evidence both of obstacles and of the strategies that are effective when it comes to increasing women's participation and representation. And yet, a proper post-2015 strategy on equality between women and men was not adopted.

Just a few days after crucial elections for the EU and its citizens, this breakfast meeting on women in power will endeavour to provide answers and solutions to the issues raised above in the hope of contributing to a feminist Europe.

How can political parties and the media be both important barriers and enablers?

Has the EU reached its commitment of achieving gender balance in political representation and participation as a matter of justice, equality and democracy?

How would a binding EU Gender Equality Strategy guarantee a Europe where all women are free and equal and where women are empowered through a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth?

What are the concrete actions taken by the EU institutions, national governments, political parties, civil society and the media?

**08:45 – 08:50**      **OPENING OF THE BREAKFAST MEETING**  
László ANDOR, FEPS Secretary General, *Hungary*

**08:50 – 09:00**      **KEYNOTE**  
Zita GURMAI, President PES Women and FEPS Vice President, *Hungary*

**09:00 – 10:00**      **DISCUSSION, FOLLOWED BY Q&A:**

*Moderated by:*

Alazne IRIGOIEN, Editor in Chief, Young Feminist Europe, *Spain*

Gabriele BISCHOFF, MEP, S&D Group, *Germany*

Agnes HUBERT, President of Gender Five Plus and FEPS Scientific Council Member, *France*

Manuela BORA, European Committee of the Regions, Member of the Marche Regional Council and Regional Minister, *Italy*

Gwendoline LEFEBVRE, President, European Women's Lobby, *France*

Maj JENSEN, Secretary General, Young European Socialists, *Denmark*

Mafalda DÂMASO, FEPS YAN, *Portugal*

**10:00**                      **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE (Ballroom A and B)**

*Moderated by:*

László ANDOR, FEPS Secretary General, *Hungary*

**10:00 –10:20**              **KEYNOTE**  
Manuel CASTELLS, Professor of Sociology at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and Wallis Annenberg Chair Professor of Communication Technology and Society, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Southern California, *Spain*

**10:20 – 10:45**              **IN CONVERSATION WITH, FOLLOWED BY Q&A**  
Maria JOÃO RODRIGUES, FEPS President, *Portugal*

**10:45 – 12:30**              **- SESSION 1 - TIME FOR A FAIR DIGITAL FUTURE (Call to Europe format)**

We should stop treating the development, deployment and use of digital technology as something that is beyond our control. The systematic surveillance, the massive monopolies and increasing inequality are by no means an inevitable feature of the online environment. Instead of accepting this, and trying to adapt to it, we should actively shape the digital transition and change its direction. To do so, we need to take a cold hard look at the private interests that drive much of today's technological development. How can we put a stop to the business model that treats humans as tools, a mere source of data to be extracted? How can we support alternatives, and ensure that essential public values and interests buttress the online environment? How can we expand the digital commons and steer demand towards more privacy-friendly services? Digital technology has tremendous potential to increase human flourishing, and to support our citizens and democracies, but we need to take conscious decisions to bring about that future. This Call to Europe session aims to find elements for a European approach to the digital transition, in an interactive discussion between politicians, academics and civil society.

Right now, the online world is a private world, where public interests and individual rights are often neglected. At the same time, we don't want a state-owned online environment.

What could be the EU model for a citizens-owned digital transition that fosters social justice and equality? How do we bring it about?

*Moderated by:*

Justin NOGAREDE, FEPS Digital Policy Advisor, *The Netherlands*

### POLICY-MAKERS

Birgit SIPPEL, MEP S&D Group, *Germany*  
Paul NEMITZ, Principal Advisor DG Justice EC,  
Member of FEPS Scientific Council, *Germany*  
Paul TANG, MEP S&D Group, *The Netherlands*

### ACADEMICS

José VAN DIJCK, Prof. of Media and Digital  
Society, Utrecht University, *The Netherlands*  
Felix STALDER, Prof. for Digital Culture and  
Network theories, Zurich University of Arts,  
*Switzerland*  
Gustavo CARDOSO, Full Prof. of Communication  
Sciences, ISCTE University, *Portugal*  
Seamus MONTGOMERY, FEPS YAN, *USA*

### CIVIL SOCIETY

Marleen STIKKER, Founder of Waag,  
*The Netherlands*  
Paul KELLER, Expert Observer of Europeana  
Foundation Board, Chair of rightsstatements.org,  
*The Netherlands*  
Peter BIHR, Chair of ThingsCon e.V, *Germany*

- 12:30 – 12:45 **A EUROPEAN APPROACH TO DIGITAL TECH?**  
Jernej PIKALO, Minister for Education, Science and Sports, Republic of  
Slovenia, Professor of Political Science, *Slovenia*
- 12:45 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 14:00 – 14:05 **MOVE 4 CLIMATE JUSTICE! (Ballroom A and B)**  
Energiser activity with the FEPS Team!
- FEPS TEAM & FAMILY PICTURE**
- 14:05 – 14:15 **SCENE SETTER**  
Dr Klemetti NÄKKÄLÄJÄRVI, Post Doc Researcher, University of Oulu, *Finland*
- 14:15 – 14:30 **KEYNOTE – VIDEO MESSAGE**  
Teresa RIBERA, Minister for Ecological Transition in Spain, Chair of FEPS  
United for Climate Justice Steering Committee, *Spain*

14:30 – 16:40

**– SESSION 2 – TIME FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE** (*Call to Europe format*)

Climate change is the defining issue of our time and now is the defining moment to do something about it. There is overwhelming consensus among scientists and concern about the environmental and human consequences of global warming. This issue is gaining more understanding, thus more prominence in worldwide policy debates; the student strikes are a fantastic example of this. Progressive values are based on defending social justice, fighting inequalities and caring for our common well-being. Environmental injustice stems from social and economic injustices within our societies. It is the most fragile and vulnerable, the most marginalised and disadvantaged who are affected most by climate change and also the least able to deal with its consequences. Moreover, climate change is further exacerbating already existing inequalities; therefore climate justice is a political and ethical issue. This Call to Europe session will look at our social and economic values with regards to the environment and see how we can ensure urgent action and ambitions are taken forward quickly. In order to be fully representative this session will have an extra table of speakers, which will represent the Earth's natural ecosystems.

The UN will hold an extraordinary climate summit on 23<sup>rd</sup> September in the frame of its General Assembly in New York. What do you think the reasons are for this?

What are the expected outcomes?

What opportunity can this provide those calling for more ambitious climate action?

Developed countries are responsible for emissions historically. They are also the ones with most capability to carry out adaptation. How can we reduce worldwide emissions and achieve sustainable development in a fair manner and in a way that halts the widening of inequalities?

What role can progressives play in enhancing climate action?

What role can the EU play in enhancing climate action?





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*Moderated by:*

Charlotte BILLINGHAM, FEPS Senior Policy Advisor, UK

## NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

Gaëlle HAUT, EU Affairs project manager,  
Surfrider Foundation, *Belgium*  
Hannah MOWAT, Campaign coordinator,  
FERN NGO, *Switzerland*  
Luc BAS, IUCN Director, European Regional  
Office, *Belgium*  
Patrick TEN BRINK, EEB, Policy Director,  
*Germany*

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Mithika MWENDA, Executive Director,  
PACJA, *Kenya*  
Kirsten MEIJER, Office Director, WECF  
International, *The Netherlands*  
Anne FRIEL, Lawyer, Client Earth, *UK*  
Kim LÊ QUANG, Rise for Climate representative,  
*Belgium*  
Wendel TRIO, Director, CAN Europe, *Belgium*  
Benjamin DENIS, ETUC Advisor Climate change  
and energy policy, *Belgium*

## ACADEMICS

Stephen MINAS, Senior Research Fellow,  
Transnational Law Institute, King's College  
London, *Australia*  
Suvi JUNTUNEN, Researcher on SAAMI  
Populations and Climate Change, University of  
Oulu, *Finland*  
Silvia FONTANA, FEPS YAN, *Italy*

## POLITICIANS

Kathleen Van BREMPT, MEP S&D Group,  
*Belgium*  
Mattia ZUNINO, YES Vice-President, *Italy*  
Beata MOSKAL-SŁANIEWSKA, President of  
Świdnica, *Poland*  
Jytte GUTELAND, MEP, S&D Group, *Sweden* (tbc)  
Raphael GLÜCKSMANN, MEP, S&D Group,  
*France* (tbc)

16:40 – 16:55

### KEYNOTE

Pascal SMET, Minister of the Government, Mobility and Public Transport in The  
Brussels Capital Region, *Belgium* (tbc)

16:55 – 17:00

### VIDEO MESSAGE - CLIMATE JUSTICE PHOTO EXHIBITION

Ashley COOPER, Award Winning Photographer, Global Warming Images, *UK*

17:00 – 17:15

### PECHA KUCHA – SUMMARIES OF THE DISCUSSIONS

*Moderated by:*

Maria FREITAS, FEPS Senior Policy Advisor, *Portugal*

Mojca KLEVA KEKUŠ, President of Društvo Progressiva Foundation,  
*Slovenia*

Kaisa PENNY, Director of Kalevi Sorsa Sätto Foundation, *Finland*

Ivana BARTOLETTI, Chair of Fabians, *UK*

Ervins LABANOVSKIS, Head of the Board, Freedom and Solidarity  
Foundation, *Latvia*

Beatriz CORREDOR, President of Pablo Iglesias Foundation, *Spain*

17:15 – 17:25

### CLOSING ADDRESS

Dr László ANDOR, FEPS Secretary General, *Hungary*

17:25 – 21:00

### TIME FOR PARTY

Dianka Songo & Co



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