



**14:00 - 18:00 on 19 October 2016**  
**Yehudi Menuhin, European Parliament**

## **Introduction**

*Eastern Europe was “abducted” by totalitarians for the most part of the last century. The Soviets imposed communist regimes but the ideas of liberty and freedom were alive. The history of Eastern Europe during the Cold War has been punctuated by protests and resistance to these regimes - from the 1953 uprising in East Germany to the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and 1968 Prague Spring to Solidarność and independence movements of the Baltic states in the 1980s.*

*Fifty years after the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 we will commemorate the freedom fighters and reflect on the relevance of their cause for Europe today.*

*What inspired the resistance and drove the revolutions? What were the values and the aspirations? What were the similarities and the differences between them? How did they lead to the fall of the Communism and the reunification of Europe?*

*What remains today in terms of values of these extraordinary movements who changed the world then and should continue to inspire us nowadays?*

*Looking at the turbulence in and around Europe today, is there a real danger that Europe risks being abducted again? Abduction by populism, irredentism, xenophobia, authoritarianism and anti-Westernism?*

*How do we best defend Europe’s values, its societal model and its way of life?*

Note: "Bathing of the Red Horse" was painted by the Russian artist Kuzma Petrov Vodkin on the eve of the First World War (1912). It became a premonition of the bloody 20th century with its wars, revolutions and totalitarian regimes that torn apart and divided Europe.



## Programme

- 13:00 **Registration opens, panellists arrive to the European Parliament**
- 14:00 **Opening**  
**Manfred Weber**, Chair of the EPP Group  
**Mikuláš Dzurinda**, President of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- 14:15 **Keynote**  
**Jeffrey Gedmin**, Senior Fellow at the Georgetown University and Institute for Strategic Dialogue, former President of Radio Free Europe
- 14:45 **Panel discussion “THEN”: *Abducted Eastern Europe – Resistance, Revolutions, Renewal***
- Moderator: Nico Lange**, Deputy Head of Department Politics and Consulting at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- Stéphane Courtois**, Director of Research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research  
**Anthony Kemp-Welch**, Professor of History, University of East Anglia  
**Zsuzsanna Miko**, Director of National Archive of Hungary
- Q&A**
- 16:00 Coffee break and change of panels
- 16:15 **Panel discussion “NOW”: *Is Europe being abducted today?***
- Moderator: Roland Freudenstein**, Policy Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- Alexandr Vondra**, Director of the Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations  
**Christoph von Marschall**, Journalist and editor of the German weekly *Der Tagesspiegel*  
**Taja Vovk Van Gaal**, Director of House of European History
- Q&A**
- 17:30 **Closing remarks**  
**Sandra Kalniete**, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group

