

Martens Centre — Activity Report

— 2018

Wilfried
Martens Centre
for European Studies



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for European Studies

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— Martens Centre Activity Report 2018

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Publication Design:
www.oblique.agency

Brussels, February 2019

The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
is the political foundation and think tank of the European People's Party (EPP) and is dedicated to the promotion of Christian Democrat, conservative and like-minded political values.

For more information please visit:
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This publication receives funding from the European Parliament.
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—Welcome

2018 was a very special year for our organisation as we celebrated the first decade of our existence. We took our anniversary not just as an opportunity to celebrate, but also as a chance to reflect. It seemed crucial to us to set up objectives to counteract all political challenges for the decade ahead.

I am proud of the fact that we have helped in the consolidation and continuation of the European project. We were able to present our initial strategic ideas on the functioning of the EU in crucial fields, such as defence and security, migration, the middle class and the rapidly changing labour market. Our analysis and ideas mobilised the best intellectual capacities for the advancement of our ideals and have subsequently contributed to the EPP decision-making process. Through the wide range of activities, we managed to be visible not just in Brussels, but also in EU member states and non-EU countries.

We organised over 100 projects and events but let me emphasise the most prominent. Makerstown, organised in May, brought together a new generation of entrepreneurs with prominent EU politicians. In June we hosted our annual Economic Ideas Forum in Paris where we provided a high-level platform for discussions on the impact of globalisation on the EU economy. In autumn we were awarded the Digital Communications Award 2018 for our podcast series ´Europe out loud´. In December we closed our four-year long #UkraineReforms series, which aims to support Ukraine on their rocky path towards democracy with an event co-organised with Hanns Seidel Foundation about Ukraine's reform agenda - five years after Majdan.

All these remarkable successes are the direct result of the dedicated and hard-working Martens Centre team. Strong partnerships with our member foundations and partners bolster our impact on the national level. I am beyond grateful for the incredible work we have done in the past year and I hope that we will further excel at it in 2019.

We will actively follow the developments within the EU and beyond, especially in the context of the upcoming elections. In 2019 our three priorities will be: restoring of the trust of European citizens, paying more attention to the middle class, and working on a more united and effective EU.

Although 2018 was a year of great achievements, it was also the year we prematurely lost our dear colleague José Luis Fontalba, who was one of the editors of this publication. He will always remain in our hearts and memory and is already missed for his creativity, professionalism and uniqueness.



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— 10-year Anniversary

Anniversaries are a great occasion to look back at past achievements and try to anticipate upcoming trends and developments. We officially turned ten in September 2017, but last January we marked our 10-year anniversary with an event named: "What future for the European project?"
We hosted high-level speakers who are part of our family such as Manfred Weber, EPP Group Chairman, Klaus Welle, European Parliament Secretary General, Mairead McGuinness, European Parliament Vice-President, Joseph Daul, EPP President and Antonio López Istúriz, EPP Secretary General. This was an occasion for us to celebrate, but also to reflect and to exchange ideas about the past and future of European integration.









RESEARCH

— Publications

As the EPP's official think tank, the Martens Centre monitors, analyses and contributes to the debate on EU policy that is relevant for both experts and the broader European public. The six main research themes cover a wide range of specific political issues. Taking these themes as its point of departure, the Martens Centre produces research papers, policy briefs and other formats.

All publications are available at:
www.martenscentre.eu/publications

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Security and Defence Policy: An Agenda for 2019-2024

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EUROPEAN VIEW
Bigger, Better, Braver: Can Europe Defend and Deliver?

— European View

The *European View* is the policy journal of the Martens Centre. An intellectual platform for politicians, opinion makers and academics, it tackles contemporary themes of European politics, focusing on one specific theme in each issue. The journal contributes to the debate on the most important fields of European and international politics. What makes it unique is its hybrid nature: its capacity to involve esteemed academics and experts, on one hand, and high-level politicians and decision-makers, on the other. Presidents and prime ministers regularly author articles for the journal. In 2018 we partnered with SAGE Publishing and we are glad that *European View* became a part of a leading portfolio of international relations and politics journals, building on the wider debates on central European issues.



— APR.

Making globalisation and automation work for us

Edited by Niklas Nováky

This issue of the *European View* is dedicated to the important subjects of globalisation and the future of our societies in a world where technological innovation is the norm. Technological development represents the natural evolution of our human society. It has impacted all sectors of our economy and people from all walks of life. And it has done so at an unprecedented rate. Society needs to respond quickly to this transformation, and the adaptation to the process of change must be a positive one. We cannot allow ourselves to be steered by those who would turn their backs on change and pretend that it is not happening. Instead, it is our responsibility to look for answers to the common challenges posed by this process of adaptation. The articles in this issue of the *European View* addresses many important questions that will continue to occupy politicians, academics, experts and ordinary people for years to come. How can the EU lead the fourth industrial revolution? What stance should the EU take on artificial intelligence? How should we approach robotisation with regard to ethical development, such as the increasing number of elderly people and the changing labour market? What role should the EU play in shaping globalisation and its consequences? How should we relate to our neighbours and partners abroad? How should we defend ourselves from those who would do us harm? This edition of the *European View* aims to reflect and discuss these crucial matters that impact us all.



— OCT.

Bigger, better, braver: Can Europe defend and deliver?

Edited by Niklas Nováky

This issue of the *European View* provides abundant food for thought on long-lasting and collective improvement to the European project. The first section provides important contributions to how we can shape the European project and make the EU capable of defending its values in an increasingly globalised world. The articles presented in this edition discuss pivotal topics such as the EU measures on illegal migration and radicalisation, as well as proposals of solutions that go beyond emergency measures which include strengthening the operational capacity of Europol and further cooperation with third countries. This edition also addresses growth and prosperity in Europe, something that requires Europe's fullest attention as it is crucial to respond quickly to the technological revolution, which is not only transforming our economic models, but also challenging our economic unity. The current affairs section gives an overview of long-term external challenges, such as the US withdrawal from the Iran deal and the political instability in northern Africa. It also discusses the need to adhere to our democratic principles when cooperating with non-EU countries. This is particularly important, as a strong EU must be capable of spreading its political and cultural values worldwide.

— Future of Europe series

The Future of Europe series aims to contribute to the EU-wide debate launched by the European Commission with the publication of its White Paper on the Future of Europe in March 2017. It is designed to stimulate frank and innovative reflection on possible ways ahead for the European project, reflection that will hopefully contribute to strengthening this project. The series is part of the ongoing efforts of the Martens Centre to anticipate major political trends in Europe and to help the EPP shape them in the interest of European integration and based on centre-right values.

— MAY

Differentiation, not Disintegration

By János Martonyi / edited by Federico Ottavio Reho

This paper reflects on the notion of differentiated integration in the context of the future of Europe. It argues that differentiation is only acceptable as an instrument of 'unity in diversity' and within strict limits. All forms of differentiation that risk fragmenting the Union and its institutional framework should be excluded. In the field of external policies, existing treaties and the recent jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice allow the Union to speak with one voice and to privilege unity over differentiation.

As far as internal EU divides are concerned– from divisions over migration to those involving the rise of regional groups of countries—they are all transient and changeable and are not relevant subjects for differentiation. Finally, attempts to redefine the euro area as the new 'hard core' of European integration should be rejected, as they can only lead to the disintegration of the European project. Out of all the available legal techniques of differentiation, enhanced cooperation carries the lowest risk.



— OCT.

The Four 'Classical Federalisms'

By Federico Ottavio Reho

This paper aims to provide a critical analysis of the federalist doctrines that influenced the development of European integration. It argues that four federalist visions emerged at the dawn of European integration, each with its own specific ideological background and its own idea of what the federal Europe of the future should look like. The progressive federalism of Altriero Spinelli was different from the technocratic federalism of Jean Monnet, as much as the liberal federalism of Luigi Einaudi diverged from the personalist federalism of Christian Democrats.

The paper also contends that the two federalist philosophies most influential throughout European integration—those of Spinelli and Monnet— are founded on a unitary view of sovereignty and care little about protecting and retaining local state identities. By contrast, within the Christian Democratic tradition there developed a bottom-up, culturally rooted federalism that was mindful of national and regional autonomy and averse to the concept of absolute sovereignty, be it national or European. Today, it is from this tradition that we should draw inspiration to redesign a more legitimate EU.





RESEARCH

— Publications

MAR. |

The Middle Class IN FOCUS: Priorities for the 2019 Elections and Beyond

by Eoin Drea

Compared to the 18 months preceding the 2014 elections, the mood music in Brussels could scarcely be more different. But while growth and employment are increasing, vast swathes of the established middle classes have lost faith in their ability to achieve a higher standard of living and to match the social mobility achieved by preceding generations. Increasingly topics such as globalisation, free trade, immigration and even stable political systems are viewed as tools of the "elite" designed to prevent progress for working- and middle-class families. Politically, this has manifested itself in a fracturing of the traditional party-political system and the rise of a protectionist, combative populism.

To confront these challenges, this paper identifies five social and economic priorities that should form an important element of centre right policy formation. With the ultimate objective of rejuvenating an aspirational middle class in Europe, we argue that only by bridging the gap between the rhetoric of a digitally driven, flexible economy and the day to day realities confronting middle class families can the centre right hope to increase working and middle class support in the 2019 elections and beyond. Such an approach is based on the core social market economy principle of seeking to conciliate economic freedom with social security, while maintaining a high level of personal responsibility and subsidiarity.



MAR.

IN BRIEF: New American Scepticism on EU Defence Cooperation

By Niklas Nováky

American officials have raised concerns about Permanent Structured Cooperation, the EU's new defence pact. If these concerns signal a broader shift in US policy towards EU defence cooperation, they will undermine US efforts to improve transatlantic burden sharing.



MAR.

Education in Europe IN FOCUS: Towards a True Education Area by 2025

By Tibor Navracsics / edited by Niklas Nováky

This paper sets out ways to reform European education systems to ensure that they equip Europeans with a forward-looking set of key competences that prepares them for the workplace, but also helps to create a European identity. It argues that education and training—enhanced through mobility, transnational cooperation and structural reforms—are critical to boosting individual, economic and societal resilience; providing both basic and high-level skills and competences; reducing inequalities; promoting entrepreneurial mindsets; fostering inclusive, stable and democratic societies; and making a success of migration and globalisation. Furthermore, education should help to empower young people to engage with and shape the future of a Europe of democracy, solidarity and inclusion. The ultimate goal is to build a true European Education Area by 2025, which would, inter alia, improve students' mobility, prepare the ground for the mutual recognition of diplomas and boost language learning.



APR.

IN BRIEF: Keeping it Real: Building a Realistic and Inclusive Eurozone

By Eoin Drea

Who says that history doesn't repeat itself? In Brussels, 2018 is the new 1989. Everybody seems to have a "blueprint" or "vision" for the future of the Eurozone. The only problem is that three decades after the Delors report, Eurozone leaders risk the sustainability of the single currency area. The reason? Political goals rather than economic priorities are guiding Eurozone proposals. The possible result? A repeat of the mistakes of the 1990s and a Eurozone still ill-equipped to deal with future crisis.



APR.

European Energy Security IN FOCUS: The Case Against Nord Stream 2

By Dimitar Lilkov and Roland Freudenstein

The Nord Stream 2 project aims to double the capacity Russia currently possesses for delivering natural gas directly to Germany through the Baltic Sea. This paper provides an overview of the current developments surrounding the project and of opposition to the pipeline by the European Commission and a growing number of EU member states. It goes on to analyse the risks involved in the new gas infrastructure and argues that Nord Stream 2 would be detrimental to the energy security of a number of Central and Eastern European member states and of Ukraine.

The paper contends that while the pipeline offers uncertain economic gains, it would dangerously weaken the EU's strategic goals in Eastern Europe, disrupt the European Energy Security Strategy and damage member state unity. Ultimately, the new German government should recognise this and take the necessary measures to stop Nord Stream 2.



APR.

IN BRIEF: The US-led Missile Strikes in Syria

By Niklas Nováky

The 14 April US-led missile strikes against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria in response to a suspected chemical weapons attack were necessary to re-establish deterrence against any future use of such weapons in the country. Yet, the strikes were reactive rather than strategic in nature, and will not change the course of Syria's civil war. This would require the West to outline a clear vision for the country's future, and a strategy to achieve it.





APR. —

POLICY BRIEF: Filling the Void: Why the EU Must Step Up Support for Russian Civil Society



By Barbara von Ow-Freytag / edited by Vít Novotný

Over the past 15 years, the space for civic engagement in Russia has continuously shrunk, and it looks set to be cut further during Vladimir Putin's fourth presidential term. Following a wave of repressive measures, it is now more restricted than at any point since 1991. Non-governmental organisations and activists have been stripped of funds as their activities have been criminalised.

They increasingly face a double disconnect: from international partners and within their own society. The clampdown on civil society reflects the growing repression of Russian society as a whole. But growing local initiatives and rising protests across the country undercut the narrative that Russian civil society is dead.

The European debate has to refocus on Russia as a major driver of global authoritarianism and of 'closing space' for civil society, a worldwide pushback against civil activism. Instead of looking only at what Russia does abroad, the EU and the member states should look more deeply at developments within the country. Many international funders have pulled out of Russia, and the EU should now fully embrace its role as the main Western donor. This brief calls on the EU to give civil society more political support, to increase the funding it provides and to redesign the instruments it has at its disposal so that it can reach out to a broader range of activists.

JUN. —

IN BRIEF: The Impact of GDPR on Users and Business: The Good, the Bad and the Uncertain



By Dimitar Lilkov

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has started to apply directly in all member states with the aim of safeguarding the processing of personal data of all natural persons within the European Union. The Regulation is seen as the most comprehensive 'upgrade' of data protection rules over the last two decades. The following In Brief aims to highlight the essence of the Regulation's 99 Articles and analyse the potential impact of GDPR on both users and business.

The actual implementation of GDPR will be a litmus test for whether European policy-makers can strike a fine balance between guaranteeing users' data protection and electronic privacy while also not imposing tough regulatory burdens on businesses or stifling innovation. And yet, the European Union has created an unparalleled opportunity. Europe could become the global leader in terms of data protection and have the possibility of exporting this framework to other regions of the world.



JUL.

The Future of Work: Robots Cooking Free Lunches?

By Žiga Turk / edited by Vít Novotný

The rapid technological progress in automation, robotisation and artificial intelligence is raising fears, but also hopes, that in the future the nature of work will change significantly. Some believe that these changes will be for the better: we will need to work less and thus will have more free time. Others think that the changes will be for the worse: there will be fewer ways to earn a living. Will work disappear and with it the societal relations and inequalities that result from differing degrees of success in work? If this is going to happen, what policy options do we have to address the issue?

This study argues that work is not going to automatically disappear. On the contrary, the future of work is ours to define. The paper makes two principal recommendations. First, we need to preserve the social role of work, rejecting suggestions that robots and artificial intelligence will be our slaves and that we will live idle lives. Second, the EU and its member states need to lead in innovations that will shape the future of work. This includes social policy innovations to accommodate for the disruptions caused by technology. Countries that will lead in technology and social policy innovation will preserve employment and accelerate growth while the economies of laggards will suffer.



SEP.

North Korea IN FOCUS: Towards a More Effective EU Policy



By Ramon Pacheco Pardo / edited by Niklas Nováky

The EU has an important role to play in the management of the threat posed by North Korea. Indeed, Brussels already has a policy of 'critical engagement' towards Pyongyang which combines diplomatic and economic carrots with a number of sticks. This policy, however, is in need of an update to attend to two recent developments on the Korean Peninsula: North Korea's status as a de facto nuclear power and the flurry of engagement and diplomacy involving North Korea—including top-level meetings with the US, South Korea and China.

In this context, the EU should support its partners, South Korea and the US, as they launch a process that could lead to sustainable engagement with North Korea, denuclearisation, and, as a result, a more stable Korean Peninsula. Working with its partners, Europe should creatively use its power of engagement and cooperation to change behaviour. This will enhance the position of the EU as a constructive actor in Asian affairs, support efforts by the US and South Korea to engage North Korea and, ultimately, offer a better opportunity for the EU to achieve its goals.

SEP.

Brexit and the Irish Question IN FOCUS: Part One, Ireland's Slow Road to Peace



By Michael O'Neill / edited by Eoin Drea

The outcome of the 2016 British referendum on EU membership will have significant and lasting consequences. For the United Kingdom and its relations with European neighbours, for the constitutional fabric of the British State and for the EU at a time of uncertainty over the future of the European project. The consequences of this decision will have no greater impact however than on the still-fragile peace process known as the 'Good Friday' or Belfast Agreement, negotiated in 1998 by parties representing Northern Ireland's principal cultural communities and the governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. This historic event brought to an end decades of political violence and centuries of sectarian bitterness, or so it was thought at the time. Brexit has thrown into doubt the future of that peace process.strategy to achieve it.



OCT. |

POLICY BRIEF: France's European Intervention Initiative: Towards a Culture of Burden Sharing

By Niklas Nováky

This paper analyses the new European Intervention Initiative (EI2). Proposed by France, the EI2 is an intergovernmental forum outside the EU and NATO for enhancing military interactions between the most able and willing European countries. By seeking to facilitate the development of a European strategic culture, it is an attempt to solve the demand-side problem of European defence cooperation—that is, most European countries' unwillingness to intervene in crises and to use force when necessary.



OCT. |

Brexit and the Irish Question IN FOCUS: Part Two, Brexit's Unintended Consequences. Five key challenges

By Michael O'Neill / edited by Eoin Drea

Since 1998 the Irish border has become invisible, more conduit than barrier between Ireland North and South and at every level. Cross-border trade has expanded exponentially and increasing civic engagement is both entrenching and normalising the peace process on both sides. The border region is slowly but surely becoming as much a shared civic and political space, as a functional or economic one. The prospect of a reinstated border threatens that endeavour, concentrating minds in both communities, in government and in Brussels on the malign consequences of what seems to most observers to be an entirely retrograde move.

In these uncertain times, the likelihood is that the significantly altered status of the post-Brexit border will have far-reaching and mostly negative consequences for future relations on the island of Ireland, and at every level. Brexit threatens a fundamental reversal of a tentative yet tangible peace process, a fundamental downshift in political, commercial and civic relations that means North-South co-operation cannot continue on present terms. Certainly not, if as seems likely, quite different economic and regulatory arrangements will pertain in the island's respective political jurisdictions, a fact that will become even more conspicuous with a reinstated and formal border.



OCT. |

IN BRIEF: Time for a (more) Centre-right EU Foreign Policy Chief

By Niklas Nováky

European socialists have held a de facto monopoly over the position of the EU's foreign policy high representative ever since it was created almost two decades ago. When new people will be appointed to the EU's senior leadership positions in autumn 2019, the centre-right should seek to deny the socialists from having an almost automatic right to determine the person who is appointed as the high representative by carefully vetting all candidates. The minimum goal should be to ensure that the next high representative's views and beliefs are more aligned with the centre-right's vision of Europe in the world than they currently are.



OCT. |

POLICY BRIEF: Women in a Man's World: Labour Market Equality Driving Economic Growth



By Ronald Bachmann and Peggy Bechara / edited by Eoin Drea

Gender equality is one of the core principles of the EU. This is set forth in, for example, Article 2 on Treaty of the European Union. Equality between men and women includes equality in the labour market. However, this equality is far from having been achieved. Building on our forthcoming research for the Martens Centre, we explore in detail four factors that may explain the gender gap in labour force participation across countries. These factors are education, taxation, the provision of childcare, and cultural and historic norms. In discussing these factors, we focus on case-study countries which represent different regions and feature diverse institutional characteristics: Germany, Italy, Poland and Sweden.

Through this analysis we propose four policy actions designed to place gender equality in the labour market at the heart of a growing European economy. These are (1) the promotion of better work-life balance (2) embedding equality in national tax systems (3) tackling gender stereotypes through education and (4) understanding the benefits of long-term investments for long-term gains in terms of equality policies. To conclude, we acknowledge that it is preferable to implement policies that are tailored towards the institutional and cultural settings in each country and to specific groups of workers. Thus, it is important that gender policies should be established at the national level. Rather than seeking to expand its competencies in the areas of education, taxation or social policy, the EU should focus on setting overall objectives.

OCT. |

POLICY BRIEF: Political Subversion in the Age of Social Media



By Edward Hunter Christie / edited by Dimitar Lilkov

The information space that is used by voters, politicians and interest groups in Western nations is being contested and challenged by new risks and threats, both from within and from without. The aim of this report is to identify some of the main vulnerabilities with respect to current forms of political subversion, and to propose a set of policy principles to guide ongoing reflections on how best to respond to that challenge.

Four areas of vulnerability are identified, namely individualised political messaging, group dynamics and political polarisation, platform algorithms and self-radicalisation, and falsehood dissemination dynamics. This leads to the formulation of four proposed policy principles, followed by a discussion of the extent to which recent measures, in selected Western nations and at EU level, are sufficient to address the challenge at hand.

NOV.

POLICY BRIEF: 25 Years of Spitzenkandidaten: What Does the Future Hold?

By Steven Van Hecke, Wouter Wolfs and Victor De Groof / edited by Federico Ottavio Reho



This paper critically reflects on the development and implications of the Spitzenkandidaten system. It makes three claims. First, it argues that, despite the assertions of many commentators, this system did not appear out of the blue in 2014 but has a much longer history.

Since the Maastricht Treaty, a series of steps have been taken that have clearly led the way to this outcome and, in fact, may even lead beyond it. These steps, including the role of the European People's Party, are explained here as they cast a different light on the whole process, without which the success of the Spitzenkandidaten system cannot be properly understood.

Second, the paper claims that, from a political–institutional point of view, the system implicitly promotes the parliamentarisation of the EU architecture and might eventually lead to a stronger EU executive and a weaker European Parliament, as is the case in most national parliamentary systems. This would be the opposite of what many of its supporters would like to see.

Third, the paper concludes that, in order to avoid this unintended consequence and fulfil the democratic potential of the Spitzenkandidaten system, the current procedure must be understood as an intermediate step on the road to the direct election of the president of the EU. This, however, requires its success and consolidation in 2019. The paper thus ends with some recommendations that will help to make this happen.

NOV.

Brexit and the Irish Question IN FOCUS: Part Three, Solving the Border

By Michael O'Neill / edited by Eoin Drea



The 'known known' in the basket of uncertainties that is Britain's withdrawal from the EU is the intention of the Commission's negotiating team to maintain the integrity of the four freedoms. On the British side the objective is to enjoy some of the benefits accruing from its EU membership, whilst at the same time seeking to fulfil the democratic mandate to leave the EU conferred by the referendum verdict.

In large part the withdrawal negotiations that ensued after the British Government invoked Article 50 have been a contest between these quite different, indeed conflicting, mandates. Both sides, each from its own standpoint, have offered quite different solutions to the conundrum of the Irish border. With Brexit day fast approaching, this singular issue has become a proxy for the altogether wider question of future EU–UK relations.

At the time of writing, the entire sweep of these tense negotiations is concentrated on resolving the 'Irish Question'—without success until finally a 'technical' agreement' was reached by the negotiators. Whether this 'solution' will survive resistance from arch-Brexiteers remains to be seen.

NOV.

IN BRIEF: Security and Defence Policy: An Agenda for 2019-2024

By Niklas Nováky

One of the main concerns that voters are likely to have in their minds when casting their ballots in next year's European elections is security. This means that the EU needs an ambitious agenda in the area of security and defence for 2019-2024. More specifically, it needs a set of concrete deliverables, which, if delivered properly and communicated effectively to European citizens, could help boost Europeans' sense of security wherever they might live in the Union.



DEC.

POLICY BRIEF: Rebalancing the Euro Area: A Proposal for Future Reform

By Juan E. Castañeda / edited by Federico Ottavio Reho

Under a monetary union, fiscal and monetary discipline have to go hand in hand if macroeconomic stability is to be maintained. The question is how to set up the right institutions to achieve this stability in a credible manner. This policy brief proposes a new institutional arrangement for the euro area to restore fiscal discipline. It places the responsibility for compliance entirely on the shoulders of the member states. It also provides for the mutualisation of 30% of the member states' debt-to-GDP ratio.

This would help to maintain a stable currency and to limit the risk of contagion should another crisis occur in the future. However, this comes at a cost. Under the fiscal scheme proposed, member states, which would be fully fiscally sovereign, would need to run long-term sound fiscal policies to benefit from euro membership.

In addition, this brief proposes a reform of Target2 under which overspending economies would have to pay the financial cost of accessing extra euros, which would deter the accumulation of internal imbalances within the euro area. All this is expected to change the current fragility of the architecture of the euro, provide member states with the right incentives to abide by sounder economic principles and make them fully responsible for the policies they adopt.



Keen on reading more of our publications? Check out our Library.





— Events

More information about our events at:
www.martenscentre.eu/events

Events in 2018

JAN.

09 JAN. — FOOD FOR THOUGHT
EU External Action in the Mediterranean

24 JAN. — WMCES 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

31 JAN. — FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Brexit, Northern Ireland and the Irish border

FEB.

27 FEB. — CONFERENCE
Poland's European Future (Warsaw, Poland)

MAR.

06 MAR. — FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Russia and the Western Far Right: Tango Noir

20 MAR. — DISCUSSION
Economics vs. Geopolitics? Nord Stream 2, Ukraine and Europe's Energy Security (Partnership with US Mission)

21 MAR. — PUBLICATION LAUNCH
European Defence Union: time to aim high?

APR.

10 APR. — DISCUSSION
Brexit: Reconciling Different Perspectives (Partnership with Open Europe)

17 APR. — FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Transatlantic Burden Sharing in the Age of Renewed Great Power Conflict

MAY.

25 MAY — DISCUSSION
Polish European Policy 2004-2018: What Changed in 2015 and Why? (Partnership with Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan)

31 MAY — BRIEFING
Briefing on the Transatlantic Relationship

JUN.

18 JUN. — EUROPEAN VIEW LAUNCH
Making Globalisation and Automation Work for us

21 JUN. — ECONOMIC IDEAS FORUM

25 JUN. — FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Tribes of Europe: How Europeans View the EU and its Future (Partnership with Chatam House)

JUL.

04 JUL. — PUBLICATION LAUNCH
Shrinking Space for Civil Society in Russia and Beyond

AUG.

SEP.

04 SEP. — DISCUSSION
Road Map for Post-Putin Russia (Partnership with Free Russia)

25 SEP. — FOOD FOR THOUGHT
The Multiannual Financial Framework: A Budget to Match our Ambitions?

OCT.

09 OCT. — PUBLICATION LAUNCH
The Future of Work: Robots Cooking Free Lunches?

NOV.

07-08 NOV. —
EPP CONGRESS
SIDELINE EVENTS

Panel 1: The Future of Work in the Age of Intelligent Machines

Panel 2: Fighting the Kremlin's Trolls – Improving the West's Ability to Respond to Hostile Influence Operations

Lunch brief: The Day After: Results of the US Mid-term Elections

Panel 3: Keeping the Union Together: Overcoming the East-West Divide and Strengthening Cohesion

Panel 4: The Future of European Defence Cooperation

DEC.



CELEBRATION

— Martens Centre 10-year Anniversary

The 10-year anniversary of the Martens Centre was a reason to celebrate, to reflect and to exchange ideas about the past and future of European integration. The conference entitled ‘What future for the European project?’ was part of the ongoing efforts of the Martens Centre to anticipate big political trends in Europe.

Wilfried
Martens Centre
for European Studies

— 24 JAN.

Welcome
Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Martens Centre

What is the future for the European project?

Introduction

Manfred Weber, Chairman of the EPP Group in the EP

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Discussants

Mairead McGuinness, EP Vice-President

Antonio López Istúriz, EPP Secretary General

Klaus Welle, EP Secretary General

Closing Speech

Joseph Daul, EPP President

Award Ceremony

Introduction to the WMCES Prize For Outstanding Commitment To The European Project:

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Laudatio for Antonio Tajani:

Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Martens Centre









— Our Events

09 JAN.

Food for Thought. EU External Action in the Mediterranean

Welcome
Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Moderator
Dr. Niklas Nováky, Research Officer, Martens Centre

Discussants
Radm Jürgen Ehle, Senior Political Military Adviser, Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU

Massimiliano Lagi, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU

Michael Benhamou, Research Associate, Martens Centre

31 JAN.

Food for Thought. Brexit, Northern Ireland and the Irish broder

Welcome
Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Moderator
Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Discussants
Dara Murphy, EPP Vice-President and Campaign Director, Former Irish Minister of State for European Affairs and the Digital Single Market

Eoin Drea, Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre

Nina Schick, Director of Data and Polling at Rasmussen Global







— 27 FEB.

Conference. Poland's European Future

Welcome

Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, WMCES

Grzegorz Schetyna, Chairman of the Civic Platform

Keynote address

David McAllister, MEP, EPP Vice President, Chairman of the EP Foreign Relations Committee

Panel 1: Defending our fundamental values

Mantas Adomenas, MP, Vice Chairman, Homeland Union, Lithuania

Olof Ehrenkrona, Policy Advisor, Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation, Sweden

Cezary Tomczyk, MP, Civic Platform, Poland

Lucie Tungul, Head of Research, TOPAZ, Czech Republic

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, WMCES

Panel 2: Securing our common future

Werner Fasslabend, AIES President, Austria

Prof. Anna Zielińska-Głębocka, Uniwersytet Gdański, Poland

George Koumoutsakos, MP, Nea Demokratia, Greece

Milan Nič, Senior Fellow, DGAP, Germany

Moderator

Konrad Niklewicz, Instytut Obywatelski/Panstwo Praw, EPP Group

— 06 MAR.

Food for Thought. Russia and the Western Far Right: Tango Noir

Welcome

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Moderator

Anna Nalyvayko, Project Assistant, Martens Centre

Discussants

Anton Shekhovtsov, Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences, Author of "Tango Noir"

Antonis Klapsis, Academic Coordinator, Centre of International and European Political Economy and Governance, University of Peloponnese

György Schöpflin, MEP, European People's Party group



— 20 MAR.

Food for Thought. Economics vs. Geopolitics? Nord Stream 2, Ukraine and Europe's Energy Security

Welcome
Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Keynote
Sandra Oudkirk, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State

Moderator
Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Discussants

Benjamin Schmitt, European Energy Security Advisor, Bureau of Energy Resources

Sebastian Sass, Advisor to Nord Stream 2 – EU Representative

Aliona Osmolovska, Head of Corporate Communications, Naftogaz

Klaus Schäfer, Chief Executive Officer, Uniper SE

— 21 MAR.

Publication Launch. European Defence Union: time to aim high?

Welcome

Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Martens Centre

Introduction

Federico Ottavio Reho, Strategic Coordinator and Research Officer, Martens Centre

Presentation

Prof. Jolyon Howorth

Jean Monnet, Professor of European Politics, University of Bath

Moderator

Niklas Nováky, Research Officer, Martens Centre

Discussants

Elmar Brok, MEP, EPP Group

Alexandr Vondra, Former Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic

Prof. Sven Biscop, Director, Egmont Institute



— 10 APR.

Discussion.
Partnership with Open Europe
Brexit: Reconciling Different Perspectives

Welcome

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Pieter Cleppe, Head of Brussels Office, Open Europe

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Discussants

Lord Norman Lamont, Former Chancellor of the Exchequer of the UK

Elmar Brok, MEP, European Parliament Brexit Steering Group

Henry Newman, Director, Open Europe

— 17 APR.

Food for Thought.
Transatlantic burden sharing in the age of renewed great power conflict

Welcome

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Moderator

Robert van de Roer, Independent diplomatic expert and communications coach

Discussants

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges (Ret), Pershing Chair in Strategic Studies, Center for European Policy Analysis

Amb. François de Kerchove d'Exaerde, Permanent Representative of Belgium to NATO

Gen. Michail Kostarakos, Chairman, EU Military Committee





— 25 MAY

Discussion.
Partnership with Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan (UAM)
Polish European Policy 2004-2018: What Changed in 2015 and Why?

Welcome

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Presentation

Prof. Jarosław Janczak, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

Prof. Piotr Tosiek , Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

Prof. Adam Jaskulski , Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

Moderator

Anna Nalyvayko, Project Assistant, Martens Centre

Discussants

Konrad Nicklewitz, Civic Institute

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

— 31 MAY

Briefing.
The Transatlantic Relationship

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Discussants

Craig Kennedy, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Daniel Schwammenthal, Director, AJC Transatlantic Institute



18 JUN.

European View Launch. Making globalisation and automation work for us

Welcome
Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Moderator
Margherita Movarelli, Project Officer, Martens Centre

Discussants
Alex Leveringhaus, Lecturer, Department of Politics, University of Surrey

Matthias Schäfer, Head of Economic Policy Team, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Berlin

Aura Salla, EPSC Adviser for Communication and Outreach

25 JUN.

Food for Thought. Partnership with Chatam House Tribes of Europe: How Europeans view the EU and its future

Welcome
Dr Angelos Chryssogelo, Teaching Fellow in International Relations and Politics, King's College London

Discussants

Professor Matthew Goodwin, Visiting Senior Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House

Thomas Raines, Research Fellow and Programme Manager, Europe Programme, Chatham House

Federico Ottavio Reho, Strategic Coordinator and Research Officer, Martens Centre

04 JUL.

Publication Launch. Shrinking Space for Civil Society in Russia and Beyond

Welcome

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Presentation

Barbara von Ow-Freytag, Author of *Filling the Void*, and Advisor at the Prague Civil Society Centre

Discussants

Balázs Jarábik, Nonresident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Jerzy Pomianowski, Executive Director of European Endowment for Democracy

04 SEP.

Discussion. Partnership with Free Russia Road Map for Post-Putin Russia

Welcome

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Natalia Arno, President of Free Russia Foundation

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Discussants

Vladimir Milov, Former Deputy Minister of Energy of Russia

Dr. Andrey Medushevsky, Professor at Higher School of Economics, Moscow

25 SEP. |

Food for Thought. The Multi-Annual Financial Framework: A Budget to Match our Ambitions

Welcome
Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Moderator
Ioana Lung, Senior Communications Officer, Martens Centre

Discussants
José Manuel Fernandes, MEP, EPP Group Spokesperson, Budgets Committee, European Parliament

Markus Schulte, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Oettinger, Budget & Human Resources

Dimitar Lilkov, Research Officer, Martens Centre

09 OCT. |

Publication Launch. The Future of Work: Robots Cooking Free Lunches?

Welcome
Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Moderator
Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Presentation
Žiga Turk, Author of the study and Professor of construction informatics at the University of Ljubljana

Discussants
Henna Virkkunen, MEP, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Vít Novotný, Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre





FLAGSHIP EVENTS

— Economic Ideas Forum Paris 2018

— 21 JUN.

Panel 1, Globalisation and the Middle Classes: From Backlash to Boost

Jyrki Katainen, European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness

Esther de Lange, MEP, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group and Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Matthias Schäfer, Head of Financial and Labour Market Policy, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin

Thomas Spiller, Vice President Global Public Policy, The Walt Disney Company

Moderator

Ryan Heath, Political Editor of Politico Europe

Panel 2, Visions for the Eurozone in a Time of EU Reforms

Averof Neofytou, President of the Democratic Rally, Cyprus

Álvaro Santos Pereira, Acting Chief Economist and Director of the Country Studies Branch, OECD

Stephan Toscani, President of the Saarland State Parliament

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Martens Centre

— 21 JUN.

Keynote: The Place of France in Europe

Laurent Wauquiez, President of Les Républicains, France

Keynote Speech:

Joseph Daul, President of the European People's Party (EPP)

Panel 3, Jobs, Skills and Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Constance Le Grip, MP, Vice-President of the Committee on Culture and Education

Gonçalo Raposo Carriço, Political Advisor on Innovation, Technology and Digital Policy, EPP

Žiga Turk, Professor at the University of Ljubljana, Former Slovenian Minister of Education

Marc Mossé, Senior Director EU Government Affairs, Microsoft

Moderator

Erika Widegren, Chief Executive of Re-Imagine Europa

Panel 4, The New Digital Economy and Ecosystem

Martin Bailey, Head of Unit, Digital Policy Development and Coordination, DG Connect, European Commission

Gérard Pogorel, Professor of Economics and Management, Telecom ParisTech

Serge Abiteboul, Computer Scientist and Member of the Board, ARCEP

Karim Lesina, Senior Vice President, International External Affairs, AT&T

Moderator

Eoin Drea, Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre

Panel 5, Energy and Climate Change: Beyond 2020

Fabienne Keller, Senator, AGIR, Vice-President of the Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Finance

Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director of Development Cooperation, OECD

Ivo Belet, MEP, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Peter Harris, Director of Sustainability, Europe, UPS

Moderator

Dimitar Lilkov, Research Officer, Martens Centre

Concluding Speech:

Antonio López-Istúriz White, MEP, Secretary General of the EPP, Secretary Treasurer of the Martens Centre

Closing:

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre





FLAGSHIP EVENTS

— 8th Transatlantic Think Tank Conference

— 11 JUL.

Opening session

Speakers

Paolo Rangel MEP, European Parliament

Mike Gallagher, US House of Representatives

Mikulas Dzurinda, President, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Dr Kenneth R. Weinstein, President and CEO, Hudson Institute

Session 1: State of the Unions

Kick-off speakers

Antonio López-Istúriz White MEP, European Parliament

Craig Kennedy, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Peter Rough, Fellow, Hudson Institute

Mikulas Dzurinda, President, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Session 2: Brexit's Impact on the US and Europe

Kick-off speakers

Paolo Rangel MEP, European Parliament

Prof Danuta Maria Hübner MEP, European Parliament

Amb Alexandra Hall Hall, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Dr Alan Mendoza, Executive Director, Henry Jackson Society

Moderator

Craig Kennedy, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Session 3: Lunch discussion on the opportunities and challenges created by new technologies

Speaker

Prof Walter Russell Mead, Distinguished Fellow, Hudson Institute

Moderator

Peter Rough, Fellow, Hudson Institute



Session 4: Transatlantic Perspectives on Technology

Kick-off speakers

Dr Tom Vandenkendelaere MEP, European Parliament

Mr Arnaud Danjean MEP, European Parliament

Dr Alina Polyakova, David M. Rubenstein Fellow, Brookings Institution

Prof Žiga Turk, Professor and Vice Dean, University of Ljubljana

David Lieber, Senior Privacy Policy Counsel, Google

Moderator

Paul McCarthy, Regional Deputy Director Europe, International Republican Institute

Session 5: Trade, Tariffs and TTIP

Kick-off speakers

Prof Peter Navarro, Director of the National Trade Council, The White House

Elisabetta Gardini MEP, European Parliament

Daniel Caspary MEP, European Parliament

Dan Price, Managing Director, Rock Creek Global Advisers

Prof János Martonyi, Executive Board Member, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Steve Biegun, Vice President, International Governmental Affairs, Ford Motor Company

Moderation

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Session 6: The Future of NATO and Transatlantic Burden Sharing

Kick-off speakers

Arnaud Danjean MEP, European Parliament

Antonio López-Istúriz White MEP, European Parliament

Rebecca Heinrich, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Peter Doran, President & CEO, Centre for European Policy Analysis

Lulzim Basha, Leader of the Democratic Party of Albania

Moderator

Benjamin Haddad, Research Fellow, Hudson Institute

Session 7: China, Russia - Transatlantic Unity in a World of Geopolitical Rivalries

Kick-off speakers

Prof Inese Vaidere MEP, European Parliament

Tunne Kelam MEP, European Parliament

Dr Tom Wright, Director of the Center on the United States and Europe, Brookings Institution

Boris Zilberman, Depury Director of Congressional Relations, Foundation for Defense of Democracies

Moderator

Dr Niklas Nováky, Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Session 8: Lunch discussion on the fight against terrorism and transatlantic policy in the Middle East

Speaker

Dr Mike Doran, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Moderator

Dr Kenneth R. Weinstein, President and CEO, Hudson Institute





FLAGSHIP EVENTS

— Makerstown

Building on the success of the 2016 and 2017 editions, Makerstown was back in 2018 and was bigger, better, and more daring. On 22 May, over 2000 makers, start-ups, inventors, top European policymakers, business leaders, secondary school teachers and children met in this unique fair held at Autoworld (Brussels) to discover and debate what the Town of the Future would look like.

Makerstown aims to shake up Brussels by showcasing the Town of the Future and what needs to be done in terms of policy, private investment and education to ensure the Town of the Future can become a reality.

Together with Think Young, we set up a town with different thematic areas, showcasing to the public the most recent and innovative projects of inventors, makers and start-ups.

Open, fresh and outspoken panel discussions took place, putting together start-ups from the Maker Movement, business leaders and European policymakers.



— 22 MAY

Exhibition

Open during the whole day of the event, this was the place where Makers exhibited their innovative ideas and products. People could come, see, touch and test!

Panels

Makerstown is simultaneously a Makers conference. Our highly interactive panels hosted top EU leaders to discuss how they are putting entrepreneurship at the heart of the European agenda. Topics discussed by the panels were:

— Artificial Intelligence for Healthcare: Balancing Innovation and Safety?

— The School of the Future: What Will Education Look Like?

— Empowering Innovation: Building the Ecosystem

— Openness in the Mobile Economy



Our speakers were:

Brando Benifei, Emilian Pavel, Eva Paunova Maydell, Henna Virkkunen, Pilar del Castillo, Søren Thomsen, Lie Junius, Sankha Som, David Earnshaw, Decile Huet, Elinor Samuelsson, Michela Palladino, Manel Alcaide, Donna Walsh, Luís Viegas Cardoso, Aura Salla, John Mulholland, Gonçalo Carriço, Sergej Koperdak, Stefaan Hermans, Sara Green Brodersen.







FLAGSHIP EVENTS

— EPP Congress Sideline Events

— 07 NOV.

Panel 1: The future of work in the age of intelligent machines

Panel Speakers

Jan Peter Balkenende, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Martens Centre Honorary Board member

Žiga Turk, Professor and Vice Dean, University of Ljubljana

Henna Virkkunen, MEP, EPP Group, Kokoomus

Peter Östman, Member of Finnish Parliament, Christian Democrats

Moderator

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Panel 2: Fighting the Kremlin's trolls – Improving the West's ability to respond to hostile influence operations

Panel Speakers

Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, MEP, EPP Group, Moderaterna

Sandra Kalniete, MEP, EPP Group, Vienotiba

Andrius Kubilius, former Prime Minister of Lithuania, Martens Centre Honorary Board member

Miriam Lexmann, Director of EU Office, International Republican Institute

Kirsti Narinen, Director for International Affairs, European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

Pertti Salolainen, Member of Finnish Parliament, Kokoomus

Moderator

Dimitar Lilkov, Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies



Panel 4: The future of European defence cooperation

Panel Speakers

Arnaud Danjean, MEP, EPP Group, Les Républicains

Lawrence Gonzi, former Prime Minister of Malta, Martens Centre Honorary Board member

Ilkka Kanerva, Member of Finnish Parliament, Kokoomus

Bogdan Klich, Senator, Polish Parliament, former Minister of Defence

Teija Tiilikainen, Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Moderator

Niklas Novaky, Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

— 07 NOV.

Lunch brief: The day after - Results of the US mid-term elections

Welcome remarks

Antonio López-Istúriz White MEP, Secretary General of the EPP, Secretary Treasurer of the Martens Centre

Discussants

Mark Strand, President of the Congressional Institute and Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics Fellow

Moderated

Ioana Lung, Head of Communications and Marketing, Martens Centre



— 08 NOV.

Panel 3: Keeping the Union together - Overcoming the East-West divide and strengthening cohesion

Panel Speakers

John Bruton, former Prime Minister of Ireland, Martens Centre Honorary Board member

Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

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

Danuta Maria Hübner, MEP, EPP Group, Platforma Obywatelska

Petri Sarvamaa, MEP, EPP Group, Kokoomus

Moderator

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies







SERIES OF EVENTS

— #UkraineReforms

— APR.

Kyiv

Eva Palackova met with national and international experts to talk about extended producer responsibility in Ukraine. She also discussed environmental challenges with civil society experts and student groups.

— APR.

Kyiv

Rainer Sichert discussed how state-owned enterprises can be structurally reformed and how civil society organisations can obtain grants from several stakeholders.

— APR.

Kyiv

Artases Gazaryan talked to members of the School of Mayors NGO about the role of self-government in the development of democracy. He also met with students and national experts to discuss strategic management in the public and private sectors.

— MAY

Chuhuiv

Olga Sõtnik shared best practice from creative industries and discussed how this could be applied to the economic development of the Kharkiv region.

— JUN.

Svitlovodsk

Václav Novotný took part in a discussion on Svitlovodsk's tourist potential and shared his experience in tourism development. Attendees included representatives of the district state administration, activists and the media.

— JUL.

Kyiv

Bo Becker participated in a round-table discussion on privatisation, the banking crisis and corporate governance. He also conducted a seminar on corporate finance.

In December 2014, under the leadership of Mikuláš Dzurinda, president of the Martens Centre, former prime minister of Slovakia and successful country reformer, we launched the #UkraineReforms programme to bring together the expertise of senior EU decision-makers in support for the reform process in Ukraine.

This transfer of experience was organised through public events, town hall-style meetings, TV debates, online articles and interviews held in Kyiv and other major Ukrainian cities. The initiative was supported by local partners including the Kyiv School of Economics, as well as NGOs such as the Ukrainian Center for European Policy and Reanimation Package of Reforms.

By the end of 2018, the programme had presented over 35 activities, carried out 20 high-level visits in 11 different cities, and held around 100 meetings and lectures and over 50 media interviews.

Partners:

— DEC.

Closing event, Brussels

On the 17 December 2018, we co-organised an event with the Hanns Seidel Foundation which reflected on "5 Years after Majdan: Ukraine's Reform Agenda". The conference aimed to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity in Majdan, considered to be an agent for a more democratic and prosperous Ukraine. The conference focused on the progress Ukraine has made in terms of reforms as well as the ambitions proposed and achieved.

Welcome and Introduction
Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Martens Centre

Panel Speakers
Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Katarína Mathernová , Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Ivan Mikloš, Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Slovakia

Amb. Kurt Volker, U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations, Executive Director of the McCain Institute for International Leadership

Moderator
Jana Kobzová, Policy Director, Rasmussen Global

— NOV.

Kyiv

Christopher Wales talked about the adoption of the state budget and the challenges involved in building consensus among Ukraine's citizens, its businesses and the political classes.

— OCT.

Balakliia

Peter Vesenjak met representatives of the local administration to discuss Balakliia's tourism potential. He presented his vision for the creation of tourism clusters in the district.

— NOV.

Kyiv

Balazs Varadi spoke to national stakeholders about reforming the healthcare system and the public administration.

EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2018 SHORTLIST







OUR NETWORK

— Common Projects

Common projects are joint activities that the Martens Centre organises with its partners across Europe and beyond.

In 2018 the Martens Centre continued to expand its network of like-minded organisations, which now includes 32 member foundations and more than 10 official partners from all over Europe and beyond. In cooperation with many of its member foundations and partners, the Martens Centre organised a record number of successful events across the continent.

We function as a pan-European platform for our member foundations, and think tanks and experts from all over Europe that share our values and those of our political family. Working closely with national partners allows us to bring the European debate to where it matters the most: closer to the European public.



— NET@WORK

The 3rd edition of NET@WORK took place on the 25 and 26 April 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The event has become the largest public platform of European centre-right think tanks gathering to debate and advocate EU policies.

The aim of the event is:

- To promote and increase the cooperation inside our organisation's network of political foundations and think tanks;
- To bring national priority subjects to Brussels and discuss them at an EU level;
- To harmonise and find a common ground for discussion;
- To advocate centre-right political content.

— 25 APR.

NET@WORK 2018 was officially opened with an informal welcome dinner debate on 25 April 2018. The dinner debate was hosted by the Martens Centre and the co-organising partners of the 3rd edition: Hanns-Seidel Stiftung, PolAk, Foundation for a Civic Hungary and TOPAZ. During the welcome dinner, two panel debates on the leading theme took place.

1st DISCUSSION:

- **What are the biggest changes shaping European society today and will they continue to do so in the future?**
- **Which European regions, and social groups in European society are most affected the changes?**
- **How should society and the most vulnerable groups within the society be prepared for the changes and challenges they are facing?**

Moderator
Margherita Movarelli, Project Officer, Martens Centre

Discussants
Markus Ehm, Director of HSS Brussels Office

János Martonyi, Former Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Member of the Martens Centre Executive Board

— 26 APR.

2nd DISCUSSION:

- **What is the role of politicians, policymakers and civil society actors in addressing societal changes?**
- **How does the changing social order affect the relationship between citizens and political parties in Europe?**
- **Can science and modern technologies help address and manage the emerging societal challenges, and if yes how?**

Moderator
Anna Nalyvayko, Project Assistant, Martens Centre

Discussants

Werner Fasslabend, Honorary President of the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party, Head of Academic Council of the Martens Centre

Lucie Tungul, Head of Research, TOPAZ

As 26 April was the main day of the event it was composed of four principal sessions, with two sessions taking place in the morning and the other two in the afternoon. Each session included three different panel debates on three different policy areas – foreign affairs and security; economy; democracy and civil society. All panel debates in each session were held in parallel. In total, 12 (4x3) panel discussions were hosted.





— 26 APR.

EU Enlargement: What's Next?
Institute for Popular Studies, Romania

Moderator
Ioana Lung, Senior Communications and Marketing Officer, Martens Centre

Panel Speakers:
Allan Jones, Head of Unit, Strategy, Policy, Planning, EEA/EFTA, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

Vlad Nistor, Professor of History, Bucharest University, Vice-President of the National Liberal Party (PNL)

Florica Cherecheș, MP (PNL), President of the Liberal Women Organization

Violeta Vijulie, Executive Director, Institute for Popular Studies (ISP)

Thieves of State:
Why is Political Corruption an Increasing Problem in the EU?
Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation, Sweden

Moderator
Angelos Chryssogelos, Teaching Fellow, King's College London

Kick-off speaker
John Dalhuisen, Former Special Adviser to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and Former Director for Europe and Central Asia at Amnesty International

Panel Speakers
Olof Ehrenkrona, Consul General of Sweden to the Åland islands

Alexandra Stiglmayer, Secretary General, Senior Analyst and Editor, European Stability Initiative

Building Resilience in the MENA Region for a Strong Europe
Anton Tunega Foundation, Slovakia

Moderator
Marek Degro, Director, Anton Tunega Foundation

Kick-off speaker
Tomáš Zdechovský, MEP, EPP Group

Panel Speakers

Marcela Szymanski, EU Liaison, Aid to the Church in Need Brussels Office

Friedrich Bokern, President, Relief and Reconciliation for Syria AISBL, Former Press Officer in Jerzy Buzek's Cabinet

Ajla Verhulst-Hotic, Political Adviser, Middle East and North Africa Affairs, EPP

— 26 APR.

The Impact of the Energy Transition on EU Competitiveness. FAES Foundation, Spain

Moderator
Miguel Marín, Director of Economy and Public Policy, FAES and CEO, AEI Public Affairs

Kick-off speaker
Isaac Valero-Ladron, Member of the Cabinet of the Climate Action and Energy Commissioner, European Commission

Panel Speakers
Christian Egenhofer, Associate Senior Research Fellow & Director of Energy Climate House, CEPS

Alexandre Affre, Director of Industrial Affairs, Business Europe

From Mainstream to Modern: Politics 2.0 in an Era of Populism. ÖVP Political Academy, Austria

Moderator
Margherita Movarelli, Project Officer, Martens Centre

Kick-off speaker
Werner Fasslabend, Former Austrian Minister of Defence, Head of the Academic Council, Martens Centre

Panel Speakers
Othmar Karas, MEP, EPP Group
Pierre-Henri Dumont, MP for Calais Region (France)



Is There a Third Way? Post-Brexit Future of the EU Project. Foundation for a Civic Hungary, Hungary

Moderator
Federico Ottavio Reho, Strategic Coordinator and Research Officer, Martens Centre

Kick-off speaker
Pieter Cleppe, Head of Brussels Office, Open Europe

Panel Speakers
István Pócza, Senior Research Fellow, Századvég Foundation

István Kiss, Senior Research Fellow, Századvég Foundation

Csaba Fodor, Executive Director, Nézőpont Intézet

Social Market Economy Under Pressure: Balancing Solidarity and Competitiveness. Hanns-Seidel-Foundation Brussels Office, Germany

Moderator
Federico Ottavio Reho, Strategic Coordinator and Research Officer, Martens Centre

Kick-off speaker
Tobias Zech, former Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Deutscher Bundestag

Panel Speakers

Günter Ederer, Economic journalist, film producer and author

Gabriele Bischoff, DGB Special Advisor for the ETUC, EESC and EU Reform, Federal Executive of the German Confederation of Trade Unions (DGB)

Another EU Referendum in the Making? Euroscepticism in Central Europe. TOPAZ, Czechia

Moderator
Lucie Tungul, Head of Research, TOPAZ

Kick-off speaker
Michał Boni, MEP, EPP Group

Panel Speakers
Ildikó Szenci, Deputy Director, Antall Jozsef Knowledge Centre

Veronika Neprašová, Journalist, Hospodářské Noviny

For a wrap-up podcast of the entire event: scan this QR code.



— 26 APR.

The European Union in the Mediterranean Puzzle. De Gasperi Foundation, Italy

Kick-off speaker and Moderator
Riccardo Redaelli, Professor of Geopolitics, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan; Director of the Center for Research on the Southern System and Wider Mediterranean (CRiSSMA)

Panel Speakers
Angelino Alfano, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and President of the De Gasperi Foundation

Paolo Alli, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Marc Otte, Diplomat, Former Director General of EGMONT – The Royal Institute for International Relations

Holding the Centre: Restoring an Aspirational Middle Class in Europe. CDA Research Institute, the Netherlands

Moderator
Eoin Drea, Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre

Kick-off speaker
Arjen Siegmann, Economist, CDA Research Institute

Panel Speakers
Juha-Pekka Nurvala, Acting Head of Unit for Policy and Strategy, EPP

Rumiana Stoilova, Director, The Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge (ISSK) at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS)

Time to Act: Finding a Realistic Strategy for the Migration Challenge. Luigi Sturzo Institute, Italy

Moderator
Loredana Teodorescu, EU affairs and Research Project Coordinator, Istituto Luigi Sturzo

Kick-off speaker
Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Martens Centre and Former Prime Minister of Slovakia

Panel Speakers
Federico Soda, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Roderick Parkes, Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

Francois Bienfait, Liaison Officer to the EU, European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

What Role for Cohesion Policy Post-2020? AGERB, Bulgaria

Moderator
Serafín Pazos-Vidal, Chair, Expert Group on Cohesion of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

Kick-off speaker
Siegfried Mureşan, MEP, EPP Group, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgets

Panel Speakers
Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP, EPP Group, Member of the Committee on Regional Development

Michael Schneider, State Secretary, Representative of the Land of Saxony-Anhalt to the Federal Government, EPP CoR

Projects with Member Foundations

JAN.



9-12 JANUARY, VIENNA — POLAK
European Forum 2018 - Afghanistan's Future and its Impact on the European Neighbourhood

27 JANUARY, TALLINN — PRO PATRIA INSTITUTE
International Conference in Memory of Peeter Luksep - The Power of the Individual

PUBLICATION — CEDER
Social Europe

FEB.

15-16 FEBRUARY, MILAN — KAS
Conference on the Future of Work in the Digital Era

PUBLICATION — KAS
World Order Revisited: Resilience and Challenges



MAR.



5-7 MARCH, BITOLA / 5-7 JUNE, OHRID — KAS
Regional Winter School Security - Identity, Migration and the New Security Agenda in Europe

20-24 MARCH, BRUSSELS / 4-6 MAY, KAVADARCI — KAS
Modern People's Parties vs. National Populism







MAY

4 MAY, SOFIA — KAS
Towards a New EU Defence Identity

4-6 MAY, KAVADARCI — KAS
Cathedra Adenauer - The Future of the European Union and the Western Balkans

MAY - NOVEMBER, BRATISLAVA — ANTON TUNEGA FOUNDATION
Political Academy

11-13 MAY, OHRID / 14 MAY, SKOPJE — KAS
Brain Drain Policy Hackathon and Conference

17-19 MAY, BRATISLAVA — KAS/GLOBSEC
GLOBSEC 2018

24 MAY, PRAGUE — TOPAZ
The Future of the Digital Single Market

APR.

9-12 APRIL, VIENNA — POLAK
How Europe Works - Introductory Seminar

12-13 APRIL, BRUSSELS — ISP/DPI/PRO PATRIA/IJEK/TOPAZ/FAES
Streamlining Workflows for Martens Centre Network

APRIL-DECEMBER, MINSK — KAS
From Situation Analysis to Foresight: Deepening the Understanding of Immediate and Strategic Futures in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood

15-17 APRIL, BITOLA — KAS
Cross-border Cooperation in the Water Management Field

18-20 APRIL, VISBY — JHS
Round-table Conference on East and West in the New World Order

18 APRIL, PRAGUE — TOPAZ
Post-Election Situation in the EU

APRIL - NOVEMBER, VILNIUS, BRUSSELS, KLAIPEDA — KAS
KAS-Martens Centre Discussion Club

20-22 APRIL / 26-28 OCTOBER, SARAJEVO — KAS
Political Communication of EPP Parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina

PUBLICATION — APRIL - DECEMBER, BUDAPEST — PMA
Central European Health Review (Research Project)

JUN.

5-7 JUNE, OHRID — KAS
Regional Summer School Security - Identity, Migration and the New Security Agenda in Europe

6 JUNE, LONDON — KAS
Brexit Burning: Talks, Transition and Threats

6 JUNE, HELSINKI — TOIVO
Publication Launch 'Foreign Policy Now!' Euro-Atlantic Finland

14-17 JUNE, CASCAIS — KAS
The Future of the Economy: Tech and Society

17-20 JUNE, VIENNA — POLAK
European Forum 2018 – European and International Security Policy

21 JUNE, PRAGUE— IKDP
New Approaches in Civic Education: 100 Years of Czech Democracy Promotion

28-30 JUNE, BRATISLAVA — POLAK
Millennial Leaders: Political Communication for a New Generation

29 JUNE-1 JULY, PRAGUE — TOPAZ
Young Generation and Conservative Politics

JUNE-OCTOBER, SUBCETATE, ORADEA — KKA
EU Academy

PUBLICATION — TOIVO
Foreign Policy Now!

Projects with Member Foundations

JUL.



4 JULY, BRUSSELS — HSS
The European Agenda under the Austrian EU Presidency

6-8 JULY, VIENNA — POLAK
European Summer Academy for Leading Seniors 2018 - European Demography: From Challenges to Innovative Opportunities

6-10 JULY, OHRID — KAS
Regional Summer School - Society and Religion: Ethnic Groups, Identity and Nationalism

25-29 JULY, LITHUANIA — DPI
Young Leaders Symposium

28-29 JULY, PREŠOV/LEVOČA — NAT
Totalities in Container

AUG.

30 AUGUST, TURKU — TOIVO
Europe of Cities: Urbanisation in the Era of European Integration

PUBLICATION — TOPAZ
The Czech Centre Right's Solutions to the Political Challenges of 2019



SEP.

4 SEPTEMBER, BRUSSELS — HSS
The EU Between the US and China: The Future of the International Economic Order

10-14 SEPTEMBER, TIVAT — POLAK
How Europe Works - Introductory Seminar

13 SEPTEMBER, ATHENS — HSS
Greece's Exit from the Bailout: The Day After

14 SEPTEMBER, TALLINN — PRO PATRIA INSTITUTE
Interaction of Values and Public Opinion

21-23 SEPTEMBER, BUCHAREST — KAS ROMANIA OFFICE
The Future of Human Mobility: Migration and Demographics

27 SEPTEMBER, BRUSSELS — JHS
Thieves of State: A Global Perspective on Political Corruption

27-28 SEPTEMBER, BRATISLAVA — NAT
Eight-dated Anniversaries in Czecho-Slovak History

28-30 SEPTEMBER, LITHUANIA — DPI
Political Academy LIBERTAS & PIETAS Autumn Forum

NOV.



1-4 NOVEMBER, ATHENS — KAS/MITSOTAKIS FOUNDATION
Digital [r]evolution: Europe's Duty to Lead

9-10 NOVEMBER, HELSINKI — TOIVO
Europe of Cities Academy

9 NOVEMBER, VIENNA — POLAK
European Forum 2018 - The EU as a Leading Actor for Security and Defence

12-15 NOVEMBER, BUDAPEST — POLAK
How Europe Works – Introductory Seminar

21 NOVEMBER, OLOMOUC — TOPAZ
Handling Environment

22 NOVEMBER, PRAGUE — TOPAZ
Low Carbon Revolution: Future of Green Energy

22 NOVEMBER, BRUSSELS —JHS
Do the EU's Sanctions on Russia Have a Future?

22-25 NOVEMBER, CLUJ-NAPOCA — KKA
Millennial Leaders: Effective Involvement of the Touchscreen Generation

28 NOVEMBER, BRUSSELS — KAS – MNED EUROPEAN OFFICE
Naftogaz vs. Gazprom: What Role for the European Union?

30 NOVEMBER-1 DECEMBER, ANTWERP — CEDER
CEDER University

30 NOVEMBER-2 DECEMBER, FRASCATI — FDG
Europe: Living the Past or Moving Towards a Better Future?

OCT.



1 OCTOBER, SOFIA — KAS/AGERB
The Future of Economic and Monetary Union

2-5 OCTOBER, KYIV — PRO PATRIA
Quo Vadis Eastern Partnership?

12-14 OCTOBER, BRAŞOV — KKA
Training Weekend for Students

15 OCTOBER, VIENNA — POLAK
European Forum 2018 - European Publicness – Wish or Vision?

16-17 OCTOBER, PRAGUE — IKDP
European Union: Challenges 2018

19 OCTOBER, STOCKHOLM — TOIVO
Europe of Cities: Urbanisation and the European Project

19-21 OCTOBER, VILNIUS — DPI
We are NATO's Eastern Flank

25 OCTOBER, BRUSSELS — HSS
Political Trends in Italy: Potential Implications for the EU

25 OCTOBER, PRAGUE — TOPAZ
European Borders Conference

29 OCTOBER, SOFIA — HSS/AGERB
Technology and the Digital Single Market: Opportunities and Challenges

DEC.

5 DECEMBER, BRUSSELS — HSS
The European Agenda Under the Romanian EU Presidency

7-8 DECEMBER, VILNIUS — DPI
School of Citizenship 2018

17 DECEMBER, BRUSSELS — HSS
5 Years after Majdan: Ukraine's Reform Agenda

PUBLICATION — IKDP
Subsidiarity and European Integration: Citizens and Institutions and Where to Go from Here

PUBLICATION — CDA
The Middle Class at the Moral Core of Society

PUBLICATION — FDG
The European Union - The Story of a Friendship: Adenauer, De Gasperi and Schuman

PUBLICATION — FDG
Sixty Years from the Treaty of Rome – Is the European Union Still Possible?



Projects with External Partners

JAN.



20 JANUARY, LISBON — PCS
Portugal in the Future: Challenges, Reforms and Compromise

FEB.

7-9 FEBRUARY, MAARAB — MEIRSS
Envisioning the Future of the Middle East & Its Implications on Europe's Security & Foreign Policy



MAR.



11-12 MARCH, OSLO — CIVITA
Russian Presidential Elections 2018: Rigged in favour of Vladimir Putin?

PUBLICATION — FOKUS 2031
Vision of a Contemporary Pension System



MAY

2-4 MAY, PRAGUE — EUROPEAN VALUES THINK TANK
Stratcom Summit 2018

16 MAY, SOFIA — EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
In Dialogue with the Western Balkans: Creating a Region of Growth, Security and Connectivity on the Path to Europe

18-20 MAY, SABAC / 14-16 SEPTEMBER — NIS - BELGRADE FUND FOR POLITICAL EXCELLENCE
Annual Seminars

23 MAY, MINSK — IDSM BEE
Sustainable Development of Belarus: The Role and Involvement of Civil Institutions and Christian Churches

24 MAY, MINSK — IDSM BEE
Conditions for Achieving Gender Equality in Belarus: Improvement of the Legislation

25 MAY, BRUSSELS — ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY
Polish European Policy 2004-2018: What Changed in 2015 and Why?

25-26 MAY, HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ — EAD
Smart Municipalities in the EU Context

26-27 MAY, HUMPOLEC — EAD
Discussion on the Future of the EU

APR.

11 APRIL, BRUSSELS — ANTALL JÓZSEF KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
The Future of Cyber Warfare

PUBLICATION — FOKUS 2031
The Case for Income Tax Reform in Slovenia

PUBLICATION — FRS
The State of the Union Schuman Report on Europe 2018



JUN.

1-3 JUNE, ORASTIE — LS
Best Practice in Public Administration

4 JUNE, BERLIN — BELGRADE FUND FOR POLITICAL EXCELLENCE
Belgrade and Pristina: Between Frozen Conflict and Normalisation

19 JUNE, BRUSSELS — ANTALL JÓZSEF KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
Here We Come! Talent Management and Youth Perspectives in the Western Balkans



Projects with External Partners

JUL.



AUG.

SEP.

14-16 SEPTEMBER, SINAIA — LS
Friedrich Hayek Economic School 2018 - Economic Tools for Smart Local Development

18-20 SEPTEMBER, PRAGUE — EUROPEAN VALUES THINK TANK
Training Programme for Countering Disinformation

25 SEPTEMBER, BRUSSELS — RE-IMAGINE EUROPE
Identity, Communication and Power: European Narratives and Insights from Recent Research

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, BRUSSELS, MADRID — FAES
The Political and Economic Integration of the EU: A Reference for Latin America

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, BUCHAREST — QVORUM
Civic Leadership Program

PUBLICATION — FRS
Atlas Permanent de l'Union Européenne



NOV.





13 NOVEMBER, HELSINKI— KOMPASSI
Common Good? Discussing the Ideology and Value of Christian Democracy

14-15 NOVEMBER, SÉRAIL BIKFAYA — MAISON DU FUTUR
Does Christianity Have a Future in the Middle East?

21 NOVEMBER, BRUSSELS — FRS
Is the New Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU Fit for the Next Decade?

21-23 NOVEMBER, PRAGUE, EUROPEAN VALUES THINK TANK
Home Affairs - Internal Security Forum Prague 2018

PUBLICATION — KKA
Research report: Transylvanian Hungarian Youth in the EU

OCT.



10 OCTOBER, BRUSSELS — MEIRSS
Round-table Discussion on the European Union's Response to the JCPOA Withdrawal & the Iranian Role in the Middle East

17-19 OCTOBER, BELGRADE — BELGRADE FUND FOR POLITICAL EXCELLENCE
Belgrade Security Forum 2018 – Finding Answers Together to the New Normal

22 OCTOBER, BRUSSELS — BEYOND THE HORIZON
New Horizons Symposium: Emerging Trends Reshaping International Security

24-25 OCTOBER, WARSAW — CASIMIR PULASKI FOUNDATION
Warsaw Security Forum 2018

26-27 OCTOBER, CHIŞINĂU — LS
Smart Cities and Market Places

26-28 OCTOBER, BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA — SLOVAK SECURITY
Policy Institute
The Autumn School: Teachers Against Disinformation 2018

PUBLICATION — PCS
Reshaping Schools for a T-World

DEC.

3 AND 10 DECEMBER, BRUSSELS — ANTALL JÓZSEF KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
Dinners with EU Personalities

4 DECEMBER, BELGRADE — BELGRADE FUND FOR POLITICAL EXCELLENCE
Can We Rebuild Trust in Politics?

7-8 DECEMBER, BRNO — EAD
Smart and Professional Municipalities

7-9 DECEMBER, BELA — GLOBSEC
Château Béla Central European Strategic Forum

11 DECEMBER, LJUBLJANA — FOKUS 2031
Slovenia Deserves Better: 5x5 Publication Launch

11 DECEMBER, BEIRUT — MAISON DU FUTUR
Lebanese Consociational Democracy in the Consideration of the Future of Syria and Iraq

14-15 DECEMBER, BRAŞOV — LS
The Forum of Entrepreneurs in Smart Administration

18 DECEMBER, PRAGUE — EAD
EU Scenarios in 2019

PUBLICATION — KKA
Research report: Analysis of Revenues from the EU to Romanian County Councils and Local Administrations

PUBLICATION — FOKUS 2031
Brain drain from Slovenia: The Case

PUBLICATION — EUROPEAN VALUES THINK TANK
Prevention of Mass Irregular Migration to Europe

PUBLICATION — FOKUS 2031
Competitive Government


SPEAK UP
FOR
EUROPE!



— Our Digital Formats

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— Our Formats

As the official think tank of the EPP we try to bring the European debate closer to those who matter the most - European public.

We produce several digital formats which aim to enhance our impact, influence and outreach.



— "I say Europe, you say…?"
is a series of candid interviews with centre-right movers and shakers of the European project. From legislative work to food preferences, from weekday causes to weekend hobbies, we show you the human face of EU politics and its main protagonists. This year we featured: Manfred Weber, Alexander Stubb, Marianne Thyssen, Esther de Lange, Roberta Metsola and Mairead McGuinness.

— Brexitometer,
starring Angelos Chryssogelos, keeps our viewers informed about the pertinent issues and developments regarding Brexit negotiations by providing an interesting insight into the negotiations. It draws attention to numerous different aspects of the process. The video series started in 2016 and since then it has been analysing the unfolding and often surprising events on Brexit. The series is quite interactive, as the questions come directly from the viewers through Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

— In Focus in 2018: Speak up for Europe!
is a video campaign launched on Europe Day (9 May). Its aim was not only to advocate for a stronger Europe, but to show what happens when we do not voice our opinions. In times of disillusionment in politics, populism and waning trust in our institutions, it is crucial to remember that staying silent about this turmoil can only lead to terrible things. Dialogue and brisk discussions are essential for our future and the survival of democracy and the EU, and this is the main message this video conveys.

— The Political Week in #60seconds
is our first video format and has been airing for four years now. It is a weekly satirical overview of political events across the globe presented by our policy director Roland Freudenstein. It reflects on current events in an entertaining and engaging way for viewers.

— Defence Dialogues
is a podcast series hosted by Niklas Nováky. It engages key policymakers and opinion leaders working on European security and defence policy in a conversation on contemporary issues and challenges. The podcast series aims to discuss these issues and challenges in this vital, but complex policy area in a way that is accessible to everyone interested in them.









Bloomberg TELEVISION

WINNER
DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AWARDS 2018

— Europe Out Loud
is a podcast series by Federico Ottavio Reho on salient issues facing Europe. Federico discusses a plethora of topics in a tour de force through European history, culture and civilisation. He redefines political correctness with the help of razor-sharp arguments and beautifully drawn historical parallels. In September 2018 the podcast won a Digital Communication Award as the Best Digital Channel of the year.



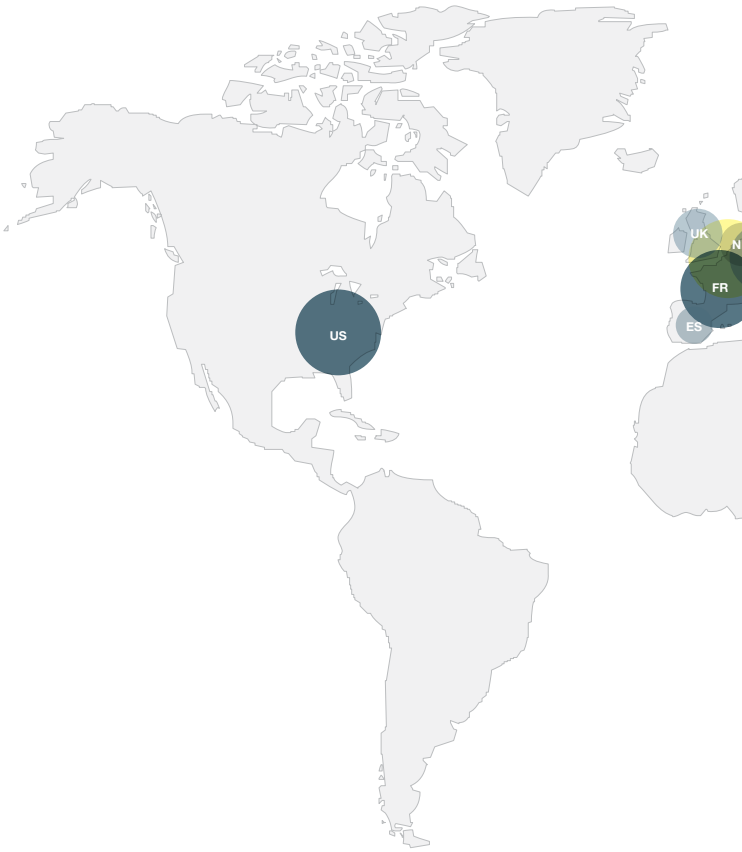
— Outreach

10th
Political Think Tank Worldwide

100+
Events a Year

500+
Speakers and Experts

40+
Partners across Europe



Press

This year we have been featured in many news outlets, some which are:

The New York Times
POLITICO
euobserver
DER TAGESSPIEGEL
EURACTIV
Aspen Review
DW Deutsche Welle

Social Media

54,529
Facebook Likes

30,802
Followers

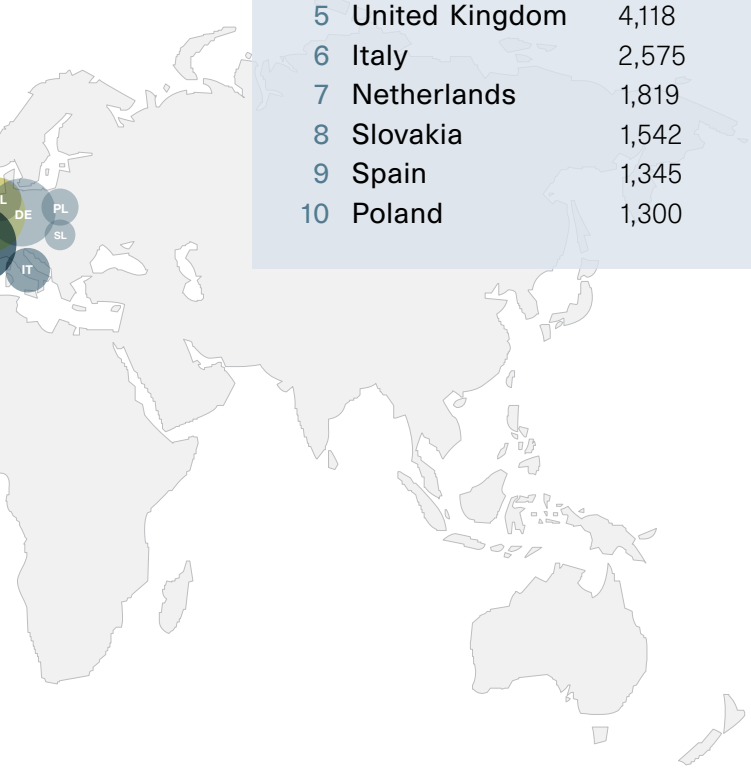
Website Visitor Trends

In 2018, the Martens Centre website had a total of **89,885** unique visitors.

This represents an increase of 14.20% on the previous year.

TOP 10 WEBSITE VISITING COUNTRIES

1	France	23,476
2	Belgium	12,588
3	United States	11,297
4	Germany	4,296
5	United Kingdom	4,118
6	Italy	2,575
7	Netherlands	1,819
8	Slovakia	1,542
9	Spain	1,345
10	Poland	1,300



3,089 Connections

363 YouTube Subscribers

543 Instagram Followers







In 2018, several EPP shakers, movers and experts were invited to be interviewed, to comment on current events and to speak at high level conferences.

www.martenscentre.eu


Martens Centre
Martens Centre
Martens Centre



— About Us

The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (formerly the Centre for European Studies) was established in 2007 as the political foundation and official think tank of the EPP.

It embodies a pan-European mindset based on centre–right, Christian Democrat, conservative and like-minded political values and research. It serves as a framework for national political foundations linked to member parties of the EPP.

The Martens Centre helps prepare EPP programmes and policy documents. It organises seminars and training on EU policies and on the process of European integration. The Centre also contributes to formulating EU and national public policies.

It produces research papers and books, policy briefs and the twice-yearly European View journal. Its research activities are divided into six clusters: party structures and EU institutions, economic and social policies, EU foreign policy, environment and energy, values and religion, and new societal challenges. Through its papers, publication launches, conferences and online activities, the Martens Centre offers a platform for discussion among experts, politicians, policymakers and the European public.

At the beginning of 2014, the Centre was renamed in honour of its late president and founder, Wilfried Martens, the EPP's long-standing president and a former prime minister of Belgium.



ABOUT US

— Executive Board

This board is composed of a maximum of eight members, including the president and the secretary treasurer, all of whom are elected by the General Assembly of the Centre. Its roles range from drafting the annual programme based on agreed research priorities and ensuring the legal representation and financial supervision of the activities of the Centre, to steering the expansion of the Centre's network of member organisations.



Mikuláš Dzurinda

President



Antonio López-Istúriz

Secretary Treasurer



Joseph Daul



Tobias Billström



Benjamin Dalle



János Martonyi



Roberta Metsola



Hans-Gert Pöttering

ABOUT US

— Honorary Board

The newly formed Honorary Board aims to reinforce the expertise of the Centre, not only for enhancing the think tank's expert profile, but also in order to boost its intellectual capacity, enabling our experts to address the EU's current and future challenges. The members of the board are all former prime ministers or former heads of EU institutions. All belong to the EPP family and have a successful track record of country and institutional reforms.



Mikuláš Dzurinda



José María Aznar



Jan Peter Balkenende



Jan Krzysztof Bielecki



Carl Bildt



John Bruton



Lawrence Gonzi



Andrius Kubilius



Pedro Passos Coelho



Antonis Samaras



Jacques Santer



Wolfgang Schüssel



Herman Van Rompuy

ABOUT US

Academic Council

To increase the academic scope of the Martens Centre and to ensure its research, studies and activities meet the highest scholarly standards, the Executive Board nominates esteemed academics and researchers as members of the Academic Council. The role of the Council includes enhancing the Centre's standing and visibility in the academic sphere and contributing expertise, advice and ideas to ensure that the Centre always pursues cutting-edge research. The Academic Council also proposes new and innovative projects and implements the highest standard of peer review.





Werner Fasslabend

Chair of the Academic Council



Bruno Aguilera-Barchet



John Bruton



Olof Ehrenkrona



George Galanos



Martti Häikiö



Mart Laar



Giovanni Maddalena



Miet Smet



Žiga Turk



Yannis G. Valinakis



Jos J.A.M. van Gennip



ABOUT US

— Research Associates and Senior Research Associates

Research associates and senior research associates are politically like-minded academics who contribute research papers, short analyses and blogs, and give advice on current affairs.

— SENIOR



Constantine Arvanitopoulos



Jolyon Howorth



Michael Benhammou



Giselle Bosse



Angelos Chryssogelos



Hans Geeroms



Florian Hartleb



Katarína Králiková



Jürgen Matthes



Magnus Norell



Michael O'Neill



Dalibor Rohac



Salome Samadashvili



Katharina Senge



Rumiana Stoilova



Loredana Teodorescu



Nikolaos Tzifakis



Steven Van Hecke



Raquel Vaz-Pinto

— Individual Members

Individual members are politically like-minded, senior-level professionals active in European politics, the European institutions and related organisations. They participate in meetings of the General Assembly and offer their perspective on the overall strategy and goals of the Martens Centre and on how to attain them.

In 2018 our individual members were:



Antonio López-Istúriz

Antti Timonen

Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb

Filippo Terruso

Jacob Lund Nielsen

Joseph Daul

Kostas Sasmatzoglou

Marianne Thyssen

Nicolas Pascual De La Parte

Timothy Beyer Helm



ABOUT US

— Internships

The Martens Centre offers internships of three to six months to university graduates and young researchers from Europe and the rest of the world. The internship programme is intended to provide the trainees with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of European affairs and to gain close insight into the daily work of the European institutions in Brussels.

Are you interested in an **internship** with the **Martens Centre?**
–
Apply now!

Please visit **www.martenscentre.eu/join-team** for more information.

In 2018 our interns were:

Alexandra Henman (Ireland)
Alexis Leenders (Belgium)
Ana Rotaru (Moldova)
Andrea Castagna (Italy)
Andrei Moraru (Romania)
Carolina Albuquerque (Portugal)
Gareth Gregan (Ireland)
Iris Bouma (The Netherlands)
Jakub Ač (Slovakia)
Linda Schlegel (Germany)
Milda Kaklauskaitė (Lithuania)
Teodora Hristova (Bulgaria)
Zala Tomašič (Slovenia)



OUR NETWORK

— Member Foundations

The Martens Centre works closely with 32 member foundations from all over Europe.

Academy for the Development of a Democratic Environment
Akkademja ghall-Izvilupp ta' Ambjent Demokratiku (AZAD)
Casa Pereira 224, Republic Street, Valletta, Malta
T. +356 21 247 515; +356 21 234 884 — F. +356 21 220 496

Amaro da Costa Institute
Instituto Amaro da Costa (IDL)
Rua do Patrocinio, 128 — A, 1350-232 Lisbon, Portugal
T. +351 21 3461449 — E. geral@idl.pt
www.idl.pt

Anton Tunega Foundation
Nadacia Antona Tunegu (NAT)
Šulekova 2, 81106 Bratislava, Slovakia
T. +421 908 334 344 — E. info@tunega.sk;
marek.degro@tunega.sk
www.tunega.sk

Association Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria
Сдружение 'Граждани за европейско развитие на България (GERB)
4 Adam Mitskevich Street, Vrabnitsa, 1360 Sofia, Bulgaria
T. +359 88 480 0293 — E. office@gerb-bg.org

Barankovics Istvan Foundation
Barankovics Istvan Alapitvény
Kálvin tér 8, 1091 Budapest, Hungary
T. +36 1 323 0607 — E. iroda@barankovios.hu
www.barankovics.hu

CDA Research Institute
Wetenschappelijk Instituut voor het CDA (WICDA)
Postbus 30453, 2500 GL The Hague, The Netherlands
T. +31 70 342 4874 — E. wi@cda.nl
www.cda.nl/wi

CEDER Study Centre of CD&V
CEDER Studiecentrum CD&V (CEDER)
Wetstraat 89, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
T. +32 2 238 38 87 — E. ceder@cdenv.be
www.ceder.cdenv.be/ceder

Croatian Statehood Foundation
Zaklada Hrvatskog Drzavnog Zavjeta (ZHDZ)
Gundulićeva ul. 21 a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
T. +3851 4354 555 — F. +385 1 4854 439
E. zak|ada.hdz@zg.t-com.hr; srecko.prusina@zhdz.hr

De Gasperi Foundation
Fondazione De Gasperi (FDG)
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The Martens Centre works closely with 17 partner members from Europe and beyond.



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ABOUT US

— Visiting Fellows

The Martens Centre takes an active interest in a wide range of political issues with a particular emphasis on studies related to European policy. Every year it therefore offers visiting-fellow positions of 6 to 12 months to dynamic, motivated and innovative individuals with the appropriate academic credentials.

In 2018 our research fellows were:



Constantine Arvanitopoulos
Greece



Christina Bache
USA

— Staff 2018



Tomi Huhtanen
Executive Director



Roland Freudenstein
Policy Director



Panos Tasiopoulos
Head of External Cooperation and Events



Ioana Lung
Head of Communications and Marketing



Federico Ottavio Reho
Strategic Coordinator and Research Officer



Viktoria Jancosekova
Manager of the President's Office









Margherita Movarelli
Senior Project Officer

Vít Novotný
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Irina Roventa
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Eoin Drea
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Anna van Oeveren
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Dimitar Lilkov
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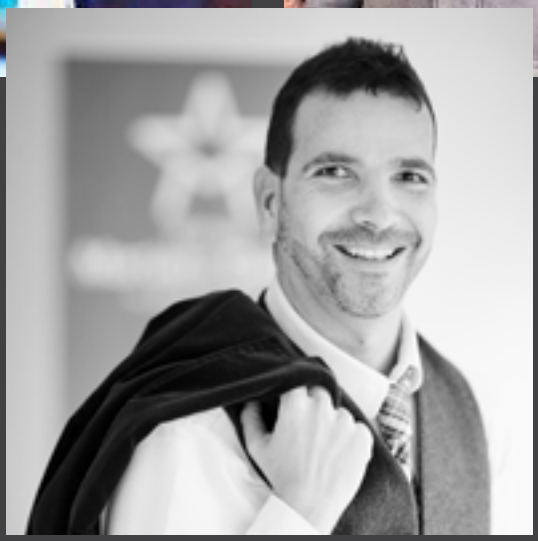


Stéphanie Honorez
Receptionist









IN MEMORIAM

José Luis Fontalba

1973—2018

In September we lost our dear colleague and friend, the creative spark of many of our projects and campaigns, José Luis Fontalba. José Luis was Head of Communications and Marketing, the creator of many formats we produce such as the Economic Ideas Forum, Makerstown, 60 seconds, our podcast series and much more.

José Luis was a passionate political communicator, who had a great talent for translating complex ideas into clear messages. He was with us almost from the very beginning, enabling us to grow into the organisation we are today with his unwavering commitment, team spirit and leadership. His creativity and unique sense of humour have left a significant mark not just on our online presence but also our policy impact.

José Luis will be remembered as an exceptional mind, selfless team leader and beloved friend who touched our lives and empowered us by immersing us into his creative world of ideas. His legacy will live on and we will do our best to honour his memory by continuing the work he excelled at and loved so much.



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