



Wilfried  
**Martens Centre**  
for European Studies



## **Thieves of state: A global perspective on political corruption**

**27 September 2018  
16:30-19:00**

**Stanhope Hotel  
Rue de Commerce 9  
1000 Brussels**

In recent years there has been a proliferation of reports of an increase in political corruption on many levels in Europe and globally. As a result, populist forces have gained ground, challenging the legitimacy of national and international institutions and of our common values. In addition, several of these forces receive support from authoritarian states such as Russia and Venezuela.

To counter this, good behaviour and high ethical standards of the representatives of national, EU and international institutions is essential. In order to strengthen the confidence of the people and to tackle the many challenges facing ordinary citizens, we need to increase participation and transparency to regain trust in the institutions, representatives and values by effectively fighting corruption. This panel will focus on how political corruption can be fought. It will also discuss the impact of the interference of Russia, Venezuela and other authoritarian states.

### **PROGRAMME**

<b>16:30</b>	<b>Registration and Coffee</b>
<b>17:00</b>	<b>Welcome and introduction: Eva Gustavsson</b> , Managing Director, Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation
<b>17:10</b>	<b>Panel discussion</b> <b>John Dalhuisen</b> , Senior Fellow, European Stability Initiative <b>Natalia Arno</b> , Founder and President, Free Russia Foundation <b>Alfredo Keller</b> , Journalist <b>Jose Herrera</b> , International Director, FAES <b>Maibort Petit</b> , Journalist
<b>Moderated by:</b>	<b>Roland Freudenstein</b> , Policy Director, Martens Centre
<b>18:30</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Networking cocktail</b>



**Eva Gustavsson** is the Managing Director of the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation. She is the Political Auditor of the International Democrat Union. She is the former International Director of the Moderate Party in Sweden. She was one of the founders of the Center for European Studies (renamed the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies in 2014), affiliated with the European People's Party, and was a Political Auditor of the Center from its founding until 2013. She is a member of the Congress in Solna Municipality. She graduated in Law and Economics at the University of Stockholm.



**John Dalhuisen** is a Senior Fellow at the European Stability Initiative. He was Director of Amnesty International's Europe and Central Asia Programme and Regional Office. Prior to joining Amnesty International he was Special Adviser to the first Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2007 and studied Philosophy at Edinburgh University and Humboldt University in Berlin.



**Natalia Arno** is the founder and president of the Free Russia Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan US-based nongovernmental organization that informs US policy makers on events in Russia in real time and supports formulation of an effective and sustainable Russia policy in the US. Prior to founding the Free Russia Foundation, Natalia worked for the International Republican Institute for ten years including six years as IRI Russia Country Director. In December 2009 Natalia represented Russia in the World Summit of Women Leaders in Geneva, Switzerland.



**Alfredo Keller** is a journalist. Cum Laude, Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Caracas, 1974. He is specialized in the analysis of political, social and economical scenarios. He is also a political consultant with experience in strategic planning of political campaigns and political communication and has worked in around 150 campaigns in 15 Latin American countries.



**José Herrera** (Madrid, 1969) is director of international relations at FAES Foundation. He was Member of the Spanish Parliament and the Parliamentary Committees for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, EU and Defense from 1997 to 2004. He has also been Member of the Spanish Delegation at the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (1999-2000), Member of the Regional Parliament of Madrid (1995-1996) and Secretary General at Fundación Popular Iberoamericana (2000-2003). He is an Architect (ETSAM, Madrid) with a specialization in International Cooperation (UPM, Madrid) and post-graduate programs in Public Management (IESE Business School), Public Leadership (IE Business School) and National Defense (CESEDEN).



**Maibort Petit** is an investigating journalist born in Venezuela. She studied Journalism and Political Science and her educational background includes undergraduate and graduate work in Latin American Politics at the University of La Sorbonne and Paris III, Foreign Policy at the Foreign Ministry of Venezuela, candidate a PhD program in Political Science at the Central University of Venezuela. She is a former Executive Director of the Francophone Association of Venezuela and coordinator of the French newspaper L'Info. In recent years she is dedicated to research in the following areas: North American criminal justice, corruption, money laundering and drug trafficking.



**Roland Freudenstein** is the Policy Director of the Martens Centre. He was previously director of the Warsaw office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and its Head for Foreign and European Affairs in Berlin. Prior to that, he represented the German city state of Hamburg to the EU. He has contributed to debates and published extensively on international security, European integration and the EU's Eastern and Southern neighbourhoods.