Wilfried
Martens Centre
for European Studies

Hungarian Parliamentary Elections: Democratic Backsliding or Democratic Revival?

7 April 2022
15:00:16:00 CET
Online

Since its ascent to government in 2010, the Hungarian ruling party Fidesz has eroded constitutional checks and balances, gained control of most of the media, strengthened ties to Moscow and Beijing, attempted to undermine EU consensus on key foreign policy questions, encouraged nepotism, and rhetorically attacked the EU and the West. Hungary, who played a significant role in the rapprochement between East and West in the late 1980s, has become a symbol of division within the EU.

These factors have united the Hungarian opposition behind the conservative and anticorruption candidate Péter Márki-Zay, who is challenging Viktor Orbán in the parliamentary elections.

The election campaign is being overshadowed by the violent Russian onslaught on Ukraine and an unprecedented wave of refugees fleeing the conflict, with hundreds of thousands having already entered Hungary.

This event will see us analyse the outcome of the Hungarian elections. Is Hungary headed towards reform and commitment to the EU, or the stability of the status quo? What will be the new government's agenda and its influence in the region and wider EU? What will the war in Ukraine's impact be on the future of the CEE region?

PROGRAMME

15:00 **Discussants:**

Pavlína Janebová, Research Director, Association for International Affairs, Prague

Péter Krekó, Executive Director, Political Capital, Budapest

Milan Nič, Senior Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin

Moderated by:

Peter Hefele, Policy Director, Martens Centre

16:00 End of discussion

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