



Wilfried
Martens Centre
for European Studies

Planning the “After-Party” – The Future of Political Parties in Europe

6 June 2023
12:30 – 13:30 CET

Martens Centre
Rue du
Commerce 20
1000 Brussels

There is still life in the old party “dogs”! So often we have heard that political parties as we know them will cease to exist – likely to be replaced by grassroots “movements” or independent candidates – or their future in jeopardy due to the emergence of online real-time voting. But the facts speak a different language. Mainstream political parties have remained the main actors in the political systems, and there is no sign of them disappearing any time soon. Admittedly, there are several flaws and shortcomings within political parties, for some more than others, and thus there is no reason to be overly self-confident or assume that their continuity in their current form is guaranteed. But political parties are surprisingly resilient. So, why is this?

Have we underestimated their critical role of stabilising democracies? Are modern communication and campaigning methods as efficient and essential as we believe? Are a clear ideology and democratic leadership crucial factors for the success of democratic states? What are the contributions of European parties in particular, and finally, how can we improve the interaction and cooperation between national and European parties?

PROGRAMME

11:45	Registration and light lunch
12:30	Welcome remarks: Tomi Huhtanen , Executive Director, Martens Centre
12:40	Discussion
	Thibault Muzergues , Program Director, Europe & Euro-Med, International Republican Institute
	Heidi Nordby Lunde , Member of Parliament for Oslo, Norway; Member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
	Elisa Adela Vigil González , Deputy, Partido Popular, Madrid Assembly
	Moderated by:
	Peter Hefe , Policy Director, Martens Centre
13:10	Q&A
13:30	End of discussion