



Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
European Studies Department, Faculty of Philosophy
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

“Hanns Seidel” Foundation

and Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies¹

organise

Tenth International Conference
**“The State of the European Union – a need for unity and
solidarity”**

1-2 June 2023, Sofia²

¹ The conference receives financial support from the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with the organiser, the European Parliament is not responsible for the activity.

² The conference is planned as follows: 1 June 2023 (full day) and 2 June 2023 (until early afternoon).

1 June 2023 (Thursday)

Conference Hall of the House of Europe in Bulgaria

Sofia, „G.S. Rakovski” Str.124

09.00 – 09.15	Registration
09.15 – 09.30	Opening of the conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prof. Ingrid Shikova, PhD – European Studies Department, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”- Chairman of the Scientific and Organizing Committee○ Representative of the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Bulgaria○ Dr. Peter Hefe – Representative from Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies○ Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Simeonov, Dr. Habil – Head of the European Studies Department, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
9.30 – 10.00	First panel: THE STATE OF THE EU – A NEED FOR UNITY AND SOLIDARITY <u>Keynote speech:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prof. Loukas Tsoukalis, President ELIAMEP/Professor PSIA, Sciences Po, Paris – <i>Europe’s Coming of Age</i>
10.00 – 11.15	First panel: THE STATE OF THE EU – A NEED FOR UNITY AND SOLIDARITY / Economic Studies <i>Moderator: Prof. Ingrid Shikova, PhD</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Simeonov, Dr. Habil and Ralitsa Stoycheva, PhD candidate, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>Bridging EU’s Digital Divide: The Case of Bulgaria</i>○ Assoc. Prof. Saulė Milčiuvienė, PhD, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania – <i>The EU energy market: current challenges and consumer protection measures</i>○ Snejanka Koleva, PhD, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>New developments in the EU on financial consumer protection policy</i>○ Roxana Trifonova, PhD, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>EU future’s debate in light of an economic and energy crisis</i>○ Assoc. Prof. Svetla Boneva, PhD, UNWE – <i>Carbon Diplomacy – Does it Affect the EU</i>○ Discussion

11.15 – 11.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.45 – 12.15	<p>Continuation of the first panel: THE STATE OF THE EU – A NEED FOR UNITY AND SOLIDARITY</p> <p><u>Keynote speech:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Peter Hefele, Policy Director at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies – <i>A New Type of Foreign Relations? Enhancing Europe's Resilience and its Impacts on the EU's External Actions</i>
12.15 – 13.15	<p>Continuation of the first panel: THE STATE OF THE EU – A NEED FOR UNITY AND SOLIDARITY / Political and Legal Studies</p> <p><i>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Simeonov, Dr. Habil</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prof. Kai Enno Lehmann, Dr. Habil, University of São Paulo, Brazil – <i>Back to its Roots? The War in Ukraine as a 'Chance' for the European Union</i> ○ Assoc. Prof. Hristo Hristev, PhD, Law faculty, Sofia University – <i>The Principle of Solidarity in the EU – Between Political Symbols and Legal Obligations</i> ○ Prof. Edita Gruodytė, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania – <i>Whether Mutual Trust Exists in EU: Recognition of Judgments in Criminal matters</i> ○ Linka Toneva-Metodieva, PhD, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>"Europeanizing" the European Parliament. The Case for a Pan-European Constituency in the Context of the European Public Sphere Debate</i> ○ Discussion
13.15 – 14.15	<i>Lunch</i>
14.15 – 15.15	<p>Second panel: EUROPEAN IDENTITY, EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE</p> <p><i>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Nikolina Tsvetkova, PhD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Prof. Grazyna Piechota, The Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University, Poland – <i>We are all migrants! The right wing political parties' narratives as a source of sociopolitical turbulences in UE countries</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evelina Staykova, PhD and Ildiko Otova, PhD, New Bulgarian University – <i>Bulgarians in the EU: identities and political mobilisations</i> ○ Prof. Dr. Lin Wenshuang and Jiachen, Zhang, PhD candidate, Beijing Foreign Studies University, China – <i>Building European Identity through Foreign Language Education: A Case Study of the Netherlands</i> ○ Prof. Edyta Widawska, Dr. Habil. and Sabina Pawlik, PhD, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland – <i>Inclusive education as a Challenge for Uniting Europe – Polish Experience</i> ○ Discussion
15.15 – 15.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.45 – 16.30	<p>Continuation of the Second panel: EUROPEAN IDENTITY, EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE</p> <p><i>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Simeonov, Dr. Habil</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Prof. James Jolovski, PhD and Magdanela Delinesheva, PhD, Education 5.0 Foundation – <i>Development of financial literacy in Bulgaria in the context of European public policies</i> ○ Asst. Prof. Miruna Andreea Balosin, PhD, Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of European Studies, Romania – <i>European Universities Initiative</i> ○ Gergana Tosheva, PhD, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>Bulgarian Euroatlantism: One of the Main Principles behind Key Foreign Policy Decisions after 1989</i> ○ Discussion
16.30 – 16.45	End of the first day of the conference

2 June 2023 (Friday)

Conference Hall of the House of Europe in Bulgaria

Sofia, „G.S. Rakovski” Str.124

09.00 – 09.15	Registration – <i>second day</i>
09.15 – 09.45	<p>Fourth panel: EU MEDIA POLICY AND HOW TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE DIGITAL AGE</p> <p><u>Keynote speech:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Damian Tambini, Department of Media and Communications, LSE, UK – <i>Constitutionalising the Media: Renewing Trust in the Age of Information Warfare and Social Media</i>
09.45 – 10.45	<p>Fourth panel: EU MEDIA POLICY AND HOW TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE DIGITAL AGE</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ralitsa Stoycheva, PhD candidate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prof. Viktorija Car, PhD and Asst. Prof. Iva Nenadić, PhD, University of Zagreb, Croatia – <i>Information Crisis and Post-Truth Reality: The Complex Relationship Between Journalism and Fact-Checking</i>○ Mariya Yurukova, PhD, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>Member States` Approaches for Ensuring Coordinated and Consistent Enforcement of the Digital Services Act</i>○ Assoc. Prof. Denitza Toptchiyska, PhD, New Bulgarian University – <i>Legal Aspects of Content Moderation on Social Media Platforms: A Comparative Perspective</i>○ Asst. Prof. Diliaana Kirkovska, Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication, Sofia University – <i>Non-Digitalization of Radio Broadcasting in Bulgaria – Legal, Regulatory and Social Dimensions</i>○ Discussion
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15 – 12.15	<p>Continuation of the Fourth Panel: EU MEDIA POLICY AND HOW TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE DIGITAL AGE</p> <p><i>Moderator: Bozhidar Angelov, PhD candidate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Keith Kiely, PhD, Big Data for Smart Society GATE, Sofia University – <i>Revising priorities: How Can We Most Effectively Balance</i>

	<p><i>Disinformation Narratives and Freedom of Expression within EU Media Policy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Prof. Milena Dobрева, PhD and Ruslana Markova, PhD candidate, Big Data for Smart Society GATE, Sofia University – <i>The Bulgarian-Romanian Observatory on Disinformation (BROD): a Bridge to the Future</i> ○ Assoc. Prof. Robert Rajczyk, Dr. Habil, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland – <i>Media Literacy as Tool of Protecting the Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age in EU. Case Study of Poland.</i> ○ Ana Lazarova, PhD, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>Legal Implications of Data Mining for Journalistic Purposes</i> ○ Discussion
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch
13.15 – 14.30	<p>Third panel: EU ENLARGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD POLICIES</p> <p>Moderator: Mariya Yurukova, PhD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assoc. Prof. Jean Crombois, PhD, American University in Bulgaria – <i>The Ukraine War and its Impact on EU Enlargement Policy and the Eastern Partnership</i> ○ Assoc. Prof. Marieta Rabohchiyska, PhD, Law Faculty, Sofia University – <i>Missions of the European Union in the Eastern Partnership region</i> ○ Doris Malaj, PhD, Institute of European Studies, University of Tirana, Albania – <i>Assessment of EU as Promotor of Democratic Values in Western Balkan Countries</i> ○ Elena Polo, PhD, Institute of European Studies, University of Tirana – <i>Assessing the Progress of Albania in Complying with the EU Integration Process Criteria and Requirements of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> ○ Prof. Marjan Gjurovski, Faculty of Philosophy, “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” University, Skopje and Mitko Arnaudov, Research Fellow, Centre for Neighboring and Mediterranean countries, Belgrade – <i>Regional Approach of the European Union in a Potential New "Cycle" of Enlargement - a Case Study of the Western Balkans</i> ○ Discussion
14.30 – 14.45	Final comments and closing the conference