

Wilfried Martens

Activity Report

Centre for European Studies

Publications / Events /
Common Projects / Outreach
Boards / Staff / Members

→ 2025

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Activity Report 2025

Introduction	05
01. Publications	07
Publications in 2025	08
Special Publications	12
European View	14
02. Events	17
In-house Events in 2025	18
15 th Transatlantic Think Tank Conference	20
EPP Congress	22
NET@WORK	25
Think-In	28
European Ideas Forum Brussels 2025	31
03. Common Projects	35
Projects with Member Foundations and Third-Party Collaborators	36
04. Outreach	41
Martens Centre in Numbers	42
Our Formats	44
In the Media	46
05. About Us	49
Executive Board	50
Honorary Board	51
Academic Council	52
Individual Members	53
Political Auditors	53
Research and Senior Research Associates	54
Staff 2025	56
Visiting fellows	57
Internships	57
Member Foundations	58
Partner Members	61

Editors:
Theo Larue
Margherita Movarelli

Publication Design:
Bureau Carné
www.bureaucarne.com

Brussels, April 2026

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:
www.martenscentre.eu

This publication receives
funding from the European
Parliament.

© Wilfried Martens Centre
for European Studies 2026
Photos used in this publication:
© Wilfried Martens Centre for
European Studies 2025

The European Parliament
assumes no responsibility for
facts or opinions expressed
in this publication or their
subsequent use.

Wilfried Martens Centre for
European Studies
info@martenscentre.eu
+32 (0) 2 300 80 04
Rue du Commerce 20
B-1000 Brussels

A word from our President, Mikuláš Dzurinda

Dear Friends,

Before you delve into the Martens Centre Activity Report 2025, I would like to share my reflections on a year that has profoundly tested Europe, the transatlantic alliance, and the democratic values we hold dear.

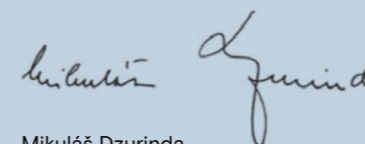
2025 has once again been defined by the brutal reality of Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine, the corrosive effects of internal populism, and the persistent economic pressures weighing on our citizens. We recognise that it is not only the future of Ukraine that hangs in the balance, but the very destiny of the European Union. Moscow's intent is clear: to subjugate Ukraine and dismantle the European project.

In response, the Martens Centre has remained at the forefront of developing the policy recommendations and strategies necessary for the EU to emerge as a formidable global actor, one that commands the trust of its citizens and the respect of its partners. The Union can only serve as a reliable pillar in a profoundly shifting world order by remaining economically competitive, socially stable, and militarily resilient. Over the past twelve months, we have navigated a volatile landscape marked by the deepening alignment between Moscow and Beijing, alongside significant and often unpredictable shifts within the US political spectrum.

Yet, in the face of these headwinds, the Martens Centre has not only endured, it has excelled. I am proud to highlight the key milestones of our work in 2025:

Key Highlights of 2025

- **At the Heart of Decision-Making:** We have moved closer than ever to the levers of EU policy. Through the leadership of figures like Commissioner Andrius Kubilius, our expert research is directly informing the Union's strategic priorities. While security and defence remain our essential focus, notably through our contributions to the Commission's White Paper and the Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, we remain steadfast in other vital areas. We continue to champion economic competitiveness, the social mobility of young families, the completion of the Single Market, tightly controlled external EU borders, and the reasonable green agenda.
- **Strengthening Global Alliances:** Our commitment to the transatlantic bond remains unshakeable. Through the Transatlantic Think Tank Conference in Valencia and our policy consultations in New York City, we have ensured that the transatlantic voice remains unified, even in shifting times. Despite all challenges, the US remains our indispensable ally. This is rooted not in nostalgia, but in a natural alliance between Europe and America, a partnership anchored in shared democratic foundations.
- **A Dedicated Pillar of the EPP:** Our synergy with the European People's Party has reached new heights. From the EPP Congress in Valencia to the International Secretary retreat in Barcelona, we have actively shaped the EPP's long-term vision. This includes our Strategic Policy Recommendations across six key areas, designed to streamline decision-making, strengthen our fiscal foundations, and guarantee our collective security.
- **An Expanding Network of Excellence:** The Martens Centre continues to grow. We are proud to welcome new member foundations from Georgia and Sweden, as well as distinguished experts to our Academic Council. Furthermore, I am honoured to announce that EPP leaders Michel Barnier, Enda Kenny, and Jean-Claude Juncker have joined our Honorary Board. We are privileged to draw from their incomparable experience.
- **Elevated Visibility and Influence:** Our voice is growing louder and clearer. We concluded the year with our flagship event, the European Ideas Forum, which featured active participation from the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, EU Commissioners Henna Virkkunen and Andrius Kubilius, and various MEPs, media representatives, and academics. With a strengthened media presence and a broader geographical reach, our research is now actively shaping public discourse across the continent.
- **These achievements would have been impossible without the incredible dedication of our team and the investment of our network. My deepest gratitude goes to our member foundations and partners, who are essential to our mission. By working together, we facilitate a vital exchange of ideas: translating complex European policy for national audiences and, conversely, elevating regional concerns to the heart of the Brussels agenda.**



Mikuláš Dzurinda
President of the Wilfried Martens
Centre for European Studies

To our supporters: thank you for believing in the necessity of a strong, centre-right intellectual foundation for Europe. Together, we are ensuring that the ideal of a united Europe remains resilient in an era of global upheaval.

Publications



All of our publications are available at:
martenscentre.eu/publications/

As the EPP's political foundation, 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 and policy briefs, and organises events and conferences.

Publications

JAN.

POLICY BRIEF
A Digital Euro: Balancing Innovation, Autonomy and Trust
 By Sebastian Herdebrecht
 Edited by Eoin Drea
 To address the shifting digital landscape, this analysis explores how a digital euro reinforces European strategic autonomy and monetary sovereignty. By examining legal frameworks and financial inclusion, it balances innovation with privacy. Providing key recommendations, the Martens Centre drives the vital debate on modernizing our payment systems for a more resilient digital union..



MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Reconstructing Ukraine: How the EU and Ukraine Can Mutually Benefit
 By Maksym Beznosiuk
 Tackling the staggering \$152 billion in direct damages, this assessment outlines a roadmap for Ukraine's reconstruction. By targeting critical energy, housing, and transport sectors, the research identifies strategic synergies between the EU and Ukraine. It provides a transparent framework for funding, ensuring recovery efforts foster a resilient, sustainable, and mutually beneficial partnership.

FEB.

MARTENS CENTRE EDITED VOLUME
Christian Democracy, Conservatism and the Challenge of the Extremes
 Edited by Klaus Welle and Federico Ottavio Reho
 The rise of radical-right parties presents a pivotal challenge for Europe's centre-right. This book explores how Christian Democracy and the EPP can safeguard European integration against populism. By blending political and academic insights, it reaffirms core values to build a sustainable, collaborative strategy for a resilient and united democratic future.



MAR.

POLICY BRIEF
Hedging Chaos: How the EU, Japan and South Korea Can Shape a New Type of Trading Power
 By Eoin Drea
 Beyond standard multilateralism, this strategy outlines an expanded trading playbook to navigate the current geopolitical moment. By proposing a trans-oceanic network with Japan and South Korea, it creates a hedge against US-China tensions. Through sectoral compartmentalisation and pragmatic coalitions, the EU can diversify risks and ensure economic security within a shifting global order.



APR.

IN BRIEF
Preventing Georgia from Sliding Away: Options for the European Union
 By Teona Lavrelashvili and Peter Hefele
 Confronting the deepening crisis in Georgia, this report scrutinises the government's suspension of EU accession and its pivot toward authoritarianism. It details the impact of repressive laws on civil society and mass protests. By evaluating the democratic drift, the Martens Centre provides strategic EU pathways to protect Georgia's European integration and sovereignty.



IN BRIEF
How Mainstream Parties Can Defend Democracy by Adopting Parts of the Populist Agenda
 By Vít Novotný
 Challenging the conventional "copy-versus-the-original" thesis, this analysis demonstrates how mainstream parties can successfully address immigration without succumbing to xenophobia. By examining recent elections in Germany, Poland, and Denmark, it reveals how adopting tougher stances can neutralize far-right agitation. The research provides a strategic blueprint for defending liberal democracy through pragmatic, value-based policy.



MAY

MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Strengthening the LGBTIQ+ Voice As Part of the Centre-Right Narrative
 By Peter Hefele and Helge Ytterøy L'orange
 Reclaiming a space often left to the left, this analysis integrates LGBTIQ+ rights into the Christian-democratic narrative. By rooting inclusion in individual freedom and human dignity, it moves beyond ideology. This framework empowers the EPP to engage diverse voters, proving that conservative values are the strongest guarantee for a respectful, inclusive society.



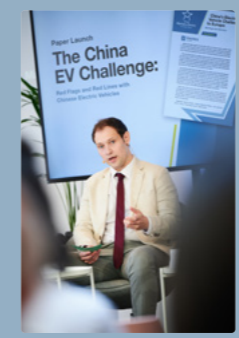
FUTURE OF EUROPE
Gaining Insights Into the Gender Gap and Orientations of Young European Citizens: An Analysis of Longitudinal Glocalities Survey Data From Eight European Countries
 By Peter Hefele, Martijn Lampert, and Panos Papadongonas
 Challenging the myth of a uniformly progressive youth, this study uncovers a widening ideological rift between young men and women. By analyzing longitudinal data across eight countries, it addresses rising pessimism and polarization. The report offers strategies for centrist parties to bridge generational divides and restore trust in liberal democratic systems.

JUN.

MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
The Future of NATO: Demise, Reform, or Rebirth?
 By Gerlinde Niehus
 Edited by Peter Hefele
 As the traditional US-led global order shifts, this paper confronts the urgent need for a more assertive European defense identity. By analyzing leadership, frameworks, and military capabilities, it outlines strategic scenarios to prevent Europe from becoming a geopolitical playball. It offers a decisive roadmap for forging a resilient, self-reliant security alliance.

MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Securing Europe's Critical Minerals: Leveraging the EU-Ukraine Partnership Amidst US Competition
 By Maksym Beznosiuk
 This analysis explores how a strengthened EU-Ukraine minerals partnership can bolster European strategic autonomy. It outlines how targeted investments in Ukraine's raw materials can secure supply chains for the automotive and defense sectors. By aligning regulatory frameworks, the EU can accelerate Ukraine's recovery and ensure mutual resilience.

POLICY BRIEF
Breaking Free: Europe's Path to Greater Financial Autonomy
 By Stephen J. Fallon
 Edited by Eoin Drea
 European vulnerability to US financial sanctions serves as a stark wake-up call in this analysis of strategic autonomy. The report examines how reliance on foreign-controlled payment systems creates geopolitical choke points. By proposing indigenous alternatives and euro-denominated liquidity, the Martens Centre provides a blueprint to shield European policy from external coercion.



JUL.

POLICY BRIEF
China's Electric Vehicle Challenge to Europe: Red Flags and Red Lines
 By Sam Goodman
 Edited by Dimitar Lilkov
 Market distortions from Chinese electric vehicle imports pose a severe threat to European jobs and data security. This report moves beyond tariffs, identifying critical "red flags" and proposing firm "red lines." It advocates for market share caps and strategic partnerships with democratic allies to secure the automotive sector's future and autonomy.

IN BRIEF
EU Development Aid and Migration: Clearing up Misconceptions
 By Vít Novotný
 Foreign aid is often miscast as a magic wand for curbing migration, but this analysis deconstructs that popular myth. By examining the migration hump theory, the report explains why increased development often leads to more mobility in the short term. It provides a realistic framework for aligning EU aid with effective migration management.

AUG. MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Rethinking Europe's Middle East Strategy in a Changing World
 By Peter Hefele and Gedaliah Afterman
 Europe needs a new Middle East strategy to adapt to a shifting multipolar order led by emerging powers like Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. By engaging in multilateral frameworks and initiatives like the IMEC corridor, Europe can counter superpower competition. This proactive approach is essential for securing trade, energy, and global relevance.

MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Is Draghi Right? Designing the Way Forward
 By Anthony Gooch, Jacob Kirkegaard, Gilles Briatta and Daniel Gros
 Edited by Klaus Welle
 Mario Draghi and his landmark report on European competitiveness serve as the catalyst for this deep dive into the EU economic future. By distilling six truths ranging from closing the investment gap to leveraging common debt, the analysis assesses the cost of inaction. It provides a roadmap for revitalizing the single market.



MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
From Taiwan to Malaysia: The Silicon Alley of the East
 By Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy
 Europe needs a new Middle East strategy to adapt to a shifting multipolar order led by emerging powers like Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. By engaging in multilateral frameworks and initiatives like the IMEC corridor, Europe can counter superpower competition. This proactive approach is essential for securing trade, energy, and global relevance.



SEP. MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Educational Pluralism in Europe: Where We Are and the Way Forward
 By Peter Hefele, Ignasi Grau and Alexandre Moreira
 This report frames educational pluralism as a vital pillar for social mobility and equity within the European Union. It highlights how ideological and economic pressures currently threaten parental choice and school autonomy. The analysis advocates for legal reforms that balance diverse educational models with common standards to ensure a democratic and inclusive future.

RESEARCH PAPER
African Migrants in Europe
 By Rainer Münz and Jemal Yaryyeva
 Edited by Vít Novotný
 Challenging the common narrative about African migration, these findings show that mobility has remained stable over the last thirty years. With only 2% of the EU population being African born, the data reveals that most migration occurs within Africa or through regular, rights based channels like family reunion and asylum.

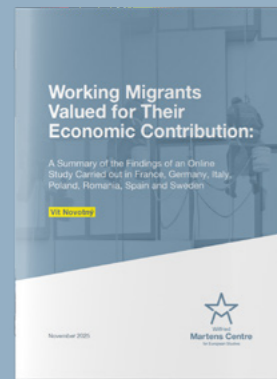
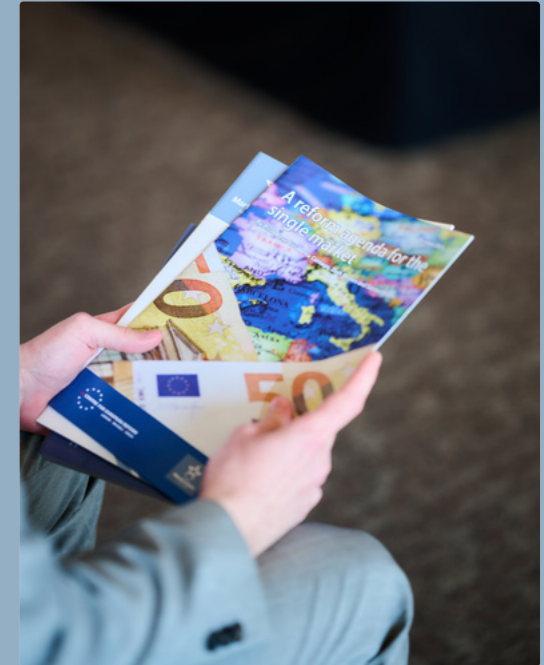


OCT. IN FOCUS
Conservative Europeanism: A Forgotten Tradition
 By Federico Ottavio Reho
 Tracing the historical bond between conservative thought and European unity, this analysis argues that the two traditions were once deeply intertwined. From Edmund Burke to the founding fathers of Christian Democracy, conservatives championed a united Europe based on shared values. Reviving this tradition offers a rooted path to fulfill Europe's civilizational mission.

RESEARCH PAPER
Towards a New Order? The Economic Programmes of Right-Wing Populist Parties
 By Peter Hefele
 Analyzing the economic agendas of right wing populist parties, this report reveals a shift toward nationalist market reshaping. While supporting private ownership, these parties embrace welfare chauvinism and oppose European integration. Their platform is defined more by shared views on migration and climate skepticism than by a unified economic doctrine.

POLICY BRIEF
Horizon: Competitiveness – How FP10 Can Unlock Europe's Collective Intelligence for Science, Competitiveness and Strategic Autonomy
 By Craig Willy
 Edited by Dimitar Lilkov
 This policy brief presents a center right vision for FP10, urging the EU to mobilize scientific talent for strategic autonomy. By focusing on excellence and market based innovation, the proposal advocates for shared platforms in AI and biotech. It emphasizes decentralization over central planning to transform Europe into a global technological powerhouse.

MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Strategic Policy Recommendations for the European People's Party
 By Peter Hefele, Dimitar Lilkov, Eoin Drea, Ionela Ciolan, Federico Ottavio Reho, and Vít Novotný
 Edited by Mikuláš Dzurinda
 As the largest European political party, the EPP holds the unique capacity to shape the future of the European Union. These recommendations provide a strong compass for six key fields, including defense, growth, and migration. By addressing current challenges, the Martens Centre proposes decisive steps to restore citizen trust and competitiveness.



MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Working Migrants Valued for Their Economic Contribution
 By Vít Novotný
 Citizens across seven EU countries view the economic impact of working migrants favorably. Research indicates most respondents believe these workers fill essential roles rather than competing for local jobs. While political values influence the level of support, a majority remains open to government policies that actively encourage labor migration to boost growth.

POLICY BRIEF
Can Syrians Return Home? Challenges and Scenarios
 By Ziad El Sayegh
 Edited by Vít Novotný
 Analyzing Syria's potential for safe repatriation, this report notes that over 1.35 million refugees have returned since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024. Despite this shift, internal clashes and damaged infrastructure remain significant hurdles. Sustainable return requires a coordinated, rights based approach focused on legal reform and economic recovery.

RESEARCH PAPER
From Mandated to Representative Democracy: European Parliamentarism From 1952 to 2024
 By Michael Gehler
 Edited by Federico Ottavio Reho
 Tracing the evolution of the European Parliament since 1952, this analysis highlights its transformation from a consultative assembly into a co legislative powerhouse. It underscores how cross party cooperation and pro European consensus drove the expansion of parliamentary rights. Throughout this process, Christian Democrats played a pivotal role in strengthening democratic legitimacy.

MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
Sino-Russian Economic Relations: Dispelling the "No Limits" Partnership Myth
 By Vladimir Milov
 Beneath the public promotion of a "no limits" partnership, this study reveals significant economic friction between China and Russia. While China remains a vital lifeline for Russian commodities, it avoids deep investment or technology sharing. Conflicts over domestic market competition and stalled mutual projects suggest a partnership defined more by necessity than true integration.

MARTENS CENTRE EDITED VOLUME
The EPP's Way to Number 1
 Edited by Klaus Welle and Sara Pini
 Maintaining its dominance for over twenty five years, the European People's Party has shaped the European Union's trajectory through five consecutive Commission Presidencies. This book captures firsthand accounts from prime ministers and officials, tracing the party's expansion into Central and Eastern Europe and its evolution into a powerful, diverse political force.

IN BRIEF
The Polish Case of Deregulation: Bottom-up Action as a First Step for Simplification
 By Michał Boni
 Showcasing Poland's bottom up approach, this paper argues that EU competitiveness requires urgent regulatory streamlining. Overregulation and bureaucratic silos currently stifle growth, particularly for SMEs. By prioritizing the digital ecosystem, the text advocates for automated solutions and simplified procedures to remove the heavy burdens that limit European economic potential.



POLICY BRIEF
Reforming the EU's GDPR and AI Act: Handling Data Power While Improving Competitiveness
 By Jan Czarnocki
 Edited by Dimitar Lilkov
 This policy brief argues that refocusing GDPR on a duty of loyalty can simplify the AI Act while boosting EU competitiveness. By targeting the immense data power of dominant entities with strict rules, the publication advocates for lighter regulation of low risk processors to ensure data usage truly serves the public interest.

MARTENS CENTRE EDITED VOLUME
Generations Together: Celebrating 30 Years of the European Seniors' Union's Commitment to a Common Europe
 Edited by Peter Hefele, Teona Lavrelashvili, and An Hermans
 Celebrating thirty years of advocacy, this anniversary publication highlights the European Seniors' Union's commitment to intergenerational solidarity. By addressing demographic shifts and digital inclusion, the text promotes a longevity economy that values senior wisdom. It advocates for cooperative policies to ensure social cohesion and a unified future for all generations.

MARTENS CENTRE PUBLICATION
A reform agenda for the single market
 By Sander Tordo, Zach Meyers, Aslak Berg, and Elisabetta Cornago
 Facing a steady decline in global economic share, the European Union must address lagging productivity and innovation. This publication proposes a pragmatic reform agenda focusing on energy, investment, and services. By prioritizing politically feasible actions over ambitious structural shifts, the paper seeks to strengthen the single market against rising international competition.

RESEARCH PAPER
Taking the Eastern Partnership to the East
 By Salome Samadashvili
 Edited by Ionela Ciolan
 Redesigning the Eastern Partnership to reflect regional realities, this paper argues for expanding multilateral formats to include Central Asia. As members' political trajectories diverge, the publication suggests that focusing on connectivity and security across ten countries will create a strategically aligned EU policy for the entire former Soviet space.

DEC.



FEB. 2025

Christian Democracy, Conservatism and the Challenge of the Extremes

Edited by Klaus Welle and Federico Ottavio Reho

This book examines the political challenges facing Europe's centre-right, focusing on the rise of radical-right parties and their impact on democracy, European integration, and transatlantic ties. It explores the values and strategies of Christian Democracy and conservatism, with emphasis on the European People's Party (EPP). Contributors, including politicians and academics, discuss ways to counter populism and nationalism through collaboration, sustainability, and reaffirmed values, an essential analysis for understanding the future of European politics.



MAY 2025

Gaining Insights Into the Gender Gap and Orientations of Young European Citizens: An Analysis of Longitudinal Glocalities Survey Data From Eight European Countries

Edited by Peter Hefele, Martijn Lampert and Panos Papadongonas

This report, the latest in our series of empirical studies conducted with Glocalities, examines the attitudes and challenges of young Europeans, highlighting a widening gender divide and shifting value orientations. Based on longitudinal survey data from eight European countries, it reveals growing differences between young women, who increasingly embrace liberal values, and young men, who tend towards more traditional views, challenging the notion of a uniformly progressive youth.

The findings point to rising pessimism and disengagement among young people, intensified by economic and educational inequalities. The report concludes that addressing generational divides, strengthening inclusive narratives, and meaningfully engaging young people are essential to reinforcing trust in liberal democracy and European values.

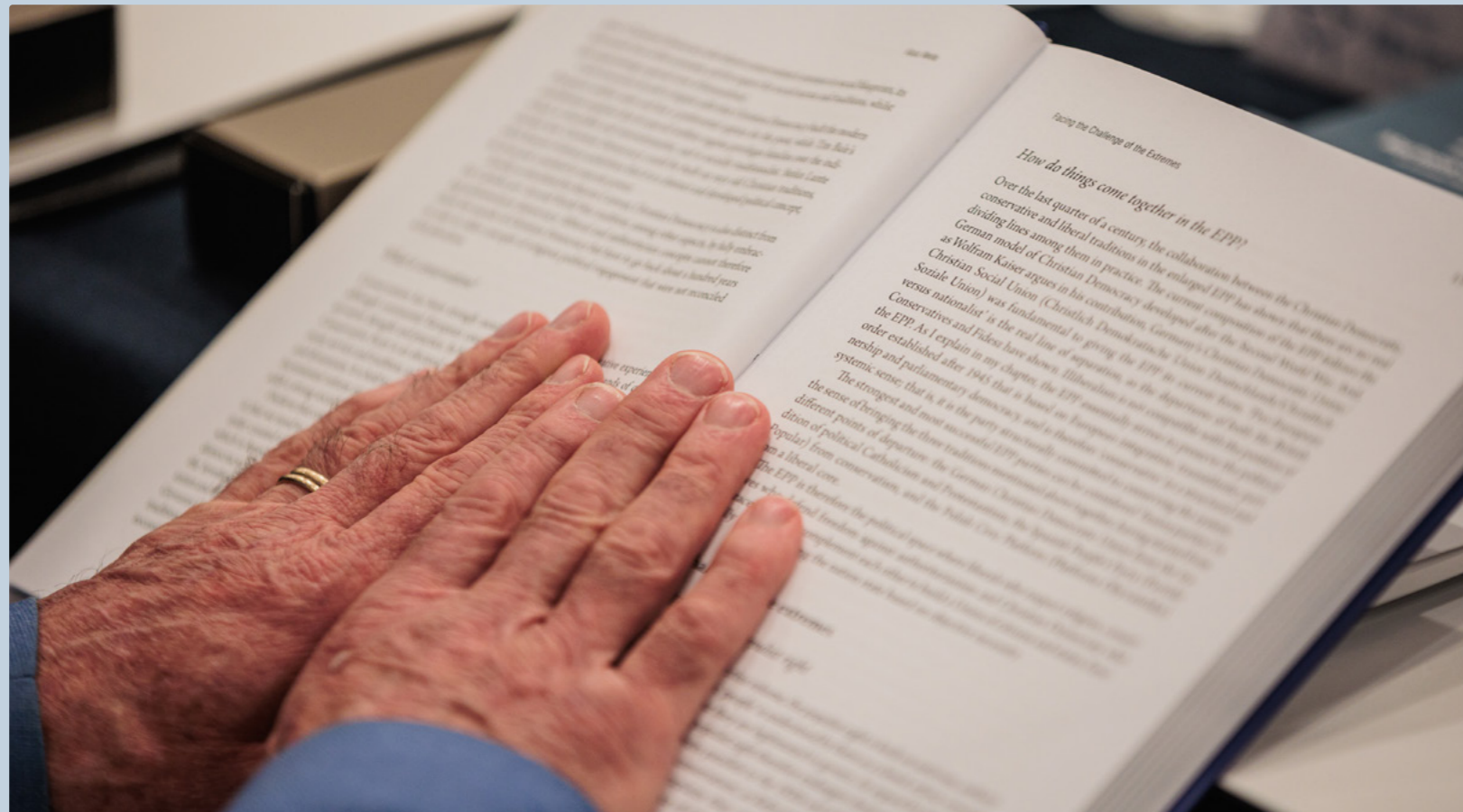


NOV. 2025

The EPP's Way to Number 1

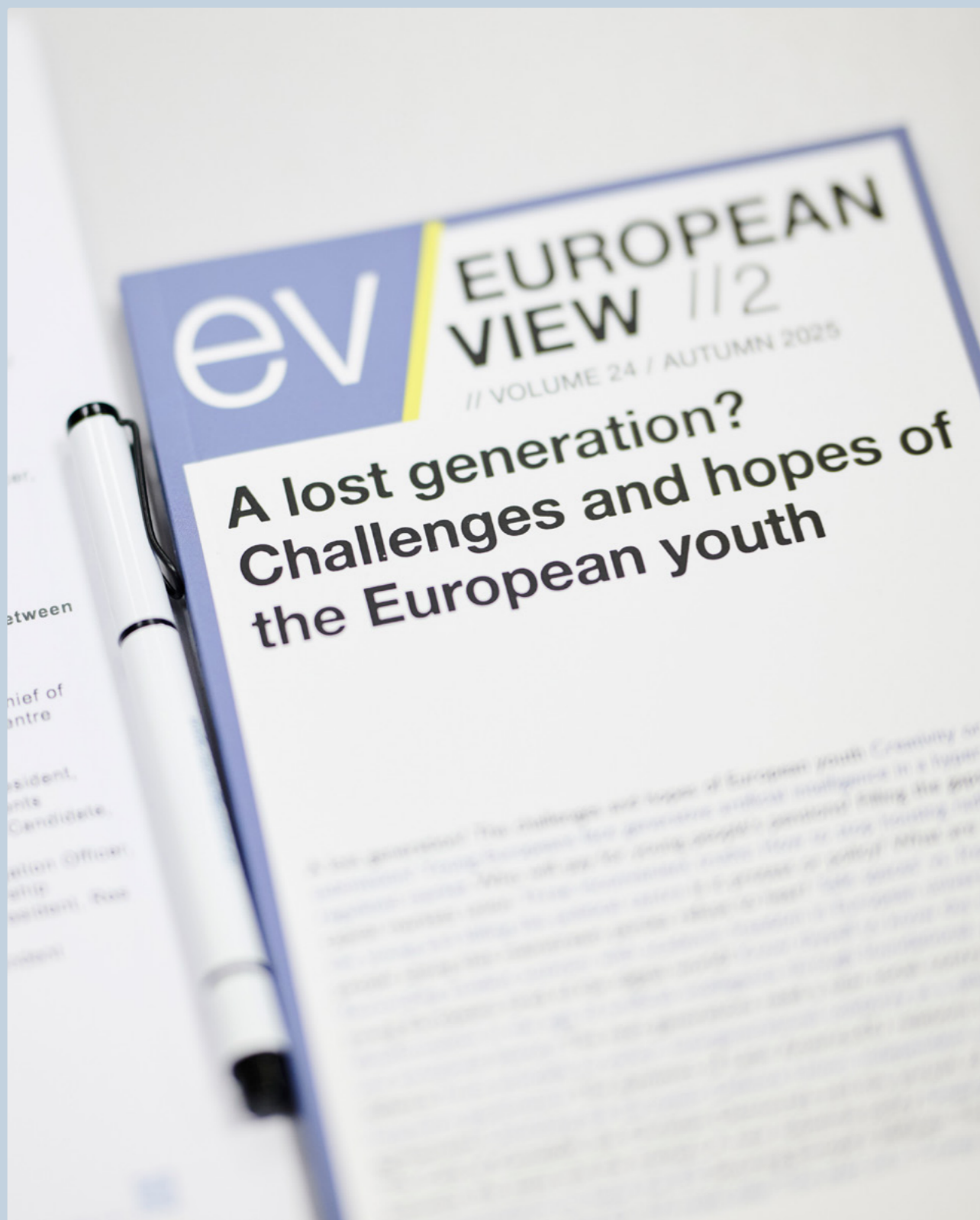
Edited by Klaus Welle and Sara Pini

This publication brings together reflections from Prime Ministers, Presidents of EU institutions, Party Presidents, and senior EPP officials. It documents key milestones in European Union politics, charting the EPP's enlargement to embrace conservative, liberal, and aligned political forces—particularly in Central and Eastern Europe—and the subsequent governance of a significantly expanded political family. Through firsthand testimonies, the book provides insight into the EPP's development, achievements, and challenges, offering a comprehensive assessment of its influence on the European Union over the past 25 years.



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 the other hand, and high-level politicians and decision-makers, on the other. Presidents and prime ministers regularly author articles for the journal.



VOL. 24 - ISSUE 1 SPRING, APR. 2025

The Future of Transatlantic Relations

Edited by Sara Pini

Transatlantic relations are at a pivotal moment, requiring the EU to act with clarity and resolve amid shifting global dynamics. Europe must avoid reflexive trade escalation, misguided hopes of splitting China and Russia, and distractions from the central challenge of Ukraine. While the US remains an indispensable ally, Europe must strengthen its own defence capacity and shoulder greater responsibility. This issue of the European View asserts that despite current strains, shared values and strategic alignment underpin a resilient transatlantic alliance essential to Europe's security and the global order.



VOL. 24 - ISSUE 2 AUTUMN, OCT. 2025

A Lost Generation? The Challenges and Hopes of European Youth

Edited by Sara Pini

Europe's young people face a decisive moment, caught between the promise of prosperity and a convergence of economic insecurity, digital disruption and rising extremism. This issue of the European View examines how housing costs, precarious work, disinformation and populism shape their daily lives and weaken trust in democracy. Despite these challenges, this generation remains resilient, engaged and optimistic about Europe. Empowering them, defending freedom and addressing systemic failures are essential to securing the future of the European project.



Events



All of our events are available at:
martenscentre.eu/events/

In 2025, we hosted a wide range of timely and engaging events, addressing issues both in Brussels and across Europe. We also took part in a dynamic EPP Congress, this year held in Valencia, and closed the year with our premier gathering, the European Ideas Forum, showcasing the brightest ideas and discussions shaping Europe's future.

JAN. 28/01
Keeping the European Momentum: Pan-European Study on EU Enlargement and Deepening
 Addressing the EU's twin challenges of internal reform and enlargement, the discussion drew on EU-wide survey data ahead of the 2024 European elections to assess public attitudes toward enlargement, the Union's geopolitical role, and rising Euroscepticism. It also considered how EU institutions can respond to these trends in shaping a credible and effective next phase of European integration.



FEB. 19/02
Trump, Tariffs and Trade: What's the EU's New Transatlantic Playbook?
 The future of EU trade policy was analyzed in the context of a changing global environment, characterized by the weakening of the multilateral trading system and the changing transatlantic relationship. The topic covered how the EU could respond to a more transactional US policy while dealing with strategic dependencies on both the US and China.

MAR. 04/03
Cyprus: 50 Years Since the Turkish Invasion, 20 Years Since the Accession to the EU
 The modern history of Cyprus was discussed through the twin events of 1974 and EU accession in 2004, with a focus on the island's division and its geopolitical position within the EU. The discussion drew on a joint publication by the Martens Centre and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, highlighting Cyprus's resilience.

17/03
A Competitive European Energy and Climate Policy: Setting Realistic Goals
 Concerns over alleged green backsliding under the new EU Commission set the context for an exchange on EU energy and environmental policy, focusing on how climate ambition can be balanced with economic growth and energy security. The exchange also considered the Affordable Energy Action Plan, ETS reforms, and alternative energy frameworks.

APR. 15/04
Hedging Chaos: How can the EU Shape a new Trading Power?
 The topics of discussion included how the EU could adapt its trade policy in the face of growing geopolitical risks by looking beyond the transatlantic sphere. They also covered the EU's relationships with Japan and South Korea as a means of diversifying trade risks, as well as its relations with the US and China within a more resilient global trade system.



24/03
Shaping the EU's Defence Future: Insights into the White Paper
 Amid rising geopolitical tensions and shifting transatlantic dynamics, the discussion focused on the EU's evolving security and defence priorities. It highlighted the need to strengthen European defence capabilities in response to Russia's continued threat, the goal of building a European Defence Union in complementarity with NATO, and the key role of the new Commission's White Paper on the Future of European Defence.



MAY 15/05
IDU Forum Brussels – Conservatism and Christian Democracy in an Age of Polarisation
 The IDU Forum 2025 in Brussels brought together policymakers, party leaders, and international experts to discuss key global challenges and strengthen cooperation among centre-right partners. The event provided a platform for dialogue, exchange of best practices, and strategic relationship-building, supporting democratic values, effective governance, and the advancement of freedom and free markets worldwide.



13/11
EU's Climate Targets: Budgets, Ambitions and Implementation on the Ground
 The focus was on implementing the EU's climate ambitions in a socially sustainable way ahead of COP30. It discussed the need for sufficient funding, the role of local and regional authorities, and the challenge of balancing climate ambition with competitiveness, regional disparities, and rising energy costs.



26/11
Will Enlargement Make the EU More Competitive?
 The question of whether EU enlargement can enhance Europe's competitiveness amid ongoing productivity and innovation challenges was examined. It explored the economic opportunities of integrating new member states alongside the fiscal and cohesion trade-offs, focusing on how enlargement can be shaped to support long-term economic resilience.

In-house Events



04/06
The Future of Europe's Centre-Right: Resilience, Democracy, and the Fight Against Populism
 The conversation explored the evolving identity of Europe's centre-right in the face of rising radical-right movements. Drawing on Christian Democracy, Conservatism and the Challenge of the Extremes, it examined the relevance of Christian Democratic and conservative values, the role of the EPP, and ways to safeguard democratic stability.

08/07
The Demography of War: Russian Ideology and Forced Deportations of Ukrainian Children
 In addressing one of the most egregious crimes committed during the Russian-Ukrainian war, the conversation examined the forced deportation of Ukrainian children. It explored the scope and motivations behind these actions, as well as their role within Russia's broader war strategy, drawing on expert analysis.

15/07
The China EV Challenge: Red Flags and Red Lines with Chinese Electric Vehicles
 Pressure on the European automotive industry set the context for the conversation on the EU's response to the growing presence of Chinese-made electric vehicles in the single market. This dialogue addressed the implications of the EU's recent tariffs, the economic and data security risks posed by Chinese-made EVs, and the lack of a comprehensive European strategy on the issue.

JUN. **JUL.**

15th Transatlantic Think Tank Conference: Navigating the New Transatlantic Playbook

The Transatlantic Think Tank Conference is the Martens Centre's key forum for structured dialogue between European and American policymakers and experts. Held in Valencia in 2025, the conference addressed the future of the transatlantic partnership in a context of geopolitical uncertainty, shifting US priorities, and ongoing security challenges.

Discussions focused on NATO, Ukraine, economic relations, and the broader defence of democratic values. By bringing together senior voices from both sides of the Atlantic, TTTC provides a space for frank exchange and strategic alignment, ensuring that European centre-right perspectives remain actively engaged in shaping the future of the transatlantic relationship.



Valencia

→ 27-29th Apr. 2025



→ Goals

The Transatlantic Think Tank Conference aims to provide a platform for strategic dialogue between European and American policymakers and experts at a pivotal moment for the transatlantic alliance. It also seeks to assess how the partnership can adapt to a changing geopolitical environment while supporting informed debate on shared challenges.

Our activities focused on several key objectives:

- Bring together European and American policymakers and experts at a decisive moment for the transatlantic alliance
- Assess how the partnership can adapt to a more fragmented and transactional international environment
- Provide a forum to examine the implications of geopolitical uncertainty, including the war in Ukraine, shifting US priorities, and global competition.

→ Achievements

The 2025 edition reaffirmed the value of sustained, structured dialogue in maintaining strategic alignment within the democratic community.

The Martens Centre delivered the following results:

- Delivered high-level discussions on NATO cohesion, European strategic responsibility, and the economic dimension of transatlantic relations
- Addressed the defence of democratic values in an era of authoritarian assertiveness
- Created a trusted platform for frank and forward-looking exchange between European and American participants.

The Martens Centre is proud to engage with like-minded actors across the Atlantic and honoured to serve as a key interlocutor in the evolving transatlantic space.

→ Future Developments

The Martens Centre will keep developing TTTC as an important platform for engagement between Europe and its North American allies. The 2026 edition in the United States will be a crucial opportunity to take stock of the progress made.

Key priorities include:

- Continue to develop TTTC as a core forum for transatlantic dialogue
- Strengthen cooperation with longstanding partners across Europe and the United States
- Ensure the Martens Centre's policy work remains informed by direct engagement with decision-makers on both sides of the Atlantic.



The EPP Congress is a central moment for political exchange within the European centre-right. In 2025, the Martens Centre used this setting to engage directly with political leadership and capture the priorities shaping Europe's agenda. Through a dedicated interview booth, we conducted a series of short, focused conversations with leading figures, providing immediate insight into current debates and decision-making.

This format allows the Centre to stay closely connected to political developments within the EPP, while translating these exchanges into accessible content. The Congress remains an important opportunity to link policy analysis with real-time political leadership at the European level.



→ Goals

The Martens Centre's engagement at the EPP Congress aims to strengthen dialogue with political leaders and deepen understanding of the issues shaping Europe's agenda. It also seeks to connect policy analysis with political priorities while reinforcing the Centre's role within the broader EPP network.

Our activities focused on several key objectives:

- Deepen understanding of the issues shaping Europe's political agenda
- Create a practical space for direct exchange with leading political figures
- Connect policy discussions with the priorities of decision-makers within the EPP family.



→ Achievements

In 2025, the Martens Centre hosted a series of high-level interviews with leading political figures, including Prime Ministers, European Commissioners and senior EU officials. These exchanges provided timely insight into Europe's evolving priorities and strengthened connections across national delegations and EU institutions.

The Martens Centre achieved the following:

- Organised a series of focused interviews with key EPP figures, including Andrej Plenković, Antonio Tajani, Henna Virkkunen, and Andrius Kubilius
- Provided a format for concise exchanges linking political priorities with broader European debates
- Demonstrated the Martens Centre's relevance within the Congress setting
- Strengthened connections across national delegations and EU institutions
- Successfully combined analytical insight with hands-on political experience

Together, these activities reinforced the Martens Centre's role as a platform for dialogue with political leadership, strengthening connections across the EPP network and linking policy analysis with decision-making at the European level.

→ Future Developments

The Martens Centre will continue to develop its presence at future EPP Congresses as a platform for dialogue with political leadership. Expanding interview formats and outreach will remain a priority, further strengthening links between policy expertise and decision-making.

Key priorities include:

- Further developing the interview format as a tool for connecting policy and politics
- Continuing to engage directly with political leadership at major EPP gatherings
- Expanding the Centre's role in communicating European political priorities to wider audiences.



Scan the QR code to access video highlights and full recordings from the EPP Congress 2025.

Net@Work is the Martens Centre's internal platform for policy coordination among its member foundations. Held alongside the EPP Congress, the 2025 edition in Valencia brought together representatives from across Europe for a series of focused debates under the theme "European Answers in an Unstable World".

Designed as a working forum, Net@Work allows participants to compare national experiences, test ideas, and explore how shared priorities can be translated into practical action. By facilitating structured exchange within the network, the format strengthens cooperation and helps align perspectives across the centre-right family.



Scan the QR code to access video highlights and full recordings from Net@Work 2025.



→ Future Developments

The Martens Centre will continue to develop Net@Work as a space for structured reflection and policy coordination. Future editions will aim to deepen exchanges and further strengthen alignment across member foundations.

Key priorities include:

- Continue to develop Net@Work as a platform for strategic coordination within the centre-right family
- Deepen cooperation among member foundations through structured exchange
- Support the development of shared approaches to European-level challenges.



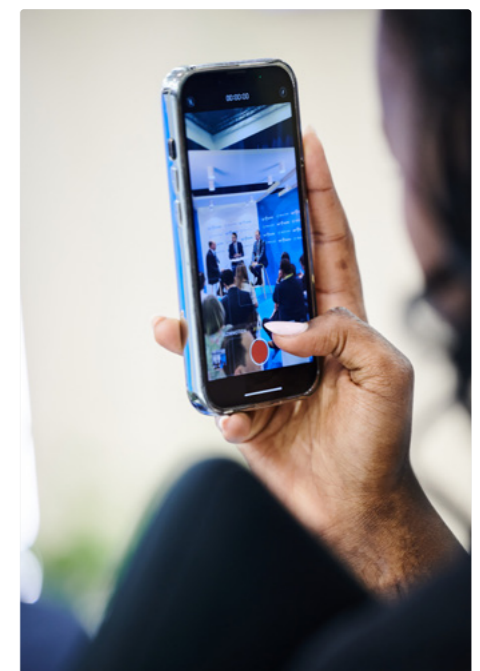
→ Achievements

The 2025 edition featured a series of policy debates addressing issues such as youth radicalisation, Europe's neighbourhood, and EU-US relations. By bringing together policymakers and experts from across the network, the event enabled substantive discussion and reinforced its role as a forum for coordination.

The Martens Centre achieved the following:

- Delivered ten policy debates under the theme "European Answers in an Unstable World"
- Covered key issues including youth radicalisation, neighbourhood policy, Ukraine, economic resilience, and European security
- Featured high-level contributions from policymakers and experts such as Roberta Metsola, Markus Ferber, Henna Virkkunen, and Klaus Welle
- Encouraged structured, policy-driven exchange grounded in both national and European perspectives
- Strengthened cooperation and alignment across member foundations.

Together, these discussions reinforced the Martens Centre's role as a forum for cooperation within its network, supporting policy coordination and the exchange of perspectives across member foundations.



→ Goals

Net@Work aims to provide a practical platform for exchange among member foundations, enabling participants to share national perspectives, test policy ideas, and align strategic priorities. It also supports closer cooperation across the network in response to shared challenges.

Our activities focused on several key objectives:

- Provide a dedicated space for internal coordination within the Martens Centre network
- Enable member foundations to compare national experiences and perspectives
- Translate shared priorities into practical action across different member states.



Scan the QR code to access video highlights and full recordings from Net@Work 2025.

Think-In is the Martens Centre's annual ideas retreat, providing a dedicated space for strategic reflection among senior policymakers, experts, and network members. The 2025 edition in Athens focused on Europe's role in a changing global environment, addressing issues such as foreign policy, security, competitiveness, and demographic change.

The retreat combines plenary sessions with smaller group discussions, encouraging more in-depth and forward-looking exchanges than traditional conferences. Think-In supports the development of long-term policy thinking while strengthening connections within the Centre's network.



→ Achievements

The 2025 edition addressed a wide range of topics, including demographic change, competitiveness, energy transition, and supply chain resilience. The format facilitated meaningful exchange and strengthened engagement between political and research communities.

The Martens Centre accomplished the following:

- Facilitated discussions on EU foreign policy, security challenges, and the rules-based international order
- Addressed thematic priorities including demographic change, competitiveness, energy transition, civil preparedness, and supply chains
- Combined plenary sessions with smaller group discussions to encourage practical exchange
- Strengthened links within the Martens Centre network
- Fostered closer engagement between policymakers and the research community.

Together, these exchanges reinforced the Martens Centre's role as a space for strategic reflection, strengthening links between policymakers and experts while contributing to the development of forward-looking policy thinking.

→ Future Developments

The Martens Centre will continue to strengthen Think-In as a platform for strategic dialogue. Future editions will aim to enhance cross-sector exchange and support forward-looking policy discussions within the network.

Key priorities include:

- Further develop Think-In as a platform for strategic reflection within the centre-right network
- Support long-term policy thinking and agenda-setting
- Continue to strengthen connections between political leadership and policy expertise.

→ Goals

Think-In aims to provide a dedicated space for strategic reflection, allowing policymakers and experts to explore emerging challenges in a focused setting. It also seeks to strengthen links within the network and support the development of future policy priorities.

Our activities focused on several key objectives:

- Provide a focused setting for strategic reflection among senior policymakers and experts
- Create space for in-depth discussion beyond standard conference formats
- Encourage long-term thinking on Europe's key challenges.





European Ideas Forum Brussels

→ 09-10th Dec. 2025

The European Ideas Forum is the Martens Centre's flagship event in Brussels, bringing together political leaders, policymakers, academics, and industry representatives. The 2025 edition focused on Europe's capacity to assert itself in a changing global environment, combining panel discussions, targeted interviews, and networking opportunities.

Topics ranged from democratic resilience and geopolitics to competitiveness, climate policy, and technological transformation. By creating a space for exchange across sectors, EIF connects political leadership with policy expertise and industry insight, making it a key platform for debate within the Brussels policy landscape.



Scan the QR code to access video highlights and full recordings from the European Ideas Forum 2025.

→ Goals

The European Ideas Forum aims to provide a central platform for dialogue between political leadership, policy experts and the private sector. It seeks to promote integrated thinking and support informed debate on Europe's long-term strategic direction.

Our activities focused on several key objectives:

- Bring together political leaders, policymakers, academics, and industry representatives in Brussels
- Foster discussion on Europe's role in a changing global environment
- Create a platform for exchange across political, policy, and private-sector perspectives.



→ Achievements

In 2025, the Forum delivered a comprehensive programme bringing together diverse perspectives on Europe's strategic challenges. By integrating political, institutional and industry viewpoints, it reinforced the importance of cross-sector dialogue.

The Martens Centre achieved the following:

- Delivered a two-day programme under the theme "Europe Asserting its Role in a Changing World"
- Addressed democratic resilience, extremism, and Europe's Mediterranean strategy in opening discussions
- Hosted a high-level interview with Commissioner Andrius Kubilius on Europe's defence capabilities
- Included industry perspectives on connectivity and digital sovereignty with Qualcomm and Microsoft representatives
- Convened a media partnership panel with Euronews on transatlantic relations and Europe's geopolitical role
- Examined climate policy, competitiveness, and economic trade-offs with leading policymakers and experts
- Featured high-level political interviews with Roberta Metsola and Henna Virkkunen
- Integrated industry contributions on infrastructure, technology, and healthcare innovation
- Successfully combined plenary debate, interviews, and networking to create a dynamic and continuous exchange

Together, these discussions reinforced the Martens Centre's role as a platform for cross-sector dialogue, bringing together political leadership, policy expertise and industry perspectives on Europe's strategic priorities.

→ Future Developments

The Martens Centre will continue to develop the European Ideas Forum as a leading platform for strategic dialogue in Brussels. Future editions will aim to expand participation and deepen exchanges across sectors.

Key priorities include:

- Continue to develop EIF as a leading Brussels platform for cross-sector dialogue
- Strengthen engagement between political leadership, policy expertise, and industry stakeholders
- Ensure the Forum remains responsive to evolving European priorities while preserving its breadth and dynamism



Scan the QR code to access video highlights and full recordings from the European Ideas Forum 2025.

Common Projects



All of our common projects are available at:
www.martenscentre.eu/type-of-event/common-projects/

2025 saw continued cooperation between the Martens Centre and its vast network of like-minded organisations, which brings together 33 member foundations and 22 official partners from all over Europe and beyond.

As always, the Martens Centre and its network organised a selection of online and hybrid common projects which sought to bring the member states and Brussels closer together through the power of communication.

Common Projects

- JAN.** 24/01 CONFERENCE, VIENNA
Holocaust Memorial Day
 WMCES / Campus Tivoli
- JAN. – JUN. PUBLICATION, TALLINN
Suggestions for Fortifying Europe's Security
 WMCES / Pro Patria
- JAN. – DEC. PUBLICATION, SKOPJE
Policy Briefs on North Macedonia's EU Accession
 WMCES / KAS
- JAN. – DEC. PUBLICATION, ONLINE
Dished Out – Europe Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
 WMCES / INAK



- FEB.** 17/02 CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS
Africa's Long-term Energy Future and Its Implications for Europe
 WMCES / HSS



- 03-06/04 CONFERENCE, MIAMI
Miami Conference
 WMCES / JHS
- 04/04 CONFERENCE, VILNIUS
Fighting Antisemitism and Hate Speech
 WMCES / IER
- 09/04 SEMINAR, BRUSSELS
EU Migration Policy Briefings Series
 WMCES / KAS Europe

- 11-13/04 SEMINAR, OHRID
Cross-border Cooperation and Exchange of Knowledge in Renewable Energy Sources: Water Management and Solar Photovoltaic Technologies
 WMCES / KAS
- APR. – NOV. PUBLICATION, SKOPJE
Southeast Europe in the EU's China Strategy
 WMCES / KAS
- APR. – DEC. CONFERENCE, VILNIUS
Towards a European Belarus
 WMCES / KAS Belarus

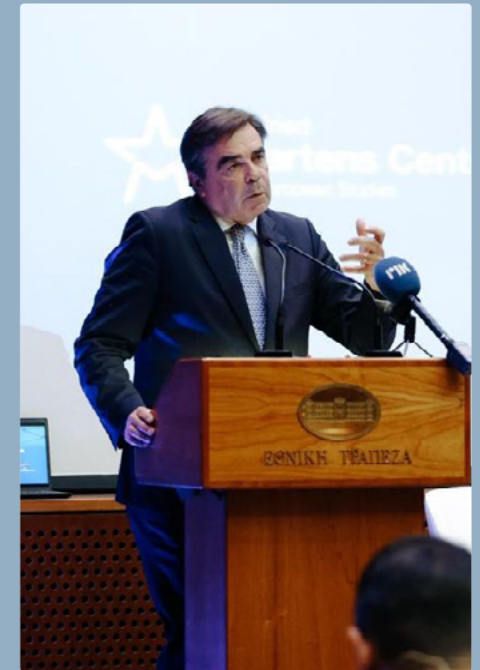
- MAR.** 05/03 SEMINAR, SKOPJE
Cathedra Adenauer: Western Balkans and Its EU Perspective – Security and Political Aspects
 WMCES / KAS
- 06-08/03 SEMINAR, SKOPJE AND OHRID
Coping with Common Security Challenges in Times of Global Geopolitical Shifts
 WMCES / KAS
- 13-15/03 SEMINAR, VELES
Advancing Media Regulation in North Macedonia: Aligning with EU Norms
 WMCES / KAS



- 08-11/05 CONFERENCE, CHISINAU
Europe in the Making: Moldova's Path and the Future of EU Integration
 WMCES / KAS
- 09-11/05 SEMINAR, PAPHOS
Youth Academy: Strategies for a Sustainable Future
 WMCES / KAS
- 12/05 CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS
Trump 2.0: Navigating Economic and Political Change for Europe and Latin America
 WMCES / HSS
- 15-16/05 CONFERENCE, SOFIA
The European Union in a Dynamic Global Context
 WMCES / HSS
- 17/05 PUBLICATION LAUNCH, PRAGUE
Feeding the Algorithm – Radicalisation vs Democracy in Central Europe
 WMCES / TOPAZ

- 19-20/05 CONFERENCE, BUDAPEST
Budapest Security Talks 2025
 WMCES / Equilibrium Institute
- 23-25/05 SEMINAR, ŠABAC
In the Shadow of Global Changes: Geopolitical Position of Serbia and the Future of the Region
 WMCES / HSS Belgrade with BFPE
- 27/05 CONFERENCE, NICOSIA
Middle East Migration Pressures – European Migration Dilemmas
 WMCES / GCI / HSS
- 28/05 CONFERENCE, SKOPJE
Europe Day 2025: 25 Years of Supporting North Macedonia's EU Integration and Democratic Process
 WMCES / KAS
- 28/05 SEMINAR, LISBON
Lunchtime Conferences
 WMCES / IDL
- MAY. – NOV. PUBLICATION, PRAGUE
Yearbook 2025: Battle for Democracy in the Digital Age
 WMCES / TOPAZ / Campus Tivoli

- 15/03 SEMINAR, TURIN
Political25
 WMCES / Vasily Grossman Study Center
- 17/03 SEMINAR, BRUSSELS
A Competitive European Energy and Climate Policy: Setting Realistic Goals
 WMCES / EPICENTER
- 18-20/03 SEMINAR, BUDAPEST
How Europe Works 2025
 WMCES / Campus Tivoli
- MAR. – NOV. SEMINAR, VILNIUS
Strategic Dialogues on Policy, Security and Integration
 WMCES / IER



- 12-14/06 CONFERENCE, CHISINAU
Roundtable Conference on EU Enlargement
 WMCES / JHS
- 12-14/06 CONFERENCE, PRAGUE
GLOBSEC Forum 2025
 WMCES / KAS
- 17-19/06 SEMINAR, BUDAPEST
Rule of Law Academy 2025
 WMCES / RSI
- 26-29/06 SEMINAR, WARSAW
Rule of Law Academy 2025
 WMCES / RSI

→ 2025

JUL.

08-11/07 SEMINAR, OHRID
**Regional School 2025:
Society and Religion – Ethnic
Groups, Identity and Nationalism**
WMCES / KAS

09-12/07 SEMINAR,
ATHENS AND ERMOUPOLI
**Religious Diplomacy between
the West and the East: The Role
of Religion in Contemporary
European Affairs**
WMCES / KAS

14/07 SEMINAR, BRUSSELS
**EU Migration Policy
Briefings Series**
WMCES / KAS Europe

15/07 CONFERENCE, TIRANA
**The Western Balkan Paradigm:
Integration through Standards
or Accession for Stability?**
WMCES / FLD

16/07 CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS
**Will the Weimar Triangle Provide
European Leadership?**
WMCES / HSS

25/07 PUBLICATION, ROME
Security and Defence Days 2024
WMCES / FDG



SEP.

05-07/09 SEMINAR,
BĂILE HOMOROD
EU Camp 2025
WMCES / KKA

11-13/09 CONFERENCE, BRUGES
Seniors' Summer Academy
WMCES / CEDER

11-13/09 SEMINAR,
BRATISLAVA
**Roundtable Conference on
Western Balkans**
WMCES / JHS

12-14/09 SEMINAR,
VRNJAČKA BANJA
Can We Trust Democracy Again
WMCES / HSS Belgrade with BFPE

15-18/09 SEMINAR, VIENNA
How Europe Works 2025
WMCES / Campus Tivoli

18-19/09 SEMINAR, PRISHTINA
**Towards EU Green Standards –
Energy Transformation in North
Macedonia and Kosovo**
WMCES / KAS

25/09 CLOSED SEMINAR,
BRUSSELS
**Who Needs Allies?
A Conversation on the
Transatlantic Partnership**
WMCES / HSS

29-30/09 CONFERENCE, WARSAW
Warsaw Security Forum 2025
WMCES / Casimir Pulaski Foundation

30/09 SEMINAR, BRUSSELS
**EU Migration Policy
Briefings Series**
WMCES / KAS Europe



Common Projects

03-04/11 SEMINAR, BRUSSELS
**FAES – LATAM
Visitors Programme**
WMCES / FAES

03-07/11 BRUSSELS, STUDY VISIT
**How Europe Works:
Western Balkans**
WMCES

05-06/11 CONFERENCE, PRAGUE
European Values Summit
WMCES / EV

05-07/11 CONFERENCE, SKOPJE
**Roundtable Conference on
the EU Enlargement Process
Relating to North Macedonia**
WMCES / JHS

06-07/11 CONFERENCE, VIENNA
**Vienna Security Forum:
Discussing International Security**
WMCES / Campus Tivoli

07-08/11 CONFERENCE, PRAGUE
European Dialogue
WMCES / EAD

08/11 SEMINAR, TURIN
Political25
WMCES / Vasily Grossman Study
Center

11-12/11 CONFERENCE, ATHENS
Athens Security Forum 2025
WMCES / KAS / HSS

14-16/11 SEMINAR, BRAȘOV
Training Weekend for Students
WMCES / KKA

21-23/11 SEMINAR, BAILE FELIX
EU Academy
WMCES / KKA

25/11 PUBLICATION LAUNCH,
HELSINKI
**Baltic Sea: Safeguarding Trade,
Nature, and Security amid
Russia's Bullying**
WMCES / TOIVO

25-26/11 CONFERENCE,
BRNO AND PRAGUE
**Persecution for Faith and
Chaos in the World**
WMCES / IKDP

26/11 CONFERENCE, SKOPJE
**Navigating Multipolarity:
Strategic Policy for NATO,
the EU and Europe**
WMCES / KAS

28-30/11 CONFERENCE, ROME
EU School of Politics 2025
WMCES / FDG

28-30/11 CONFERENCE,
STOCKHOLM
Stockholm Youth Congress
WMCES / KAS Nordics

01/12 CONFERENCE, VIENNA
**Back to Old Strength:
Bureaucracy, Start-ups
and the EU Inc.**
WMCES / Campus Tivoli

03/12 SEMINAR, BRUSSELS
EU Migration Policy Briefings Series
WMCES / KAS Europe

03-05/12 CONFERENCE, CHISINAU
**Roundtable Conference on
the EU Enlargement Process
Relating to Moldova**
WMCES / JHS

05-07/12 SEMINAR, BELA
Chateau Bela Forum 2025
WMCES / GLOBSEC

08-12/12 SEMINAR, ZAGREB
Western Balkan Hackathon 2025
WMCES / RSI

12-14/12 SEMINAR,
ODORHEIU SECUIESC
Debate Club
WMCES / KKA



→ 2025

OCT.

09-10/10 CONFERENCE, VIENNA
**European Strategies Answering
Demographic Change**
WMCES / Campus Tivoli

10-12/10 CONFERENCE, VISBY
Visby Conference
WMCES / JHS

22/10 CONFERENCE, KROMĚŘIŽ
**Perspectives of Christian
Democracy in Europe**
WMCES / EAD

24-25/10 CONFERENCE, SLOVAKIA
Hack the Christian Democracy
WMCES / Opora Foundation

31/10 SEMINAR, LISBON
Lunchtime Conferences
WMCES / IDL

NOV.

DEC.

Outreach



All of our outreach content can be found at:
www.martenscentre.eu/news/

Crucial to our efforts of developing centre-right thought in Europe is our coordinated outreach strategy. We make use of traditional and emerging media and produce a variety of audiovisual and written content in order to increase the visibility of our activities and our researchers, promote our content to a wider audience, and continue to be part of the discussion on the European Union in Brussels and beyond.

Martens Centre in Numbers



36

Publications



23

In-House Events



67

Common Projects



141

Media op-eds and
Interviews of our Experts



55

Member Foundations
and Partner Members



99,000+

Social Media Followers



446,000+

Views Across Social Media



+33% year on year
165,000+

Web Visitors



+17% year on year
285,000+

Webpage Views

Website visitor trends:

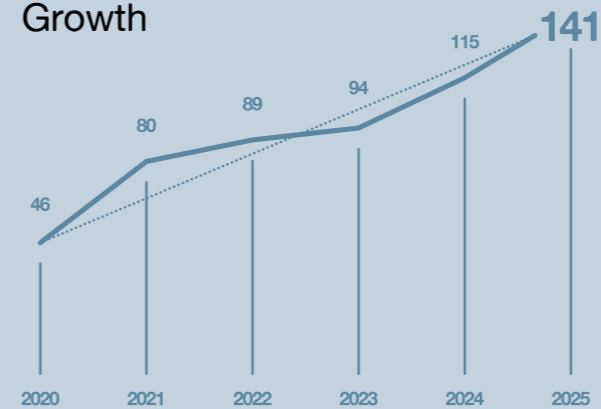
In 2025, here is where our audience from around the world logged in from:

1.	United States	24.42%
2.	Belgium	19.55%
3.	Germany	5.17%
4.	Singapore	4.97%
5.	Italy	3.96%
6.	United Kingdom	3.64%
7.	France	3.06%
8.	Netherlands	2.81%
9.	Spain	2.17%
10.	Luxembourg	1.86%
	Rest of the World	28.39%



Visit us at
www.martenscentre.eu

Media Visibility Growth



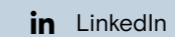
We maintained our consistent growth in media visibility, with over **141 media mentions** in 2025.

Social Media Follower Count:

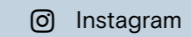
→ 2025



29,489



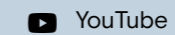
12,146 +33.7%*



2,925 +25.9%*



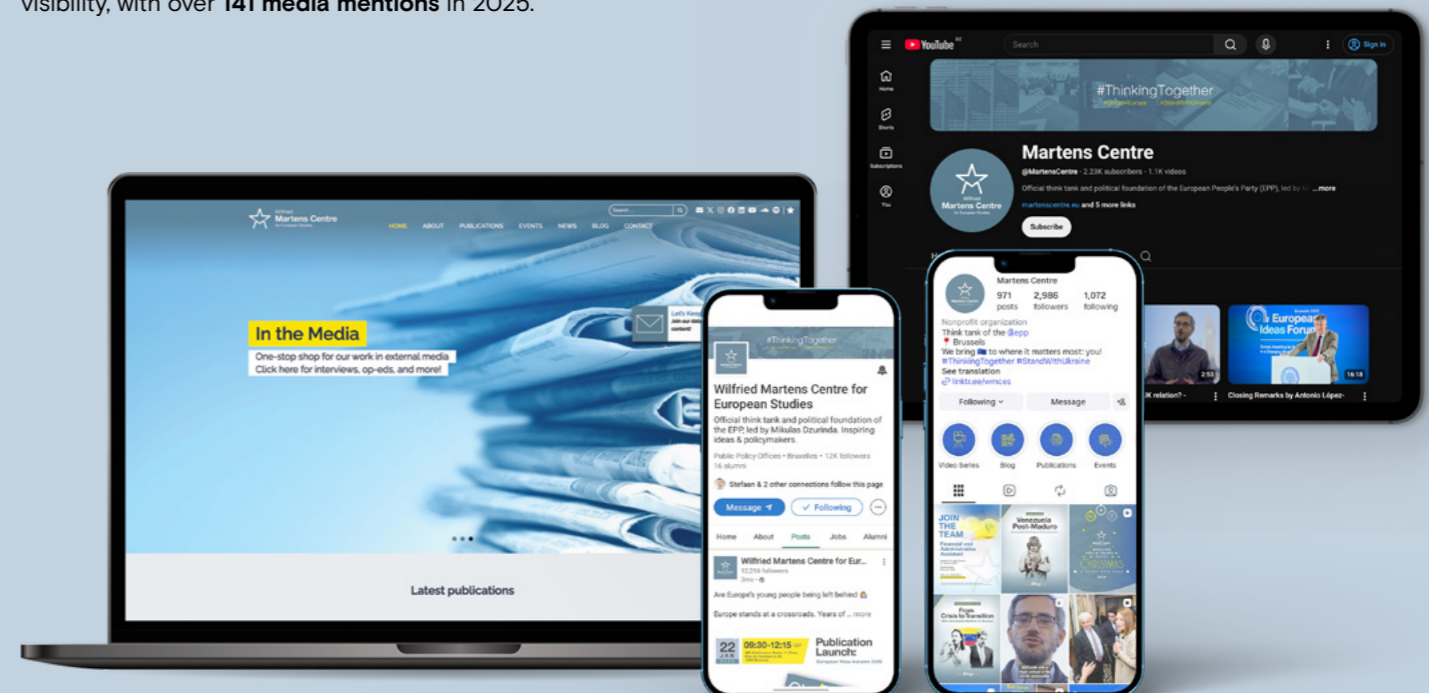
52,469



2,230 +7.2%*

(*) year-on-year

- X @MartensCentre
- in @MartensCentre
- @martenscentre
- f Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- CESThinkingEurope



Our Formats

Our structure as a pan-European platform for centre-right ideas means we are always involved in discussions in a variety of policy areas and seek to diversify our content in order to attract as wide an audience as possible.

Our goal is always to bring the European debate closer to the people it impacts the most—the European public. In 2025, we utilised various formats to achieve this, including:

PODCASTS



The European View Podcast

The European View Podcast is a sister product to our biannual policy journal. Hosted by Sara Pini, Senior Research Officer and European View Deputy Editor-in-Chief at the Martens Centre, podcast episodes explore in a bit more depth individual articles from the journal's latest issue, in order to provide better context and more complete information to our readers, who are also listeners!



Her and EU

Starring Loredana Teodorescu, Martens Centre Academic Council Member, Her and EU discusses gender equality in the EU. This year, one of our guests was Oleksandra Matviichuk, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022.



Brussels Bytes

Hosted by Dimitar Lilkov, Martens Centre Senior Research Officer, this podcast series tackles novel issues of digital policy, online privacy, and FinTech, featuring a balance of academics, policymakers and private sector actors, reflecting the multi-layered nature of digital policy.



All of our audiovisual content is available online. Scan the QR code to start enjoying it now!

VIDEOS



Bridge the Channel

Starring Angelos Chrysogelos, Martens Centre Research Associate, Bridge the Channel keeps our viewers informed about EU-UK relations, the latest political developments in the Anglosphere, and their impact on political decisions made in the EU.



Video Op-eds

Realising that many people consume information on the go nowadays, we devised a way to bring our insights to a larger audience in today's fast-paced world: Video Op-eds! These combine the bite-size, incisive nature of the op-ed with the convenience of the podcast!



Thinking Talks

Our principal video interview format aimed at discussing a variety of issues with important guests across the EU sphere and beyond. This year, we held conversations with guests such as Siegfried Mure, an MEP, Gerlinde Niehus, and Vladimir Milov.



EDITORIAL



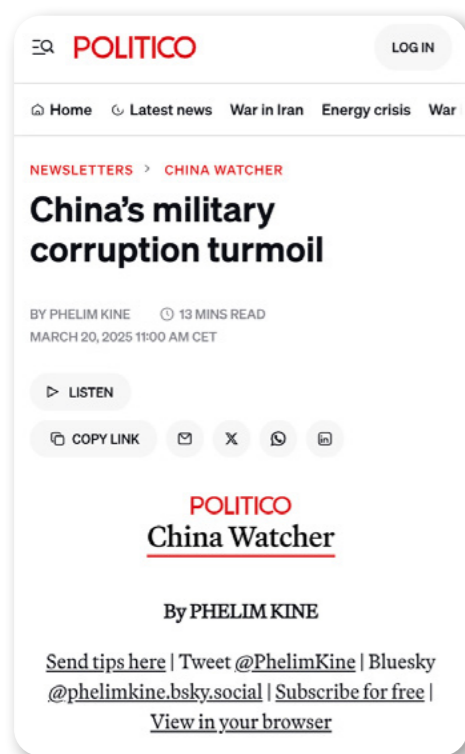
Migration Update

The Migration Update is a monthly compilation of relevant news stories created by the Martens Centre's migration expert, Vít Novotný. It is sent to our subscribers and relevant contacts in this policy field, and exists to provide a factual base for migration debates within the European centre-right.

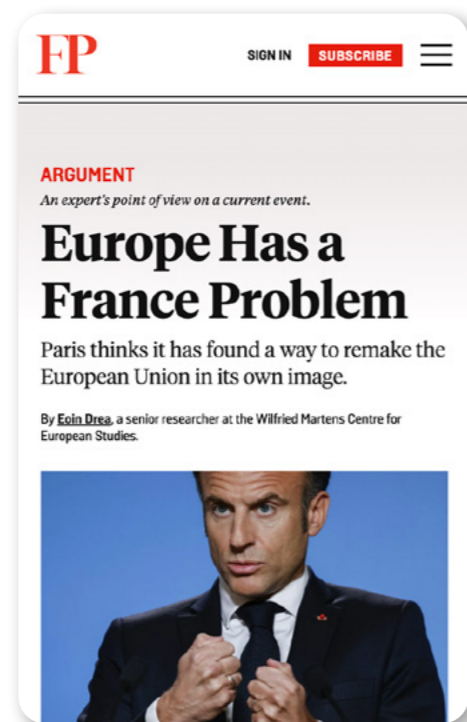
Martens Centre experts have been regularly invited to contribute to various media outlets reporting on topics relating to our work. Our researchers have also been extensively quoted by media discussing their areas of expertise. This demonstrates the Centre's relevance in public discussion at the very highest level, and is a testament to our strong presence in the European, and increasingly global, media landscape.

As part of our commitment to help inform the public debate as much as possible, we also developed media partnerships to expand our reach and bring together new members of our audience with our established contacts. This allows us to promote our wide offer of products, from policy papers to podcasts, to the relevant audiences across the EU.

A selection of our media output in 2025:



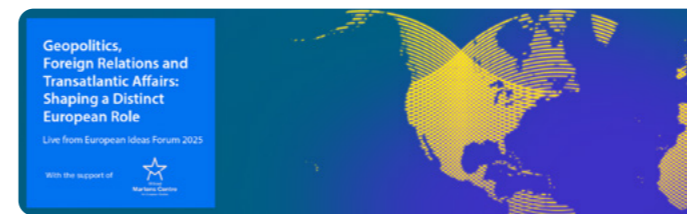
Our Academic Council Chair **Klaus Welle** was interviewed by Politico's China Watcher newsletter about China's position amid tension between the United States and Europe over trade and Ukraine.



For Foreign Policy, **Eoin Drea** detailed his views on France's push for European strategic autonomy and its impact on EU defense and spending debates.



Our Executive Director **Tomi Huhtanen** participated in Euronews' weekly talk show Brussels, my love? to provide his insight on the all-important question of EU budget negotiations.



European Ideas Forum Media Impact

In 2025, we continued to leverage our strong position in the Brussels media ecosystem and organised a panel in cooperation with Euronews, enabling the insights provided during the event to reach an ever-wider audience.



These were some of the media outlets which featured Martens Centre experts in 2025. We also continued to expand our presence in non-English media, broadening our reach beyond our usual audience.





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 on-line 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.



Find out more about us at
www.martenscentre.eu/who-we-are/

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, Former Prime Minister of Slovakia



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



Joseph Daul
Former President of the EPP



Roberta Metsola
President of the
European Parliament



Hans-Gert Pöttering
Former President of the
European Parliament



Peter Egardt
Former Swedish Secretary of
State for the Prime Minister



Arjen Siegmann
CDA Party Leader in Amstelveen



Maria da Graça Carvalho
Minister for Environment and
Energy of Portugal

Honorary Board

The 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 belonging to the EPP family, with a successful track record of country and institutional reforms.



Mikuláš Dzurinda
President, Former Prime Minister of Slovakia



José María Aznar
Former Prime Minister of Spain



Jan Peter Balkenende
Former Prime Minister of
the Netherlands



Michel Barnier
Former Prime Minister
of France



José Manuel Barroso
Former President of the European
Commission, former Prime Minister
of Portugal



Jan Krzysztof Bielecki
Former Prime Minister of Poland



Carl Bildt
Former Prime Minister of Sweden



Lawrence Gonzi
Former Prime Minister of Malta



Jean-Claude Juncker
Former President of the
European Commission, former
Prime Minister of Luxembourg



Jyrki Katainen
Former Prime Minister of Finland



Enda Kenny
Former Taoiseach of Ireland



Juhan Parts
Former Prime Minister
of Estonia



Antonis Samaras
Former Prime Minister of Greece



Jacques Santer
Former President of the
European Commission, former
Prime Minister of Luxembourg



Wolfgang Schüssel
Former Chancellor of Austria



Herman van Rompuy
Former Prime Minister of Belgium,
former President of the
European Council

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.



Klaus Welle
Chairman



Olof Ehrenkrona



Michel Barnier



Ignacio Cosido



Franck Debié



Werner Fasslabend



Zsuzsa Anna
Ferenczy



Peter Fischer-Bollin



Geir Flikke



Natalia Gavrilita



Anthony Gooch



Jacob Kirkegaard



Antonis Klapsis



Stefan Lunte



Giovanni
Maddalena



Ann Mettler



Madalena Meyer
Resende



Valérie Niquet



Ana Palacio



Salome
Samadashvili



Marina Skordeli



Anthony Teasdale



Loredana
Teodorescu



Teija Tilikainen



Lucie Tungul



Žiga Turk



Steven Van Hecke

Individual Members

Individual members are politically likeminded, senior-level professionals active in European politics, 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.



Timothy Beyer Helm



Jacob Lund Nielsen



Nicolas Pascual
De La Parte



Kostas Sasmatzoglou



Filippo Terruso



Antti Timonen



Marianne Thyssen

Political Auditors

Our Political Auditors are senior professionals from the worlds of politics, consultancy, and academia, who are affiliated with our Member Foundations. They are responsible for conducting an independent appraisal of the Centre's financial activities and provide assurance to the General Assembly and the Executive Board on financial aspects of the Centre.



Peter D.P. Noordhoek



José Herrera



Clauspeter Hill



Pantelis Sklias

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.



Angelos Chrysosgelos



Luigi Crema



André P. Debattista



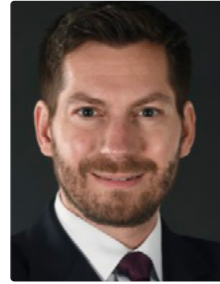
Hans Geeroms

SENIOR



Paolo Alli

SENIOR



Mark Boris Andrijanič

SENIOR



Constantine Arvanitopoulos

SENIOR



Michał Boni



Teona Lavrelashvili



Bruno Lété



Jürgen Matthes

SENIOR



Arnaud Danjean

SENIOR



Jolyon Howorth

SENIOR



Lars Jonung



Vladimir Milov



Thibault Muzergues



Magnus Norell



Michael O'Neill

SENIOR



Bruno Mações

SENIOR



Rainer Münz

SENIOR



Jarosław Pietras

SENIOR



Jamie Shea



Dalibor Roháč



Nathan Shepura



Rumiana Stoilova



Michael Benhamou



Giselle Bosse



Edward Hunter Christie



Nikolaos Tzifakis



Tommaso Virgili



Garvan Walshe



Michael Wohlgemuth

Staff 2025

Tomi Huhtanen
Executive Director



Peter Hefele
Policy Director



Margherita Movarelli
Head of Communications
and Marketing



Panos Tasiopoulos
Head of External
Cooperation and Events



Federico Ottavio Reho
Strategic Coordinator and
Senior Research Officer



Viktória Jančošková
Manager of the
President's Office



Sara Pini
Senior Research
Officer



Dimitar Lilkov
Senior Research
Officer



Katerina
Jakimovska
Senior Project Officer



Eoin Drea
Senior Research
Officer



Vít Novotný
Senior Research
Officer



Gavin Synnott
Senior Project Officer



Gëzim Lezha
Senior Brand and Visual
Communications Officer



Anna
Roźniatowska-Fidos
Senior Financial and
EU Grants Officer



Theo Larue
Editorial and
Publications Officer



Alicia Montes
de Oca López
Project Assistant



Dimitri Argento
Communications and
New Media Officer



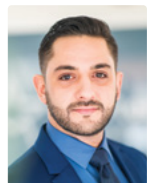
George Dimakos
Project Officer



Ionela Ciolan
Research Officer



Eleftheria Katsi
Communications
and Press Officer



Djamel Kitouni
Senior IT Officer

Stéphanie Honorez
Receptionist &
Office Manager



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. Therefore, each year it offers visiting-fellow positions of 6 to 12 months to dynamic, motivated and innovative individuals with the appropriate academic credentials.



Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy
Hungary

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.

In 2025 our interns were:



René Hofer
Italy



Jean-Claude
Colson
Belgium



Anastasia
Sarakenidou
Greece



Chelsea Nshuti
Belgium



Krystian
Schneyder
Poland



Oisín Kennedy-
Baleztena
Spain



Androniki Ierokli
Greece



Are you interested in an internship with the Martens Centre? Apply now!
Please visit
www.martenscentre.eu/join-team
for more information.

Member Foundations

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



Academy for the Development of a Democratic Environment
Akkademja għall-Izvilupp ta' Ambjent Demokratiku (AZAD)
Casa Pereira, 224 Republic Street,
1117 Valletta, Malta
T. +356 21 234 884
E. roderick.agius@azad.org.mt
www.azadmalta.com



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



Anton Korošec Institute
Inštitut dr. Antona Korošca (INAK)
Gospodinjaska 8, 1000 Ljubljana
T. +386 41 764 896
E. gp@inak.si
www.inak.si



Civic Institute
Instytut Obywatelska (IO)
ul. Wiejska 12a, piętro IV,
00-490 Warszawa
T. +48 22 459 64 41
E. biuro@instytutobywatelski.pl
www.instytutobywatelski.pl



Collins Institute (CI)
c/o 51 Upper Mount Street, Dublin, D2 Ireland
T. +353 161 98 450
E. info@collinsinstitute.ie
www.collinsinstitute.ie



Croatian Statehood Foundation
Zaklada Hrvatskog državnog zavjeta (ZHDZ)
Gundulićeva ul. 21 a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
T. +3851 4854 555
F. +385 1 4854 439
E. zaklada.hdz@zg.t-com.hr
srecko.prusina@zhdz.hr
www.zhdz.hr



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
www.gerb-bg.org



Campus Tivoli
Campus Tivoli (CT)
Lichtenfelsgasse 7, 1010 Vienna, Austria
T. +43 1 814 200
E. info@campus-tivoli.at
www.campus-tivoli.at



CDA Research Institute
Wetenschappelijk Instituut voor het CDA (WICDA)
Buitenvom 18,
2512 XA The Hague, The Netherlands
T. +31 70 342 4874
E. wi@cda.nl
www.cda.nl/wi



Reformismo 21 Foundation
Fundación Reformismo21 (FR21)
Calle Génova 15 - Entreplanta, 28004, Madrid, Spain
T. +34 91 435 06 29
E. info@reformismo21.org
www.reformismo21.org



Glafkos Clerides Institute
Ινστιτούτο Ευρωδημοκρατίας
Γλαύκος Κληρίδης (EGC)
25 Pindarou Street, PO Box 25305,
1308 Nicosia, Cyprus
T. +357 22 883 115
E. info@clerides.org
www.clerides.org



Hanns Seidel Foundation
Hanns Seidel Stiftung (HSS)
Lazarettstrasse 33, 80636 Munich, Germany
T. +49 89 125 80
E. info@hss.de
www.hss.de



CEDER Study Centre of CD&V
CEDER Studiecentrum CD&V (CEDER)
Gare Maritime, Picardstraat 11 (507),
1000 Brussels, Belgium
T. +32 2 238 38 87
E. info@cdenv.be
www.cdenv.be



Chavchavadze Center
ჭავჭავაძის ცენტრი (CC)
20, Giorgi Akhvediani Street,
Tbilisi 10108, Georgia
E. chavchavadzecenter@gmail.com
www.chavchavadzecenter.ge/en



Christian Democratic International Center
Kristdemokratiskt Internationellt Center (KIC)
Triewaldsgränd 2,
111 29 Stockholm, Sweden
T. +46 76 527 25 72
E. info@kicsweden.org
www.kicsweden.org



Institute dr. Janez Evangelist Krek
Inštitut dr. Janeza Evangelista Kreka (IJEK)
Dvorakova ulica 11a, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
T. +386 1 241 66 68
E. info@ijek.si
www.ijek.si



Institute for Christian Democratic Politics
Institut pro Křesťansko-Demokratickou Politiku (IKDP)
Karlovo náměstí 317/5,
Prague, 120 00, Czech Republic
T. +420 731 603 844
E. jan.smidek@ikdp.cz
www.ikdp.cz



Institute for Popular Studies
Institutul de Studii Populare (ISP)
Aleea Modrogan nr. 1, Sector 1,
011825, Bucharest, Romania
T. +40 722 566 223
E. contact@ispromania.ro
www.ispromania.ro

Member Foundations



Institute of European Right
Europietiškos dešinės institutas (IER)
Karmelitų g. 3, Vilnius 01306, Lithuania
T. +370 686 77511
E. info@edi.lt
www.edi.lt



Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation
Jarl Hjalmarson Stiftelsen (JHS)
Blasieholmogatan 4A,
11148 Stockholm, Sweden
T. +46 8 676 8000
E. hjalmarsonstiftelsen@moderat.se
www.hjalmarsonstiftelsen.se



Dr. Jože Pučnik Institute
Inštitut Dr. Jožeta Pučnika (IJP)
Hribarjevo nabrežje 13,
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
T. +386 1 425 3087
E. info.ijpucnik@gmail.com
www.institutpucnik.si



Konrad Adenauer Foundation
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)
Klingelhöferstrasse 23,
10755 Berlin, Germany
T. +49 30 26996 3433
E. zentrale-berlin@kas.de
www.kas.de



Konstantinos Karamanlis
Institute for Democracy
Ινστιτούτο Δημοκρατίας
Κωνσταντίνος Καραμανλής (KKID)
Pireos 62, Moschato 18346, Greece
T. +30 210 94 44 303
E. info@idkaramanlis.gr
www.idkaramanlis.gr



Kós Károly Academy Foundation
Kós Károly Akadémia (KKA)
Str. Ulciorului nr. 4,
540099 Targu Mures, Romania
T. +40 265 210 020
E. koskarolyakademia@gmail.com
www.koskarolyakademia.ro



Istituto Luigi Sturzo
Istituto Luigi Sturzo (ILS)
Via delle Coppelle 35,
00186 Rome, Italy
T. +39 06 684 04 21
E. infopoint@sturzo.it
www.sturzo.it



New Initiatives Centre
Centar za nove inicijative
Центар за нове иницијативе (CNI)
Fra Andela Zvizdovića 1, UNITIC,
71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
T. +387 33 296-306
E. info@cni.ba



OPORA Foundation
Nadácia OPORA (NO)
Šafárikovo nám. 77/4, 821 04 Bratislava, Slovakia
T. +421 911 821 454
E. info@nadaciaopora.sk
www.nadaciaopora.sk



Pro Patria Institute
Pro Patria Instituut (KPP)
Kivisilla 4-9,10145 Tallinn, Estonia
T. +372 534 458 901
F. +372 773 42 07
E. kaja.viill@em@ir|l.ee
www.propatria-instituut.ee



Toivo Think Tank
Ajatuspaja Toivo (Toivo)
Kansakoulukuja 3 A, 3krs,
00100 Helsinki, Finland
T. +358 500 442 761
E. antti.vesala@toivoajatuspaja.fi
www.toivoajatuspaja.fi



TOPAZ
TOPAZ
Opletalova 1603/57,
110 00 Praha 1, Czechia
T. +420 602 377 809
E. info@top-az.eu
www.top-az.eu

Partner Members



Antall József
Knowledge Centre,
Hungary



GLOBSEC, Slovakia



International
Republican Institute,
United States



European Values, Czechia



faes
Fundación
Foundation for Social
Research and Analysis, Spain



Liberal Society,
Romania



Maison
du Futur,
Lebanon



DIALOGUE FOR EUROPE
Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence
Jean Monnet
European Center of
Excellence, Greece



Kompassi, Finland



Robert Schuman
Institute, Hungary



MEIRSS
The Middle East
Institute for Research
and Strategic Studies,
Lebanon



Platforma for
Sustainable Growth,
Portugal



Robert Schuman
Foundation, France



Think Young, Belgium



Sofia Security Forum, Bulgaria



Belgrade Fund for
Political Excellence,
Serbia



European Academy for
Democracy, Czechia



Circolo Culturale Esperia,
Italy



"Konstantinos G. Karamanlis"
Foundation, Greece



Matyas Bel Institute,
Slovakia



Foundation Tunega,
Púčika a Tesára, Slovakia



Ideas Network 2030, United Kingdom







Wilfried Martens
Centre for European Studies

Rue du Commerce 20
B-1000 Brussels

info@martenscentre.eu
+32 (0) 2 300 80 04