



In partnership with



CONFERENCE

HOW DO WE RELATE TO EUROPE AFTER THE BRITISH REFERENDUM ?

**November 28th 2016
2:00pm - 6:30pm**

**At the Economic, social and environmental Council
9 Place d'Iéna, Paris**

High-level debate about the future of Europe and democracy

Although we have never been so interdependent, the British referendum has increased the risk of Europe falling apart. It has revealed a threefold crisis, affecting all European countries: a crisis of identity, of confidence between Member States and the people of Europe; a crisis in our economic, environmental and social development; and a crisis of our national and European democracies. So what common destiny do we see for our future?

We will structure our debates in three stages: What are we prepared to share within the European Union? Within the Eurozone? How can we revive European democracy?

ISSUE FOR DEBATE

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When it comes down to it, the results of the British referendum have given us reason to look inwards, while taking on board the different opinions of other European countries. What is at stake with this crisis of identity and the challenges of building a European identity? What do we want for ourselves? We will structure our debates in three stages: What are we prepared to share within the European Union? Within the Eurozone? How can we revive European democracy?

Today, the citizens of EU-27 consider internal and external security to be a priority concern, in a context of increasing threats (Russia, Islamist terrorism, etc.). Does this mean we should yield to the temptation of retreating behind national boundaries, or secure the EU's external borders to create a union of security? Should we consider free movement of people an outdated freedom, or a freedom linked inextricably with the others? Will transforming Schengen into an area of real security and freedom help bring Europeans together around a project not confined to the Eurozone?

Meanwhile, the accelerating pace of change (globalisation, demographic, digital, energy, ecological, etc.) is a source of not only risks but also opportunities, provided we work together on creating the means to reinvent our development model. Is it right for the internal market to be a place of national rivalry in today's context of globalisation? Are we prepared for social and fiscal convergence, for common standards in strategic areas? What future can we offer our youth to ward off the risk of a "lost generation"? If we accept that the Member States are largely responsible for our education and training systems and labour markets, what could we, or should we be accomplishing together?

Brexit is seen by some to have triggered the momentum needed to break the deadlock in the first circle, the Eurozone, ossified for years behind red lines, while asymmetric clashes and competitiveness gaps threaten the EMU. National opinions differ, so what can we do to reach a compromise to effectively consolidate an economic and monetary union capable of seeing through a political investment policy aimed at promoting sustainable growth and tackling unemployment? How can we reach an agreement on a banking union, a fiscal union and an economic union? And how can we reconcile our strengthening of the Eurozone with the need to also strengthen the second circle, the EU-27?

Finally, Brexit has revealed a crisis of our national and European democracies. Would a form of participatory democracy allow Europe's citizens to take a more active part in restoring representative democracy? What can we do to make it possible for them to choose among genuine long-term options? What role might a European civil society still under construction play? Which governance reforms are needed to democratise post-election practices in our national and European democracies and restore faith?

2:00pm-2:15pm

INTRODUCTION

Jean-Marie CAMBACÈRES, President of the section for European and International Affairs, French Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC)
Marcel GRIGNARD, President of Confrontations Europe

2:15pm-2:45pm

HEARING

Nick BUTLER, London King's College professor
in dialogue with **Philippe HERZOG**, Founding President of Confrontations Europe

2:45pm-4:30pm

WHAT ARE WE READY TO SHARE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION ?

SECURITY, FREEDOM AND DEFENSE ISSUES

- **Nicole GNESOTTO**, ESEC member
- **Shada ISLAM**, Director of Europe and geopolitics, Friends of Europe
- **Martin MICHELOT**, Director of Research, Europeum Institute for European Policy

Moderation : **Emmanuel FOREST**, Deputy DG of Bouygues

2:45pm-3:45pm

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

- **Denis SIMONNEAU**, Director for European and international affairs, Engie

Moderation : **Emmanuel FOREST**, Deputy DG of Bouygues

3:45pm-4:30pm

4:30pm-4:45pm

BREAK

4:45pm-5:15pm

WHAT ARE WE READY TO SHARE IN THE EUROZONE ?

- **Vincent AUSSILLOUX**, head of the Economics and Finance department, France Stratégie

Moderation : **Carole ULMER**, Director of studies, Confrontations Europe

5:15pm-6:15pm

HOW TO RENOVATE THE DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE ?

- **Pierre CALAME**, Founder of the Charles-Leopold Meyer Foundation
- **Virgilio DASTOLI**, President, European Mouvement, Italy

Moderation : **Anne MACEY**, Chief executive, Confrontations Europe

6:15pm-6:30pm

CONCLUSION

Marcel GRIGNARD, President of Confrontations Europe

Confrontations Europe, a European think tank, a network, a general interest lobby.

Sharing diagnosis and concrete proposals for a more human, competitive and cohesive Europe.

Confronting ideas, building Europe.

The **third constitutional assembly of the French Republic** after the National Assembly and the Senate, **the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC)** represents key economic, social and environmental fields, promoting cooperation between different socio-professional interest groups and ensuring they are part of the process of shaping and reviewing public policy.

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