

CONFERENCE

Amidst the far-right surge: Pathways to foster democracy in the EU

30 September 2024, 14.00-17.30

European Policy Centre, Rue du Trône 14-16, 1000 Brussels

PROGRAMME

14.00 Welcome and presentation of the project

“More diverse than united? The European Parliament Election Project – A comparative analysis of the EU elections 2024”.

14.10 Keynote speech

Klaus Welle, Former Secretary General of the European Parliament

14.30 Presentation of the report results and recommendations

14.45 Panel 1: “Second-order elections? Building a unifying democratic momentum in the EU”

European Parliament elections are the EU’s most important democratic moment. Beyond deciding the political balance in the European Parliament, they provide an EU-wide indication of the political trends that will shape the EU in the future. Yet, they remain second-order elections with a relatively low turnout.

The 2024 elections took place in the wake of unprecedented crises and EU response, and after the Conference on the future of Europe, that aimed at strengthening the role of citizens in EU policymaking. What do they tell us about the state of EU democracy? Or about citizens’ interest in the elections and their voting motivations? What should be done, politically and institutionally, to further increase the importance of EU elections?

Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Vice-Chair of the Constitutional Affairs committee,
European Parliament

Zuzana Dorazilová, Member of Commissioner Vera Jourova's Cabinet

Didrik de Schaetzen, Secretary General, ALDE Party

Giacomo Filibeck, Secretary General, Party of European Socialists

Eric Maurice, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre (Moderator)

15.45 Coffee break

16.00 Panel 2: "Were the voices of citizens heard in the European elections? Looking at the EU's new priorities"

From European parties' manifestos to the European Council's Strategic Agenda and the Commission's Work Programme, the EU's priorities for its five-year term are commonly set during the election year. But do they sufficiently reflect what was debated during the campaign and, more importantly, what citizens expressed by their vote? What should be the key policy projects for policymakers in Strasbourg and Brussels to address, given the result of the election and a stronger far-right? And how can these be implemented?

Marc-Olivier Padis, Director of Studies, TerraNova

Domènec Ruiz Devesa, President, Union of European Federalists, and
Former MEP

Sophie Pornschlegel, Policy Fellow, Das Progressive Zentrum (Moderator)

17.15 Conclusion