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State of Europe 2019

Vision Innovation for Europe

REPORT



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Executive summary

Minding the gaps

State of Europe 2019 was about innovation, both as a mindset and as an approach to major social and economic issues, as the European Union faces a ‘challenge opportunity’ over the next ten years to rewire its system for systemic modernisation. This will require a new social contract that resets the relationship among the public, private and civil society sectors.

With that in mind, the debate focused on closing gaps: gaps between rich and poor, between young and old, between men and women; but also the gap between what needs to be done to tackle the climate emergency and the world’s current inadequate responses, the technology gap between Europe and its competitors in Asia and North America, and the trust gap between citizens and their representatives.

Trust was at the heart of the 16th edition of State of Europe, which annually gathers over 200 influential figures from more than 40 countries to brainstorm on the future of the continent. Leaders were told they need to prove themselves worthy of the trust of generations who will need to cope with the impact of climate change, the effects of inequality and the barriers to social and cross-border mobility.

The urgent need for climate action was a dominant theme cutting across debates that ranged from foreign policy and security to innovation and job creation. Speakers called for a European effort to fight climate change comparable to the Allied preparations for D-Day or the US drive to send a man to the Moon. They spoke of a win-win scenario where developing the technologies needed to combat global warming could spur innovation within the European economy.

As with previous years, State of Europe 2019 pooled the wisdom and experience of veterans from the political and business scene, with around three dozen past-or-present heads of state, prime ministers, European Commissioners and government members.

This year, however, there was a greater focus on the views of rising generations, both from the precocious talents in Friends of Europe’s European Young Leaders’ (EYL40) programme and from even more youthful participants in the shape of Finnish school children who are leading their municipality in climate action and the transition to renewable energy.

It's the climate, stupid

Jere Viinamäki, is just 12-years-old, but he had a powerful message to the adults in the room.

“My biggest concern is climate change. I am afraid that future generations will have to face big problems due to climate change,” Jere told the opening plenary session of State of Europe. “I really hope that you, adults, also take climate issues seriously and you try to do your best to change things as quickly as possible.”

Jere and his schoolmates travelled over 2,000km to Brussels from their home in the

little town of Ii on the Bay of Bothnia in northern Finland to drive home the urgency of climate action to decision-makers at the heart of Europe. “Climate change is a global challenge that requires drastic actions,” said **Joonas Veijola**, 15-years-old. “It is important that every citizen contributes to the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in their everyday life. Everyone must take responsibility.”

Iina Loukusa, 17-years-old, had a series of strong messages calling for politicians and entrepreneurs to join individual citizens in taking action to fight climate change at national, European and global level. That could include taxes on emissions and bans on harmful substances. She also urged more sustainable investment in carbon-neutral solutions and clean technology.



“Climate change is a global challenge that requires drastic actions. It is important that every citizen contributes to the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in their everyday life. Everyone must take responsibility

Joonas Veijola, 15-years-old student from Ii, Finland

“It is important to give us the opportunity to learn, participate and be involved in building a sustainable future, as it is our duty to take responsibility in the future,” Iina told the session. “You just have to trust us.”

The appeals from the students of Ii set the tone for two key themes of the day-long debate: the imperative of acting now to safeguard the planet for future generations and the growing voice of youth in Europe’s political discourse on climate and other issues.

“It’s not to say that old people don’t care about the planet, but they don’t have the same urgency maybe,” noted **Magid Magid**, a recently-elected Member of the European Parliament for Britain’s Green Party and European Young Leader (EYL40).

Leena Vuotovesi, CEO of Micropolis, which is helping to lead climate action at a local level in the Arctic Circle, pointed to the success of actions in Ii which have cut emissions by 62% and are on course for an 80% cut by 2020, at the same time producing 10 times more energy – via renewable sources – than in the rest of the region, creating jobs and cutting city taxation because of profitable climate actions.

“Local people are really involved and they see the good side,” she said. “The most beautiful thing is every child ... does daily climate actions in their nurseries and schools. There is the most hope that we can have ... these children will take the lead one day.”

Vuotovesi said there is “absolutely no excuse” for Europe not to take on the challenge of



“If we are not delivering within a very short time period, I am afraid we will see polarisation and radicalisation

Connie Hedegaard, lead of the mission on “Adaptation to Climate Change including Societal Transformation” for Horizon Europe, Chair of the KR Foundation

climate change. However, the continent is moving too slowly and lacks courage to move forward at the required pace, acknowledged **Connie Hedegaard**, lead of the mission on “Adaptation to Climate Change including Societal Transformation” for Horizon Europe, Chair of the KR Foundation, former European Commissioner for Climate Action and Minister for Environment in Denmark.

She complained that Europe spreads budgets too thinly on numerous research projects instead of identifying flagship work on which the European Union could pool its combined forces. Hedegaard called for the next EU budget to be “100% targeted towards the future” and climate transition. She cautioned that if Europe didn’t show it was delivering quickly enough and on a large scale, impatience would grow: “If we are not delivering within a very short time period, I am afraid we will see polarisation and radicalisation.”

Taking a more optimistic line, **Sony Kapoor**, Managing Director of the think tank Re-Define, European Young Leader (EYL40) Alumni and Trustee of Friends of Europe, said the switch to renewable fuel was moving faster than expected. He pointed both to the growing influence of climate activists such as Greta Thunberg and the Extinction Rebellion movement, and the extent to which the financial system is waking up to climate concerns. “We are getting close to a positive tipping point,” Kapoor said. “There is a political zeitgeist where people are waking up to the speed and scale of the crisis.”

Domestic action in Europe, however, won’t be enough, warned **Marko Pavic**, Croatia’s Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds, and an EYL40. “Whatever we do here in Europe is only less than 10% of the problem,” he said. “We need to push this outreach to others. If China, the U.S. and India are not on board, we won’t do much to save the world.”



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1. **Mary Fitzgerald**, Libya Analyst, award-winning journalist, European Young Leader (EYL40)
2. **Gunilla Carlsson**, Deputy Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); **Dalia Grybauskaitė**, Former President of Lithuania and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders; **Viviane Reding**, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Cooperation and Immigration, Luxembourg; former EU Commissioner and former MEP
3. **Hailemariam Dessalegn Boshe**, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia; **Etienne Davignon**, President, Friends of Europe; former Belgian Minister of State and European Commission Vice-President



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- 1. Loubna Bouarfa**, Founder and CEO of OKRA Technologies; **Yann Le Cam**, Chief Executive Officer of the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS)
- 2. Shada Islam**, Director of Europe and Geopolitics, Friends of Europe
- 3. Linda Zeilina**, Head of Operations and Research, Re-Define; **Juozas Olekas**, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and former Lithuanian Minister of National Defence
- 4. André Loeseckrug-Pietri**, Head of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative (J.E.D.I.) and European Young Leader (EYL40)



Innovation rebellion

Europe is ahead of the United States and the major powers in Asia in its political and public awareness of the need for urgent action on climate change. Underlining that point, Friends of Europe's 2019 #EuropeMatters survey showed European citizens saw climate change as the No. 1 priority, ahead of global peace, jobs and skills.

That should be exploited to generate a competitive advantage in developing the technology needed to save the planet and turn Europe into a global hub for sustainable innovation.

"The path to drastic action requires a change in mindset," argued **Sébastien de Halleux**, COO of Saildrone and European Young Leader (EYL40), which has developed wind and solar-powered drones for collecting data at sea.

"Let's transform this challenge, which is scary and terrifying, into a unique opportunity for Europe," added de Halleux. "We need to get the sense of urgency down to practical solutions. Europe has the budget and the mandate ... we have the keys and our citizens are demanding the solutions."

"If our priority No. 1 is not just growth but clean growth ... we have to direct our minds to how we can address this decarbonisation challenge through innovation," **Pascal Lamy** said, calling for the creation of a more "innovation friendly" ecosystem to encourage private sector investment in tackling climate change.



“If our priority No. 1 is not just growth but clean growth ... we have to direct our minds to how we can address this decarbonisation challenge through innovation

Pascal Lamy, President Emeritus of Notre Europe Jacques Delors Institute and lead of the mission on “Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters” for Horizon Europe, former European commissioner for trade and WTO director-general, Trustee of Friends of Europe

Comparing the effort and timescale needed to reach carbon neutrality to the 2 ½-year Allied preparation for the D-Day landings, he called for the creation of a “decarbonisation war room” to coordinate the necessary actions. De Halleux suggested another comparison, with the US space programme in the 1960s: “the European version of the Moon shot is an Earth shot,” he said.

Tech entrepreneur **John Collison** argued the conditions are ripe for Europe to take the lead in climate technology.

“We should take a somewhat more optimistic view of European innovation,” said Collison, Co-Founder and President of business software company Stripe and an EYL40. “Let’s talk about topics like carbon capture and carbon-neutral technologies: there is so much more political support and there is so much more will around those topics here in Europe than in America or in China, that it would be ridiculous for Europe not to be the leader in that very quickly emerging field which is going to be, presumably, massive as an economic force.”

To take advantage of fast-paced present and future technological change, Europe needs to “get serious about re-skilling”, explained **Jan Mischke**, Partner and Research Leader on Europe at the McKinsey Global Institute. In a presentation to the plenary, he pointed out that with today’s technology about half of all jobs can be automated and about a quarter of tasks will already be automated by 2030.

“Europe and European regions will face asymmetric shocks over the decade ahead, that



“The conditions are ripe for Europe to take the lead in climate technology

John Collison, Co-Founder and President of Stripe, European Young Leader (EYL40)

will require innovation but also bold leadership and a likely grand bargain for implementing solutions,” Mischke said.

At the cutting edge of green technology, **Mate Rimac**, Founder and CEO of Rimac Automobili, explained how teenage tinkering with engines in a garage outside Zagreb led to his development of the world’s first true electric supercars, capable of speeds of over 400 kph and with an electric range of 650km. He too underscored the need for education “from childhood to university” to ensure people in Europe can adapt to the fast-changing transition economy.

“What needs to happen for Europe to be competitive is to really have a strategy, and to understand that these things like AI and autonomous cars are not just another development, these are really going to change our societies like the Internet,” Rimac said. “If we don’t adapt, we’ll be overrun and become a beautiful museum.”



“If we don’t adapt, we’ll be overrun and become a beautiful museum

Mate Rimac, Founder & CEO of Rimac Automobili

Into the unknown

The opportunities and risks of the transition to a fully-fledged digital economy are clear. McKinsey estimated in 2016 that Europe could add €2.5tn to its GDP by 2025, lifting GDP 10% above baseline projections if it were to accelerate digitisation. On the other hand, close to 40% of the EU labour force has no or almost no digital skills and a report from the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) estimates that the median EU employee faces a 51% probability of being in a job that may be automated. How can society ensure that artificial intelligence, machine learning and the shift towards a full digital economy bring benefits for society rather than accentuating already growing inequalities and leaving whole sectors of the population behind?

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner-designate for Jobs and Luxembourg's former minister for labour, employment and the social and solidarity economy, stated clearly that he was not among those who believe human jobs will disappear as robots take over.

"Nobody knows exactly what kind of jobs will be created, probably a lot of jobs we do not know presently. What we know is that these jobs will be very different from those we know today," he said. "There will be a very big change, a transformation on the jobs market."



“Europe leads the world in vocational education and training to prepare people for the workplace

Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Europe needs to step up its game in terms of education to prepare the workforce for that transformation, contended **Andreas Schleicher**, Director for Education and Skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

“Europe leads the world in vocational education and training to prepare people for the workplace,” Schleicher explained. “However, it’s still seen as a second-class kind of environment but the future of work, the future of learning, will probably be - in the long run - how to incentivise people to keep growing, keep learning in this way.”

Examples of how AI, data analysis and other new technologies can benefit citizens came from the healthcare sector, pointing to how they can lead to a more pro-active approach to preventative medicine, innovative therapies, early diagnosis and non-invasive treatments.

“Innovation in this area is a catalyst for the wellbeing of the population, there is no doubt about it,” said **Jean-Luc Lemerrier**, Corporate Vice-President, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Canada and Latin America at Edwards Lifesciences. However, he cautioned that a risk-adverse culture characterised by heavy handed regulation and inadequate long-term funding was hampering innovation.

“Today, it is fair to recognise that Europe’s capacity to mature such innovation is probably on the knife edge,” Lemerrier warned. He pointed to a new factor that also risked holding back European innovation: “in Europe, the value



“Today, it is fair to recognise that Europe’s capacity to mature such innovation is probably on the knife edge

Jean-Luc Lemerrier, Corporate Vice-President, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Canada and Latin America, Edwards Lifesciences



- Marta Krupinska**, Head of Google for Startups UK, Co-Founder of real time pay FinTech start-up FreeUP, and European Young Leader (EYL40); **Jakob Haesler**, Co-Founder of Project Alloy and European Young Leader (EYL40)
- Dharmendra Kanani**, Director of Insights at Friends of Europe
- Magid Magid**, Member, European Parliament, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs & European Young Leader (EYL40); **Karoli Hindriks**, Founder & CEO, Jobbatical



of science for the people is probably losing ground because we have so much uncontrolled fake news coming into our daily lives.”

Loubna Bouarfa, CEO and Founder of OKRA Technologies, a company that uses AI data analytics for healthcare, pointed to popular misconceptions about AI and the use of data that are delaying life-saving healthcare developments. She insisted AI would not replace doctors but become an essential tool for them. On the use of data, Bouarfa said regulators had to choose where to strike a balance between privacy and progress.

“On the ethical side, there are two sides: yes, we do need to protect privacy, that’s a must,” she told an early morning roundtable. “But what is also unethical is when we have the technology and the raw material that we can use to signal disease early on and we can avoid that people die, and we don’t use that.”

Looking at broader ethical issues within a fast-changing economic system, **Marta Krupinska**, Head of Google for Start-ups UK, Co-Founder of real time pay FinTech start-up FreeUP, and EYL40, said businesses had to look beyond pure profit-making. “Within the current structure of capitalism, there is a huge incentive for everybody to be maximising financial outcomes rather than maximising social outcomes,” she said, calling for a restructuring of business financing “so that those social outcomes and those values are important.”

Taking up that theme, participants called for new forms of finance that combine and align

public and private investment funding, with each taking different points of risk and responsibilities for prototyping, developing, scaling etc.

That would involve a closer partnership between academia, the state and private companies, with more public funding for initial R&D and the private sector joining in for upscaling at a later stage, said Schmit. Such an ecosystem could help finance the Europe as an innovation hub, but at the moment “that is what Europe is lacking,” he added.

Private and public cooperation should also be used to finance credit to help training both for young people and for workers needing to retrain and develop skills. “What we’d like to create is something like a credit that each person would have for scaling up, changing jobs, changing the total professional orientation,” he said.

A new model could also require public entities to operate more like private equity firms and investment managers, but with an absolute goal to tackle social need, promote greater equality and a responsibility to make a return on each euro spent, some speakers said.

Denis Jaromil Roio, Founder, Dyne.org Foundation and EYL40, argued current economic models for financing start-ups don’t work. “There are new models and they will be driven by the public sector and they will be driven by academic studies and not just by marketing a start-up,” he said, pointing out that the European Commission is already operating equity-free financing for social entrepreneurs.

To facilitate a change in mindset and get public institutions to work more like private companies, they may need to have a more rapid turnover of staffing that shakes up thinking and promotes innovation, as well as introducing more responsibility to do the right thing socially.

“When it comes to accountability, whether it’s in the private sector or the public sector, it’s not rocket science,” said **Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke**, Founder & Managing Director, W4 and EYL40.

Action is urgently needed to tackle a global inequality crisis accentuated by the fact that so much of the world’s wealth is held by a handful of powerful men, said **Jim Clarken**, CEO at Oxfam Ireland. “We have to take that very seriously and look at transformational ways that we can move that along,” he said. “We need to take seriously the idea of measuring and challenging that.”

Changing international taxation rules to crack down on cross-border tax avoidance by multinational corporations, particularly tech companies, and to ensure high-income individuals make a greater contribution to public finances were among the ideas put forward to counter inequality.



“What we’d like to create is something like a credit that each person would have for scaling up, changing jobs, changing the total professional orientation

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner-designate for Jobs, former minister of labour, employment, and the social and solidarity economy of Luxembourg




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Let's get mobile

Increasing social mobility is another key instrument in combatting inequality, the conference heard. Giving youngsters from working-class and minority backgrounds a chance to climb the social ladder is crucial to ensuring that European societies maximise their potential.

“If we don't have social mobility, then we cannot exploit the talent that we have here,” said **Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln**, Chair of Macroeconomics and Development, Goethe University Frankfurt, and winner of the Wilhelm Leibniz Prize of the German Science Foundation. “Governments have to invest more in the children of disadvantaged families.”

Participants agreed that the education system was creating a “have and have-not” situation where poorer children are left behind and prevented from keeping up with the rate of economic and technological change.

There's also a need to look beyond education, stressed **Jakob Haesler**, Co-Founder of Project Alloy and EYL40, who argued that access to good schooling counts for little if families are denied decent housing, sanitation and healthcare. “If you don't provide basic public goods like housing, it is a complete illusion to think that opportunity creates the type of social mobility we are talking about,” he said.



“Access to good schooling counts for little if families are denied decent housing, sanitation and healthcare. If you don't provide basic public goods like housing, it is a complete illusion to think that opportunity creates the type of social mobility we are talking about

Jakob Haesler, Co-Founder of Project Alloy and European Young Leader (EYL40)

It goes without saying that the inclusiveness advanced by social mobility must embrace minorities and gender equality. In a talk on how the EU can ensure power is distributed equally among men and women in all areas – including decision-making on the climate emergency – **Francesca Cavallo**, author and entrepreneur, founder of Timbuktu Labs, and EYL said there “cannot be disruptive innovation without inclusion”.

She said the proof was already there that companies with diverse leadership teams do better but added that gender inclusiveness was not about getting “a nice return on your investment”.

“We should choose to make equality happen simply because it’s the right thing to do,” Cavallo said. “We are here to understand how we can make Europe better, so that the world can be better.”

Several contributors also made the point that cross-border mobility is essential to ensuring Europe has the expertise it requires to compete in the global digital economy.

“What we need is a total change of attitude towards mobility,” said **Timo Harakka**, Finland’s Minister of Employment, who insisted he was “fixing” his country’s problem with immigration. “We have a big incentive to warmly welcome everyone to work in Finland, so we promise to arrange work permits within one month of application.”



“The EU single market needs to be improved to encourage mobility, for example through the creation of EU-wide “passports” for skills, experience and learning

Timo Harakka, Finland Minister of Employment

He agreed that the EU single market needs to be improved to encourage mobility, for example through the creation of EU-wide “passports” for skills, experience and learning.

Harakka spoke in response to **Karoli Hindriks**, CEO and Founder of Jobbatical a company based in Estonia which facilitates international hiring for tech start-ups and traditional companies. She made an appeal for a radical rethink on how Europe handles qualified immigrants. “Every third person in the EU does not have digital skills, according to the European Commission, yet bringing smart people to European countries is taking months or sometimes years,” Hindriks stated. “We don’t only have to improve the way immigration works for highly skilled people; we have to take a major leap. Let’s open those borders.”

That idea gained traction from around the room. “We need smart people from across the world coming to Europe to make Europe an innovation hub,” added **Mary Fitzgerald**, Libya Analyst, award-winning journalist and EYL.

In his presentation, Mischke from the McKinsey Global Institute forecast that reskilling and intra-EU mobility will be increasingly needed as job displacement through technology impacts regions around the Union at different rates. McKinsey’s findings suggested much of Germany, northern Italy and central Europe would be among the areas with highest displacement rates, while Sweden and Finland, most of Great Britain, and southern and western Spain would have some of the lowest levels of displacement.



“We don’t only have to improve the way immigration works for highly skilled people; we have to take a major leap. Let’s open those borders

Karoli Hindriks, CEO and Founder of Jobbatical

“We see huge disparities,” Mischke said. “Regions with repetitive tasks ... face very high displacement rates, including, probably, parts of the industrial regions of Germany.”

To help prepare for those changes, he suggested revising education to emphasise technology, social and emotional skills; life-long learning and employee reskilling programmes; and an emphasis on mobility to match skills.



“We see huge disparities, regions with repetitive tasks ... face very high displacement rates, including, probably, parts of the industrial regions of Germany

Jan Mischke, McKinsey Global Institute Senior Fellow and European Research Leader and co-author of the report ‘A window of opportunity for Europe’



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- 1 Sebastien de Halleux**, COO at Sairdrone, and European Young Leader (EYL40)
- 2 Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke**, Founder & Managing Director, Women's Worldwide Web (W4) & European Young Leader (EYL40)
- 3 Francesca Cavallo**, Bestselling author & Co-Founder, Timbuktu Labs; Co-creator of Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls & European Young Leader (EYL40)
- 4 Leena Vuotovesi**, CEO of Micropolis, award-winning development company leading climate action in the Arctic Circle



New connections

Migration was also a feature in the SoE debate focused on European foreign policy and security, which was opened and closed with poetry readings on migration from the award-winning Libyan-American poet **Khaled Mattawa**, author of the collection *Mare Nostrum*.

Long-term European security policy has to tread a path between the two “extremes” of “building better walls” and not being “naive enough to think we don’t need walls at all”, commented Friends of Europe Senior Fellow and journalist, **Paul Taylor**.

Pointing to issues such as population growth in Africa, demographic decline in much of Europe and desertification forecasts for the Mediterranean basin as a result of climate change, Taylor warned: “We are looking at a big problem that we have to face together and address together. Europe must first of all, like a good doctor, do no harm.”

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia’s former president and Nobel Peace Laureate, said Africa had developed the means to renegotiate and change its historically “uneven, unequal and inequitable” relationship with Europe.

“We are still trying to understand the complexities of the new world order and what they mean for Africa and Europe”, she said, mentioning disunity and issues with extremism.

“Security has to come to the forefront of this relationship and the best security in this relationship



“Europe must first of all, like a good doctor, do no harm

Paul Taylor, Senior Fellow at Friends of Europe, Contributing Editor for Politico

is for Africa to assume the primary responsibility for its own security. There's no two ways about that," Johnson Sirleaf added.

In response to questions on where China fits into the Europe-Africa relationship, she said: "We have to get past the fear of China because there is room for partnership. China has been able to do a lot in infrastructure development for Africa – roads, railways and ports. Those are essential elements of Africa's own development agenda for industrialisation."

Moderating the debate, Friends of Europe's Director of Europe and Geopolitics **Shada Islam** said three paradoxes were "complicating our lives": power is moving from West to East, yet the "old status quo powers are finding it really hard to let go"; the world is interconnected, but at the same time disconnected because "often we are not speaking to each other"; and although we live in a time of turbulence and chaos, it is "a time of opportunity and a time to refresh and revitalise our foreign policy which, frankly, has been stuck".

Taylor noted there was a temptation in Europe to go for "strongman solutions" to issues such as migration, jihadi terrorism and battles over resources but said there was a need to build bridges with non-government actors.

"Europe obviously has to deal with the rulers that are there in each country but we also need to reach out to the younger generation, the women, the business community, and civil society, and we need to be offering things that are in our toolbox like educational opportunity, people exchanges, circular labour migration and managed migration," Taylor concluded.



“We are still trying to understand the complexities of the new world order and what they mean for Africa and Europe

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia's former President and Nobel Peace Laureate



Khaled Mattawa
Award-winning Poet
and Professor of
Creative Writing,
University of Michigan,
Author of the Collection
Mare Nostrum

Malouk's Quassida

Lampedusa only a dozen leagues now, the bay
between it and Sousse a corridor of debris,
a phoenician graveyard.

Are we prepared for the storm's paradise?

The starlings recite the zodiacs on their wings;
the marabouts must in kindness abide.

On the wireless the noises of rescue—
the double dealing of virtue and abuse—
into a theater of salvation we ride.

We are exalted into some hippopotamus,
our mouths checked, hands gloved
with inhuman skin, their fingers inside.

The mouths that speak are covered like the Tuaregs',
their eyes swathed with a dusky mirage.

Our names taken, flicker like fireflies.

Looped around our wrists numbers
that look like a kind of price.

The bull horns cry, the seagulls deride.

On slippery bridges, we're wrapped in gold foil,
woozy, often diseased. But who is saving whom?

The question's not stated, only implied

From the collection *Mare Nostrum 2019*, by Khaled Mattawa

A sample from the poems read during the session 'Dependent or interconnected - reappraising Europe's foreign policy and security role?'



1. **Joaquim Alberto Chissano**, Former President of Mozambique
2. **Maroš Šefčovič**, European Commission Vice-President-designate for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight; **Alexis Tsipras**, Leader of the Opposition and former prime minister of Greece; **Věra Jourová**, European Commission Vice-President-designate for Values and Transparency
3. **Jamila Aanzi**, Business Economist; Dutch UN Women's Representative and European Young Leader (EYL40); **Dionysis Grammenos**, Conductor, Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra and European Young Leader (EYL40)





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Who do you trust?

Domestically too, European governments need to reach out to those sectors of society in order to rebuild trust between the public and governing institutions at national and European level. Although this year's European Parliament elections saw a reversal of abstention rates with the largest turnout in two decades, the #EuropeMatters survey found that 60% of citizens aren't sure they'd miss the EU if it disappeared.

"Young people are starting to say 'we don't trust you and we don't trust your systems', we need to be attentive to this," said **Noura Berrouba**, Member of the European Youth Parliament's Governing Body. She cited failure by governments to address issues such as climate change or gender inequality.

"We have the most political generation since the seventies, but we are not seeing that at the ballot box, we are seeing it on the streets, we are seeing it on social media," Berrouba added. She called for the voting age to be lowered. "I think voting at 16 is not just important, but it's going to be necessary."

Finnish student Iina Loukusa, said that, for the moment, politicians still had her confidence, but she appealed to them to live up to her generation's expectations. "We believe and trust that you really care about us and you want to do all you can for a sustainable future for all of us," she said. "Please be worthy of our trust."



“We have the most political generation since the seventies, but we are not seeing that at the ballot box, we are seeing it on the streets, we are seeing it on social media

Noura Berrouba, Member of the European Youth Parliament's Governing Body

One way to rebuild trust would be to ensure that our governments, parliaments and other institutions mirror the diversity of our societies, suggested MEP Magid Magid. “If we look at the people that we elect as leaders, they don’t necessarily reflect the people that they are there to represent,” he said.

With this year’s elections in Belgium producing a surge in support for the Far Right among young male voters in Flanders and surveys showing a solid youth vote for political extremes in France, some pointed out that increased youth participation doesn’t always produce positive results. “There is partnership between young and old on the good side of some issues and on the bad side of some issues,” said **Étienne Davignon**, President of Friends of Europe, Belgian Minister of State and former vice-president of the European commission.

Taking more political decision-making down to local levels was highlighted as another way to re-connect with voters. “What is needed is a new European localism,” said **Anna König Jerlmyr**, Mayor of Stockholm and President of EUROCITIES. “It is time cities get a real seat around the table.”

She pointed out, for example, that city administrations are often more ambitious in pushing for climate-friendly solutions than national authorities and warned that failure to address citizens’ concerns on this and other key issues could be ruinous for Europe.

“This coming five years may be our final chance to reclaim the narrative of the European project and restore trust in the European project,” König Jerlmyr added.



“We believe and trust that you really care about us and you want to do all you can for a sustainable future for all of us. Please be worthy of our trust

Iina Loukusa, 17-years-old student from Ii, Finland

With local authorities closer to voters and able to be more responsive to citizens' concerns, it's time to rethink top-down power models, argued **Dharmendra Kanani**, Director of Strategy at Friends of Europe. "People believe in Europe, but they don't believe in the institutional framework as is," he said. "Europe needs to be more bottom-up and citizen driven."

Stefano Manservigi, former director-general at the European commission's directorate-general for international cooperation and development, agreed that citizens don't want to ditch the EU, but to change it. "People don't say 'we don't want the European Union', they are simply saying that this European Union is not doing what we want it to do."

However, with Brexit and the behaviour of US President Donald Trump showing voters the downside of rejecting the political centre, support for Europe is "rocketing" said **Viviane Reding**, Member of Luxembourg's Chamber of Deputies Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Cooperation and Immigration; former EU commissioner and former MEP. That is why more people turned out to support pro-European parties at the EP elections in May, she said.

"Why did people go to vote? Because they had a choice between those who wanted to destroy Europe and those who wanted to build Europe," Reding told the conference. "The pro-European centre – more to the right, more to left, it doesn't really matter – the centre was reinforced." Now, those centrist politicians need to show "courage and leadership" to meet voters' expectations, she concluded.



“What is needed is a new European localism, it is time cities get a real seat around the table

Anna König Jerlmyr, Mayor of Stockholm and President of EURO CITIES

2020's Visions

How to do that and produce a vision for Europe in the 2020s is the task for the new European Commission headed by Ursula von der Leyen and the European Parliament elected in May.

The message from Europe's youth includes a demand for fresh approaches. "We are seeing a drastic change in how young people see power and it's based on an urgency," said Noura Berrouba from the Youth Parliament. "We don't only need to change government; we need to change governance."

Alexis Tsipras, former prime minister of Greece and leader of the Opposition, agreed on that need for change. "I'm afraid that the basic model which the strategy of Europe is based on is a model too little, too late," he said. "We have to make significant changes in order to have a better perspective for our people, for our children and for the friends of Europe."

Tsipras, who became his country's youngest prime minister in 150 years when he was elected in 2015, said Europe was at a "critical crossroads" and needed urgently to find consensus to deal with challenges ranging from climate change to economic cohesion, regional stability on the EU's doorstep to solidarity in settling refugees. Without a clear vision from Europe on such issues, Tsipras warned Brexit could be "the beginning of a discussion of many exits from our common principles in the near future."



“I’m afraid that the basic model which the strategy of Europe is based on is a model too little, too late. We have to make significant changes in order to have a better perspective for our people, for our children and for the friends of Europe

Alexis Tsipras, former Prime Minister of Greece and leader of the Opposition



1. **Sony Kapoor**, Managing Director, Re-Define, European Young Leader (EYL40)
2. **Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln**, Chair of Macroeconomics and Development, Goethe University Frankfurt, and winner of the Wilhelm Leibniz Prize of the German Science Foundation
3. **Dawood Azami**, Multi-Media Editor, BBC World Service; Laureate of the BBC Global Reith Award for Outstanding Contribution and European Young Leader (EYL40); **Graça Andresen Guimarães**, Principal Adviser to the Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO) and Non-Executive Trustee, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation



Joining Tsipras for the day's final panel discussion on how to make the EU political project work, were two incoming vice-presidents in Von der Leyen's Commission. All three agreed on the importance of the getting things right during the new Commission's mandate.

"What we do within the next five years could decide the fate of Europe for the rest of the century," **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President-designate for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight.

"There are big challenges ahead of us and we have to do this right," added **Věra Jourová**, Vice-President-designate for Values and Transparency. "We have to look at the values on which the EU is built."

Šefčovič emphasised the importance of forward planning and foresight, using data to make the right choices and maintaining competitiveness both to prevent Europe falling further behind China and the United States and to ensure Europe can still afford its social model.

Given global uncertainties, Europe had to take a lead internationally in fighting climate change, upholding international law and the multilateral liberal order, and helping developing countries. "The world needs Europe more than ever, because we are the good guys," he said.

Several participants flagged that unless Europe adapts its thinking to move beyond short-term solutions to the transformational challenges sweeping the world, it risks being side-lined by regimes with very different values. "If we don't reinvent democracy so that the people who we



“What we do within the next five years could decide the fate of Europe for the rest of the century

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President-designate for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight

elect are some kind of guarantor of the long term, then the risk is that these authoritarian states will be much more effective than us in everything they do, socially and economically, but with values that are very far from where we want to be,” cautioned **André Loesekrug-Pietri**, Head of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative (J.E.D.I.) and EYL.

Jourová highlighted the importance of values and communication in responding to citizens’ concerns at a time when fast-moving changes are generating insecurities among the electorate. Recalling her experience as consumer affairs commissioner, she said politicians need to use straight talking to get the message across on the need to protect elections and media freedom, promote transparency and fight corruption.

“When I went to a member state and said I want to do something to make goods on the market better and higher quality, people applauded me, but when I say that I want to increase the quality of democracy, nobody understands what I mean,” she explained.

In the wider State of Europe debate, others argued that rather than develop new rules and institutions, Europe needs the political will to push through change. “No matter what topic it is about ... everything is about the political will to make it happen. It’s all up to political leaders, countries to decide,” **Dalia Grybauskaite**, former president of Lithuania and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders.

Too often, she contended, political leaders hide behind technicalities to avoid their political



“No matter what topic it is about ... everything is about the political will to make it happen. It’s all up to political leaders, countries to decide

Dalia Grybauskaite, former president of Lithuania and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders

responsibilities. To move forward, Europe needs a drive for change in national capitals as well as at EU headquarters in Brussels. “The Commission can only do as much as they are allowed to do by the national governments,” Grybauskaite added.

Tsipras agreed that Europe needs politicians with the courage to develop a new vision for Europe. “What we need now as friends of Europe are braver decisions for Europe ... with a vision for a braver Europe,” he said. “This is the only way Europe can move forward.”

Generally, more pro-European than their elders, young people “are the bridge to this vision of a Europe which is feasible” asserted **Eitvydas Bingelis**, Lithuania’s Vice-Minister for Social Security and Labour. Greater youth participation in politics should be encouraged by more e-democracy and parties fielding younger candidates, he said.

“More young people should be involved in decision making,” Bingelis insisted. “Many people are saying ‘youth is the future’, but I want to say, ‘youth is not the future, youth is today.’”

Summing up, Friends of Europe President Davignon, concluded that constructive political action can overcome generational gaps. “The divide is between those that want to do something and those that want to complain about the situation,” he said. “Once you are on the positive side you have a lot support from the younger generation.”



“Young people are the bridge to this vision of a Europe which is feasible

Eitvydas Bingelis, Lithuania’s Vice-Minister for Social Security and Labour



President's Gala dinner

On the eve of State of Europe, Count Etienne Davignon, President of Friends of Europe, hosted several hundred high-level guests to the President's gala dinner — an informal, yet intellectually stimulating and entertaining opportunity in which guests connected ahead of the State of Europe high-level roundtable, the next day.

During the dinner guests had the opportunity to enjoy an inspiring speech by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of the Republic of Liberia and Nobel Peace Laureate.



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

President's Gala Dinner Speech

16th October 2019

Palais d'Egmont, Brussels

In the last millennium Europe dominated the world stage controlling most of the world's trade routes, economic resources and culture. Europe expanded world democracies, economic and political systems, fundamental technologies and a modern way of life. Following the Second World War a shift in world power removed Europe from the centre of the global stage as the United States and Russia, rival superpowers, overshadowed Europe. The changes brought China flexing its economic and cultural muscles to demand prominence on global platforms, at the same time developing nations, including those in Africa, emerged to claim a place in an expanding global power platform and Europe rose again consolidating into a political and economic force throughout the formation of a European Union – which like magnet drew in the Eastern European nations following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the newly free states after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

We thought at the time we had it all figured out. Our shared values of democratic and economic freedoms were on ascent, the arch of history had been bent towards a more perfect system of governance. If there is one thing I have learned throughout my 80 years – is that you cannot rest on your laurels. No nation, no society, no person – no leader can. The next century will test all of us as nationalism, populism, isolationism, xenophobia and illiberalism, challenge our core values, our democratic culture, our trust in multilateralism. Friends, what does this mean for the future of Europe? How will Europe be able to stay relevant in a rapidly changing world? I propose that part of the answer lies in Europe's relationship with and engagements in Africa.

To explain why, we must first look that the relationship between Africa and Europe. The Europe of today could not be what it is without Africa. 12.5 million Africans taken from emerging empires lost their lives and freedoms to the European need for labour. They lost their land, natural resources and labour, which fuelled the Industrial Revolution in Europe and other Western nations. The liberation and independence of Africa in the 1960s altered the dynamic between the continent and Europe. African nations were able to determine their own forms of government and were free to set the course of their own countries. But while much has changed, much remains the same. Europe still relies heavily on Africa for raw materials. Every advancement in technology relies on African resources. I would venture that everyone in this room is in possession of a smartphone – the symbol of our modern age of connectivity. These devices rely on rechargeable batteries of which cobalt is an essential component. 50% of the world reserves of this rare earth material are found in Africa. I propose that the Europe of tomorrow will rise to its true potential with a reset and a strengthening of his relationship with Africa. A continent in which by 2050 one of the five persons will belong to that continent. A continent whose biodiversity will be critical to slowing global warming, meeting the challenges of climate change to become a driver of growth.

Friends as the world continues to change, the balance of power created with the end of World War II is in flux. New technologies allow us to be more connected than at any other point in human history. Space exploration and artificial intelligence are becoming more possible, if not inevitable. Europe will need to create new strategies to overcome challenges if it is to stay relevant in this new world. One such challenge is that Europe's population is rapidly aging, 30% of Europeans are over the age of 55. Europe experiences 10.2 deaths per 1000 compared to 10.1 deaths per 1000. Europe's population is expected to decline by 70%, this is compared to the explosive growth perceived and projected in areas like Africa which is projected to double its size by 2.4 billion by the year 2050.

Europe must also find new ways to stay at the forefront of innovation and technological development. This means that it has to compete with other areas of the world. The United States has a proven track record of innovation and producing disruptive technologies. China controls much of the world's rare earth mineral resources and remains a large manufacturing hub. Europe will need to compete with African nations who are also looking to become innovators. In both instances, Africa offers possible solutions to Europe. As Europe's population ages it will need the influx of young people to replace those retiring, to increase the workforce, and to bring new skills and ideas to the European market. The migration of Africans to Europe, done safely and legally, can benefit both countries. Europe will benefit from an influx of employable individuals and African migrants will benefit from education and vocational training obtained in Europe. Africa likewise can benefit Europe when it comes to innovation. Both continents seek to become hubs of innovation. Partnerships between Europe and Africa would prove mutually beneficial. Europe has the technical expertise that Africa needs, but Africa offers Europe access to critical mineral resources.

Friends, there are crucial moments in world history in which cooperation and partnerships were the solutions to problems. Following World War II, the Marshall Plan sought to develop Europe. Aid and assistance were sent to Europe to rebuild devastated infrastructure, jumpstart economies, and help European nations get on their feet. The United States recognized that rebuilding a war-torn Europe was not only a humanitarian duty, but that developing the economies of Europe would have a reciprocal effect. A developed Europe would in turn benefit the economy of the United States and the rest of the world. While times have changed the underlying principle that a rising tide lifts all boats has not changed. This is my hope for the future of Europe and Africa.

Both regions of the world have much to offer each other. Neither will solve their respective problems in isolation, rather it is through cooperation and partnership that we will be able together to reinvigorate our economies, develop our nations and reach boldly into the future of innovation. Let us consider the following: Europe in Africa needs a dialogue on shared innovations - the key to future progress. Both continents aim to become hopes of innovation – together new ways can be found to stay at the forefront of innovation and technological development. Partnerships between Europe and Africa combining Europe's technical expertise, Africa's natural resources and Africa's increasing number of young skilled innovators, will create a globally competitive technological hub that can benefit both continents. We talked about this afternoon with Friends of Europe. We had in those meetings a young African innovator who talked about the experiences he had as he brought his innovative ideas, working with European companies to be able to improve certain elements of technological interventions in Africa.

Second, Africa and Europe need increased trade and development. This is a historical partnership much like the Marshall Plan. Africa has much to offer Europe, as its economies become even more developed the African continental trade agreement provides the opportunity for a pooling of Europe and African resources, focused on infrastructure development which includes roads, railways telecommunications and power. The African Development Bank has estimated that this will require 130 to 150 million dollars annually. Let me suggest this is not the beyond reach of a European-African partnership, joined by the private sector through instruments that provide a de-risking of private capital. The plan for an infrastructure Marshall Plan a scaling of resources obtained from both countries; Europe which has already started through the European Commission to provide resources for the building of infrastructure; Africa through improved domestic revenue taxing systems can provide the resources that enable us to see it transforming Africa based on improved infrastructure. And in Africa, host economies will grow to the place where it becomes not only a stronger partner to Europe but a place to expand the trade relationship and a trading that has taken place over the years of partnership.

Third, Europe must recognize the benefits of migration and immigration. A Europe Africa partnership must agree on the means for legal, safe and orderly travel from Africa to destinations in Europe. A compact between Europe and the African Union, should replace individual country arrangements and should be based upon the Global Compact adopted in Marrakesh in December 2018. This compact seeks to encourage cooperation for tracking missing migrants and saving lives - ensuring migrants can access basic services and making provisions for full inclusion of migrants and social cohesion while respecting the rights and the laws of destination countries. At the same time Africa must adopt policies for the free movement of its people across borders and for the protection of those who do so for legal and justifiable reasons such as safety and opportunities. Africa must also continue to accelerate and diversify growth, adopt inclusive development strategies and good governance to give citizens the confidence and the desire to remain at home.

Finally, equity for women. The world applauds a strong leadership for equity, equal opportunity, and the contribution of women in several European nations. There has been significant progress in others and throughout the world, including Africa, but the progress remains constrained by the failure to adopt the policies and measures required to achieve the gender equity of which we so often speak. Europe and Africa can combine policies and actions for a search to support programs and interventions to create the wave of women made ready for leadership positions throughout society. This would represent a boost to global GDP by up to 31%. We would also, with more women in leadership positions, have a more peaceful and secured world. As Europe and Africa face together the challenges of a changing world, there must be a true partnership.

Africa has come of age, claims ownership of its endowment, responsibility for its own development, and leadership of a future defined by itself. In this a strengthened partnership between Africa and Europe together can take the next steps by creating reciprocal accountability, adopting the laws and policies that ensures equity in commodity pricing, in tax systems, in capital flight, repatriation and expanding and investing in the role of women. By working together dear friends, Africa and Europe would inevitably be helping ourselves, face the challenges of competition from a changing world.

The proverb you all know: if you want to go fast – go alone. If you want to go far – go together. Africa and Europe have no choice. We've been together from those days before independence, we've stayed together all these years, and in the future, we have no choice but to remain together to combine our forces to ensure mutual benefits to all of our peoples.

Thank you.





- 1. Gunilla Carlsson**, Deputy Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS); Member of the Moderate Party of Sweden; **Koen Vervaeke**, European External Action Service Managing Director of the Directorate for Africa
- 2. Geert Cami**, Co-Founder and Secretary General, Friends of Europe
- 3. Marco Mensink**, Director-General, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC); **Daniele Ferrari**, President, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC); **Martin Porter**, Executive Chair, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
- 4. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, Former president of the Republic of Liberia and Nobel Peace Laureate; **Jim Clarken**, Chief Executive Officer, Oxfam Ireland





1. **Jacques Bughin**, Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company and Director at the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI); **Christian Leffler**, Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS)
2. **Monica Frassoni**, Co-Chair, European Green Party; Trustee of Friends of Europe; **Mario Monti**, Senator, Italy and former Prime Minister; former EU Commissioner for Competition and Trustee of Friends of Europe
3. **Carlos Moedas**, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
4. **Eduardo Portal Martin**, Conductor & European Young Leader (EYL40); **Tomáš Ignác Fénix**, Vice President, European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) and European Young Leader (EYL40)
5. **Solveigh Hieronimus**, Partner, McKinsey & Company, Germany
University of Konstanz





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1. **Christiane Muyldermans**, Counsel Regulatory Affairs, Corporate Public Affairs at KBC Asset Management
2. **Tsvetelina Penkova**, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Budgetary Control; **Paul Révay**, Former European Director, The Trilateral Commission & Trustee of Friends of Europe
3. **Dragos Pislaru**, Member, European Parliament, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and former Romanian Minister of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly
4. **Natalia Pouzyreff**, Secretary of the Defence Committee in the French National Assembly; **Liudas Mažylyis**, Member, European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)



4

Programme

08.00–09.30 WELCOME COFFEE AND REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

08.30–09.20 EARLY-BIRD BRIEFINGS

LIBRARY

How are we changing Europe?

This set of parallel early-bird briefings, held by experts in their respective fields, features short and inspiring conversations to showcase Europe as an innovation hub.

TABLE 1 – How AI and machine learning are innovating health

Loubna Bouarfa, CEO & Founder OKRA Technologies

TABLE 2 – Generating and educating the next generation of founders

Marta Krupinska, Head of Google for Startups UK, Co-Founder of real time pay FinTech start-up FreeUP, and European Young Leader (EYL40)

TABLE 3 – Facial recognition, social scoring, autonomous machines... Will technology destroy liberal societies or will it allow us to reinvent democracy?

André Loesekrug-Pietri, Director of JEDI, former special advisor to the French Minister of Defence, Founder of ACAPITAL and European Young Leader (EYL40)

TABLE 4 – Unleashing girls' digital power

Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, CEO, Plan International

TABLE 5 – Broken mobility is breaking the European job market

Karoli Hindriks, Founder & CEO, Jobbatical

TABLE 6 – Levering the power of "Designed in Europe"

Alfredo Munoz, Founder and CEO of ABIBOO, and European Young Leader (EYL40)

MODERATOR

Shada Islam, Director of Europe and Geopolitics, Friends of Europe

09.30-09.45

**HALL OF
MIRRORS**

SCENE SETTING

The Trust Deficit – reinvigorating democracy through citizens’ participation?

The turnout for the European Parliament elections provides an opportunity to build on an engaged citizenry. The message to policy-makers and members states is strong: citizens want to have a say in how Europe is run, be involved in policy decisions, and see an improvement of transparency.

Can Europe develop a different model based on power-sharing and learn from local innovation, which is paving a new way to listen to citizens while increasing transparency and accountability?

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSANTS

Anna König Jerlmyr, Mayor City of Stockholm and President of EUROCITIES

Jere, Joonas and Iina, School children from the town of Ii in Finland, leading municipality in the transition to renewable energy and climate action

MODERATOR

Dharmendra Kanani, Director of Insights, Friends of Europe

09.45-11.15

**HALL OF
MIRRORS**

OPENING SESSION

Vision Innovation for Europe

Europe and its new leadership need to adopt an innovation mindset and find a formula to balance conflicting interests. These include: competitiveness in a global economy vs. social equality at home; the free flow of capital, goods, and ideas vs. the preservation of intellectual property and entrepreneurial spirit; security vs. individual rights, liberties and self-determination; the free movement of people, migration, and political asylum vs. the preservation of traditions, cultural identity and the ability to integrate.

How can innovation become Europe's comparative advantage in policy making? What are the conditions, trade-offs and deal-breakers to enable politics, the private sector and civil society to create a culture of trust and make Europe the global innovation hub of the future?

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSANTS

Dalia Grybauskaitė, Former president of Lithuania and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders

Pascal Lamy, President Emeritus of the Notre Europe Jacques Delors Institute and lead of the mission on “Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters” for Horizon Europe, former European commissioner for trade and WTO director-general, Trustee of Friends of Europe

Jacques Bughin, Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company and Director at the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI)

Jean-Luc Lemercier, Corporate Vice President, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Canada and Latin America, Edwards Lifesciences

MODERATOR

Dharmendra Kanani, Director of Insights, Friends of Europe

09.45-11.15

COFFEE BREAK

11.45-12.00

LIBRARY

IDEA SHARING

Men and women – getting better and different leadership?

Any football fan will tell you: you can't win a match with 11 left footed strikers. And yet, that's exactly who we have on the EU's pitch today. It's time to get women off the bench and into the game. Or else, we're destined to lose. Big time. One of the first places to start is with our leadership. How can we cooperate and build partnerships to make sure that power, in all areas, is distributed equally among men and women?

WITH

Francesca Cavallo, Author & Entrepreneur, Founder of Timbuktu Labs, and European Young Leader (EYL40)

12.00-13.15

LIBRARY

SESSION I

Hot or cold – taking a whole systems approach to climate?

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSANTS

Connie Hedegaard, Lead of the mission on “Adaptation to Climate Change including Societal Transformation” for Horizon Europe, Chair of the KR Foundation, former European Commissioner for Climate Action and Minister of Environment to Denmark

Leena Vuotovesi, CEO of Micropolis, award winning development company leading climate action in the Arctic Circle

Sebastien de Halleux, COO at Saildrone, and European Young Leader (EYL40)

MODERATOR

Shada Islam, Director of Europe and Geopolitics, Friends of Europe

13.15-14.15

LUNCH BREAK

11.45-12.00

**HALL OF
MIRRORS**

IDEA SHARING

Old and young – bridging differences and divides?

The age and generational gap will only get bigger. By 2060 those aged 65 and over will number 152 million. As well as impossibly high fiscal costs, demographic change condemns the under-35s to being outvoted for the foreseeable future. Both groups are affecting Europe by what they want from society. How can we ensure that we mitigate the demographic impact which is going to fundamentally change Europe in the years to come?

WITH

Magid Magid, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, former Lord Mayor of Sheffield City Council, and European Young Leader (EYL40)

Etienne Davignon, President of Friends of Europe

12.00-13.15

**HALL OF
MIRRORS**

SESSION II

Rich and poor – narrowing the gap through a fairer taxation and social model?

Growing inequalities between and within EU member states pose a serious threat to Europe's cohesion. From the North to the South, to the East and West, social mobility is decreasing. A mass of people are not benefitting from our transforming technologically driven economies. Can we balance the score card between rich and poor by leveraging housing, education, entrepreneurship, technology and access to finance to enable those who are net-benefiters of welfare to become net-contributors? How can we transform the system and re-set the economic and social frameworks for a fairer taxation model?

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSANTS

Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln, Chair of Macroeconomics and Development, Goethe University Frankfurt, and winner of the Wilhelm Leibniz Prize of the German Science Foundation

John Collison, Co-Founder and President of Stripe, and European Young Leader (EYL40)

MODERATOR

Dharmendra Kanani, Director of Insights, Friends of Europe

13.15-14.15

LUNCH BREAK

14.15-15.30
LIBRARY

SESSION III

Dependent or interconnected – reappraising Europe’s foreign policy and security role?

Rapid global and domestic changes are forcing Europe to reassess its relations with old and new global powers - and redefine its own international role. The EU’s move to forge a stronger security identity, clinch new trade and investment accords and take the lead in salvaging the Iran nuclear deal, reforming the World Trade Organisation and maintaining momentum on Climate Change are encouraging signs. It’s now time to become bolder, more skilful and more innovative. The EU’s focus should shift from out-dated “hub and spoke” agreements to innovative deals which encourage a real two-way exchange of knowledge, finance and people to tackle shared challenges.

What should be the key elements of a new European global strategy? In a world marked by zero-sum games, can the EU invest in cooperative leadership for better global governance?

POETRY READING BY

Khaled Mattawa, Award-winning Poet and Professor of Creative Writing, University of Michigan, Author of the Collection *Mare Nostrum*

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSANTS

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former president of the Republic of Liberia; Nobel Peace Laureate

Paul Taylor, Senior Fellow at Friends of Europe, Contributing Editor for *Politico*

MODERATOR

Shada Islam, Director of Europe and Geopolitics, Friends of Europe

15.30-16.00 COFFEE BREAK

14.15-15.30

**HALL OF
MIRRORS**

SESSION IV

No jobs or more jobs – rejuvenating Europe’s industrial base?

Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and data are transforming capital flows, value chains, industrial bases, consumer behaviour and ultimately the jobs market. How Europe transitions to a fully-fledged digital society while preserving its manufacturing and industrial power, will depend on a drastic rethink of its relationship with its industrial base. How we get there requires a new and innovative digital global strategy for industrial policy with a European intent. How can we bring leaders closer to craft an innovation based industrial strategy?

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSANTS

Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Mate Rimac, Founder & CEO Rimac Automobili

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner-designate for Jobs, former minister for labour, employment, and the social and solidarity economy of Luxembourg

MODERATOR

Dharmendra Kanani, Director of Insights, Friends of Europe

15.30-16.00

COFFEE BREAK

16.00-17.15
LIBRARY

CONCLUSION

Are you in or out – making the EU political project work?

Europe is at a crossroads. As the incoming leadership is set to take its place, the political landscape between those that want to be part of strong and united Europe of values and those who see the EU as an economic transactor – has fragmented institutions, member states and citizens between two camps. As we move ahead, member states must ask themselves what do they want out of the political project and are they willing to make it work? How will the new EU leadership learn from the legacy of the last mandate to manage the social, economic and political divides that have hampered unity?

WITH

Věra Jourová, European Commission Vice-President-designate for Values and Transparency

Maroš Šefčovič, European Commission Vice-President-designate for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight

Alexis Tsipras, Leader of the Opposition and former prime minister of Greece

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17.15 END

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