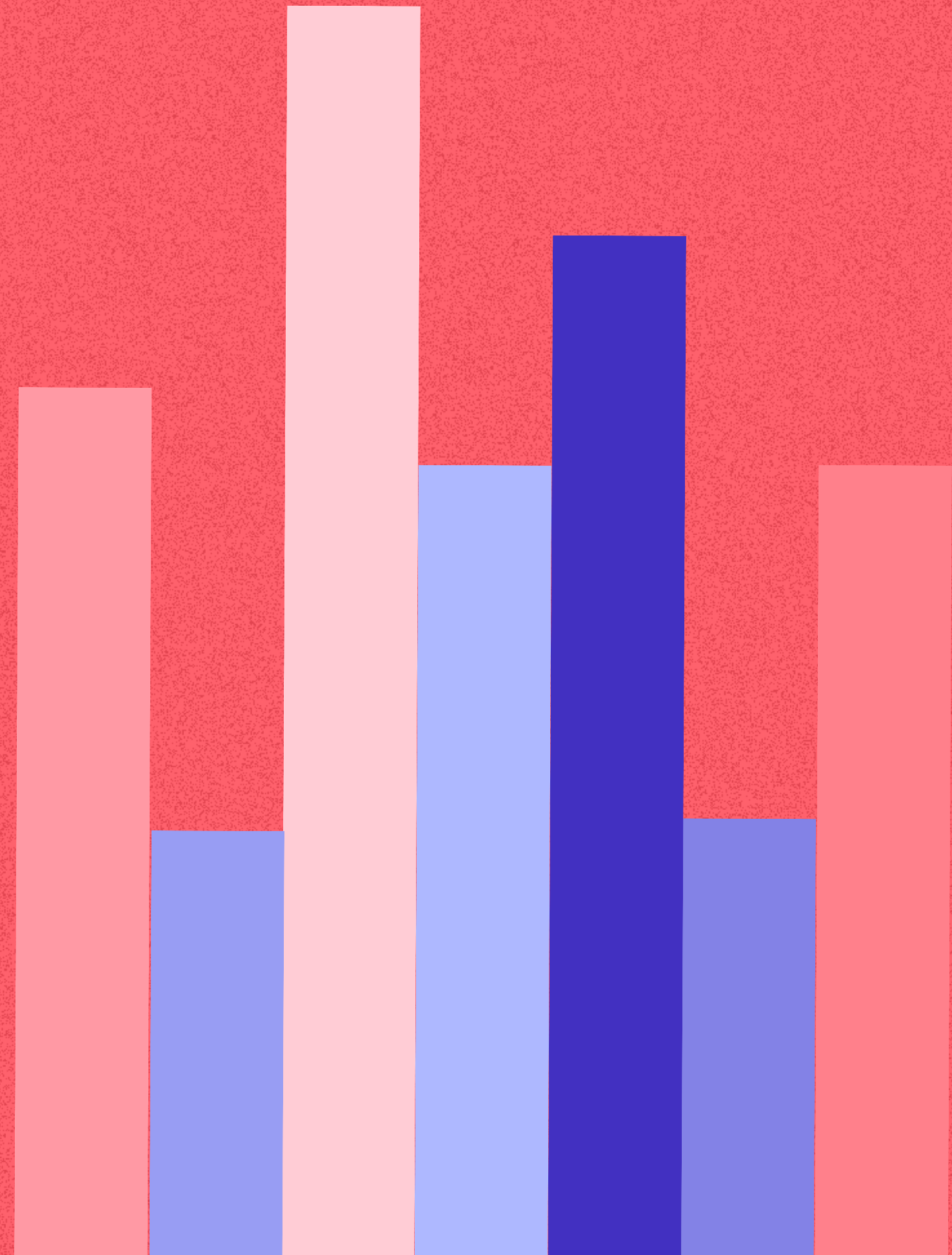




Connect. Debate. Change.

Our work in 2022

The think tank for a more inclusive,
sustainable and forward-looking Europe



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Dear friends,

Slowly but steadily recovering from a global pandemic, we entered 2022 with cautious optimism, until Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine disrupted the world as we knew it. War against a sovereign, European nation called into question foundational tenets of the post-Cold War era. The expansive nature of the war's repercussions was immediately evident and it became clear that Europe would never be the same again.

Albeit humble, Friends of Europe's response to the war sought to examine the immediate crises brought on by Russian aggression, as well as the long-term challenges that would or could lie ahead. Our teams took tremendous initiative and care to reformulate planned activities in order to address the unfolding consequences of the war across all of our areas of expertise. Increased defence needs, supply chain disruptions, an influx of refugees, as well as the growing energy and cost-of-living crises, came to the fore. Nevertheless, long-standing challenges persisted. More than ever before, our societies faced the urgency to reinforce and strengthen democracy, equality of opportunity and sustainability.

Our current policy approaches and frameworks were created for societies of the past. In order to reach a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-thinking Europe, we need to radically rethink outdated and obsolete functions of our societies. We must rewrite the social contract. In 2022, we adopted the Renewed Social Contract as the overarching narrative of the organisation's work. As ever, we extend our sincere appreciation to our team for their commitment to our work throughout the past year, as well as our network of members, partners, European Young Leaders (EYL40) and trustees for their continued support.

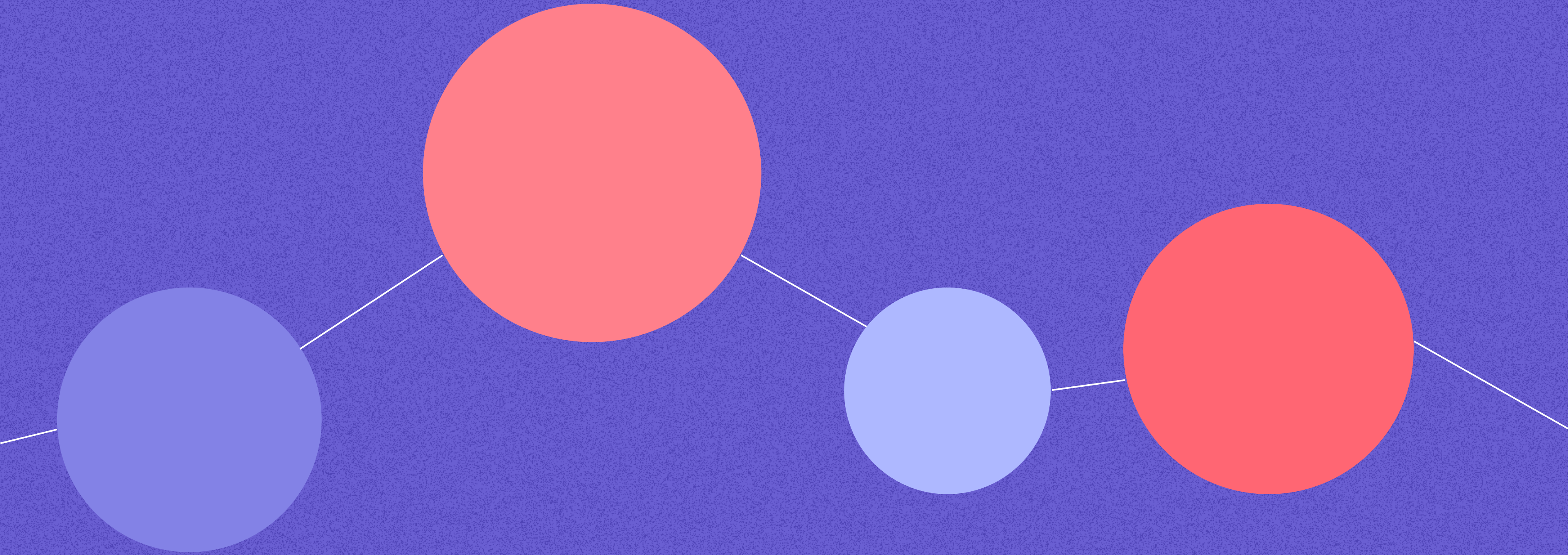
Moving forward, our entire programme of activities will support our effort to design a Renewed Social Contract for Europe. With the next European elections on the horizon, we face a make-or-break opportunity to rebuild trust, hope and confidence in the European project – to revitalise the European project. Friends of Europe will continue to work diligently and passionately towards this mission, which has only become all the more important in the context of the challenges that the continent faces today.

Geert Cami

Co-Founder and Secretary-General
of Friends of Europe

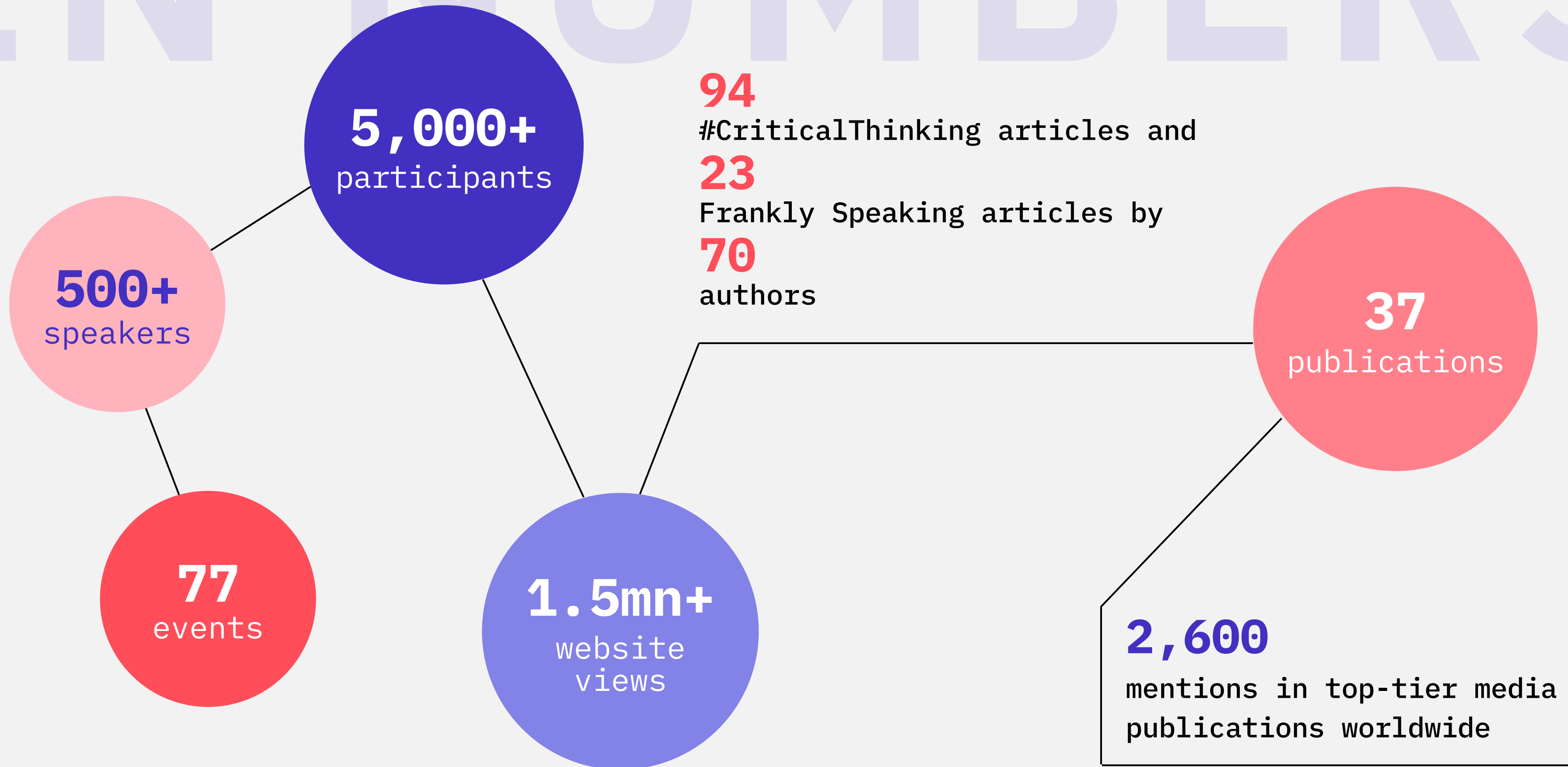
Thomas Leysen

President of the Governing Board of Friends of
Europe, Chairman of Mediahuis, Umicore and Royal DSM,
Honorary Chairman of the King Baudouin Foundation



IN NUMBERS

LINK NUMBERS



Bloomberg



CNN

EURACTIV

REUTERS

vrt

EL PAÍS

msn



The Economist

news24
Trusted News. First

yahoo!

FINANCIAL TIMES

LE SOIR

CHINADAILY

LINK NUMBERS

327,000
followers



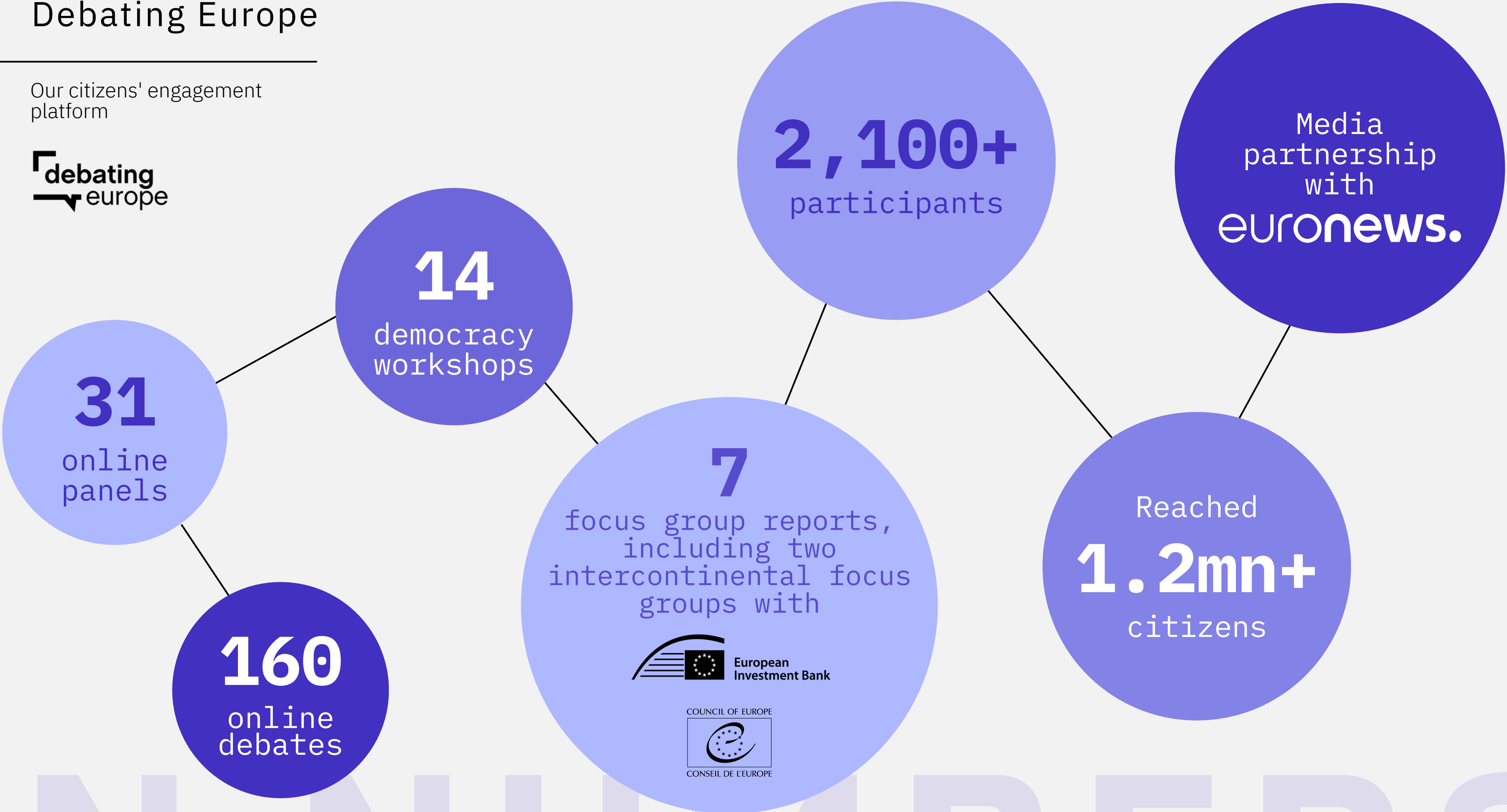
84.3 mn+
impressions

5,600+
new
followers

29
podcasts with
10,000
listeners

Debating Europe

Our citizens' engagement platform



TEN NUMBERS

Africa-Europe Foundation

The Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) is an independent platform for multistakeholder dialogue, frank debate and strategic analysis, for a deeper partnership between Africa and Europe.



75+
countries
reached

26
international
outreach
initiatives

100+
multistakeholder
Strategy Group
members

90
High-Level
Group members
and Women
Leaders

16
local
initiatives via
micro-grant
scheme

T N I U M B E R S

They trust us

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*



Coca-Cola
in Europe



Fondazione
CARIPLO 

Google



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**

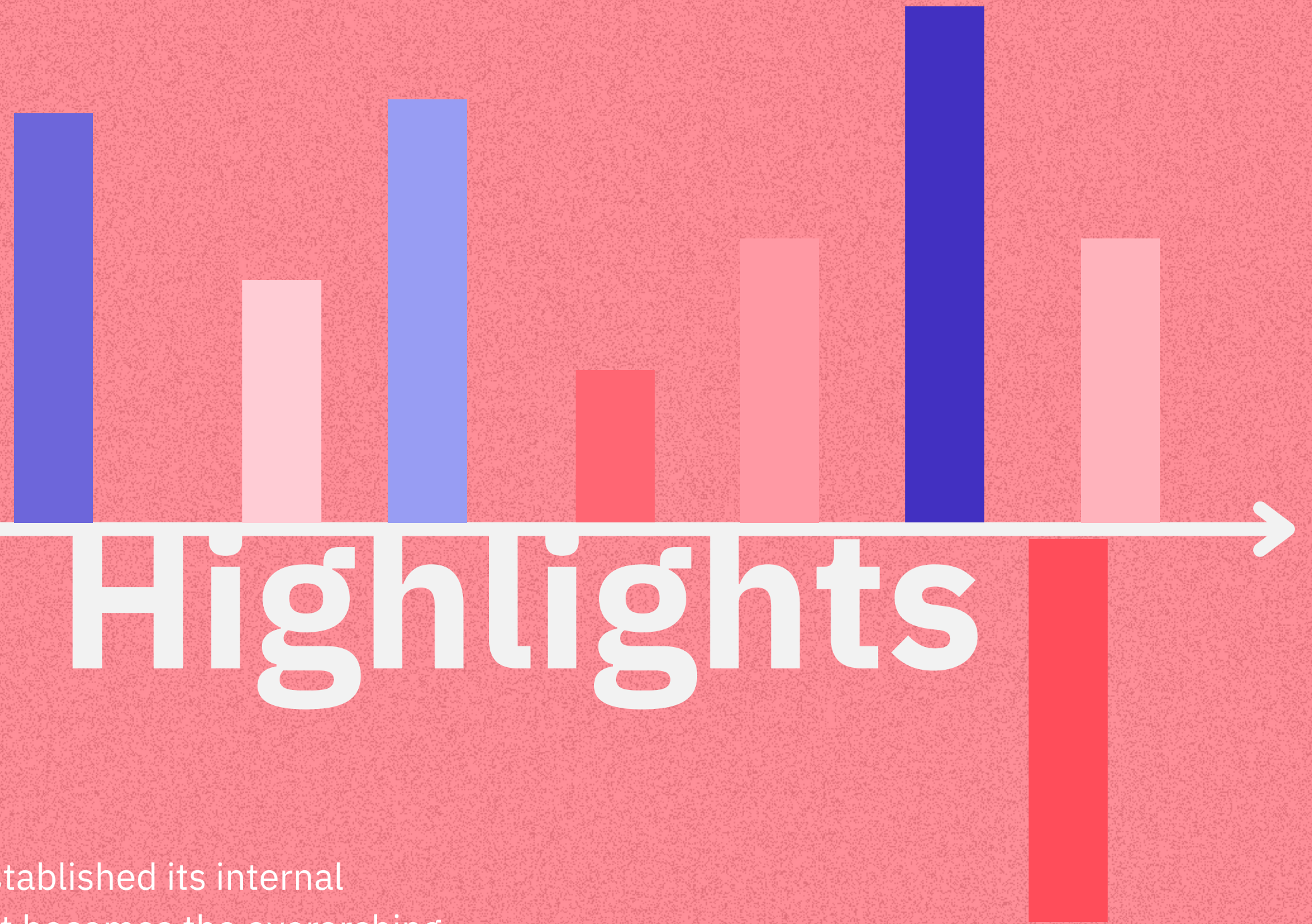


 **vodafone**



TNINIMBERS

2022



2022 was a transition year for Friends of Europe, while it established its internal thinking on the Renewed Social Contract and ensured that it becomes the overarching narrative of the organisation's work through 2030. The Renewed Social Contract was embedded across all areas of expertise and is now the lens through which we present ourselves to the world. Every activity we put together is in one way, shape or form connected to the ambition of designing a Renewed Social Contract for Europe.

January

In the weeks leading up to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Friends of Europe launched its [Frankly Speaking Podcast](#). The first season featured Senior Fellows for Peace, Security and Defence, as well as special guests, and focused on the geopolitical crisis and eventual war.



Chris Kremidas-Courtney

Senior Fellow for Peace, Security and Defence at Friends of Europe and Senior Advisor at Extended Reality Safety Initiative (XRSI)



Jamie Shea

Senior Fellow for Peace, Security and Defence at Friends of Europe and former deputy assistant secretary general for emerging security challenges at NATO



Paul Taylor

Senior Fellow for Peace, Security and Defence at Friends of Europe and Contributing Editor at POLITICO

FRANKLY SPEAKING PODCAST





January

February

As full-scale war broke out in Europe, Friends of Europe evaluated its planned activities in order to address the mounting consequences brought on by Russia's aggression not only in the areas of peace, security and defence, but across all of our areas of expertise.

This aggression is a direct threat to the whole of Europe.

Jamie Shea

Senior Fellow for Peace, Security and Defence at Friends of Europe



January

February

Celebrating its [tenth anniversary](#), the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme welcomed a new class of 46 young leaders and hosted its spring seminar in Zagreb.



Do we care? Hell yes!

Ricardo Baptista Leite

Founder and President of UNITE, Member of the Portuguese Parliament and 2015-2016 EYL40



The Africa-Europe Foundation partnered during Africa-Europe Week, bringing together young people and senior decision-makers to feed into the 6th AU-EU Summit and COP27.

*This network stays with you.
We all come from different backgrounds and sectors.
These approaches help make the picture bigger.*

Kaja Kallas

Prime Minister of Estonia, Trustee of Friends of Europe and 2017 EYL40

Benamina Karić

Mayor of Sarajevo and 2022 EYL40

Justas Janauskas

Co-Founder of Vinted and 2022 EYL40

Michal Šimečka

Vice-President of the European Parliament and 2022 EYL40

Julia Angwin

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist and Co-Founder & Editor-in-Chief of The Markup

Andrej Plenković

Prime Minister of Croatia



January

February

April

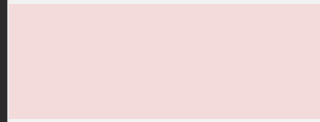
Our [Balkan Journey](#) initiative formed a working group on women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans to explore economic opportunities for women in the region.



Dragana Sotirovski
Mayor of the City
of Niš



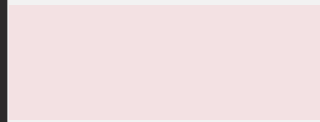
Gordana Čomić
Serbian Minister for Human and
Minority Rights and Social Dialogue



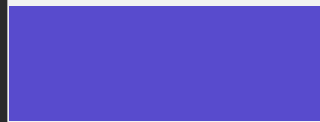
January



February

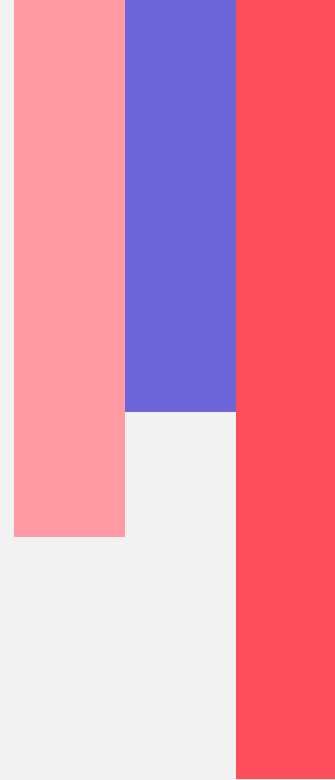


April



May

Our [tabletop exercise](#) brought together public-private civil society actors on the topic of boosting public-private cooperation in hybrid crises. Resulting recommendations have been adopted by the European Union, notably with the establishment of the EU representation office in the Silicon Valley.



Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

Dutch Minister of State, former secretary-general of NATO and Trustee of Friends of Europe



Veronica Tsepalo

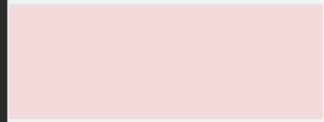
Belarus opposition leader, and Founder and Chair of the Belarus Women's Foundation



Hanna Linderstål

CEO of the Earhart Business Protection Agency and Advisor at the Extended Reality Safety Initiative (XRSI)

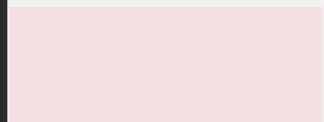




January



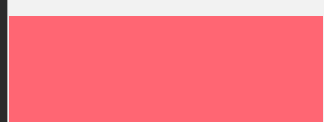
February



April



May



June

MAKING SPACE MATTER summit

Friends of Europe held its annual [Climate and Energy Summit](#) and organised its first-ever [Making Space Matter Summit](#), which saw the launch of the tenth study in our European Defence Cooperation series by Senior Fellow Paul Taylor.



Aarti Holla-Maini
Secretary-General at Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA)



Diederik Samsom
Head of Cabinet of the Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans



Jean-Pierre Clamadieu
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Engie



Josef Aschbacher
Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA)

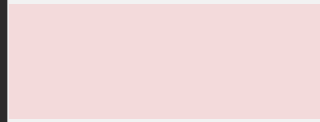


Camilla Toulmin
Senior Fellow for Sustainable Energy at the Africa-Europe Foundation



Youssef Travaly
Senior Advisor for Digital at the Africa-Europe Foundation

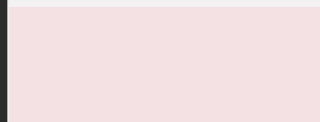
The Africa-Europe Foundation launched its [Working Group on Climate Adaptation](#) to catalyse cooperation between the two continents and drive forward action and strategic foresight ahead of COP27 in Egypt.



January



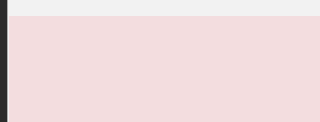
February



April



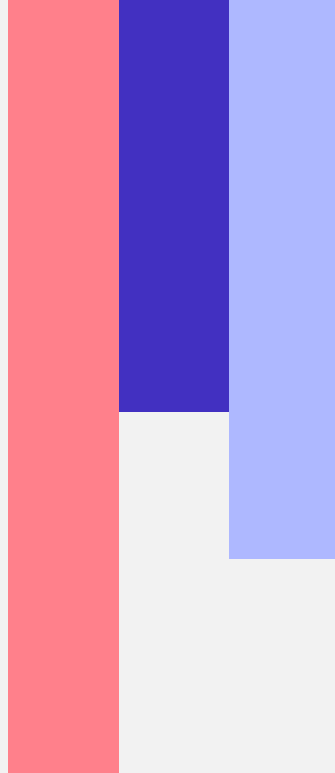
May



June



September



[The EYL40 programme is] a wonderful programme, offering the opportunity to see many other examples of leadership...

Bastian Obermayer

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist and 2018 EYL40

Connecting inspiring innovators in the fight against climate change from both the EU and the US, the [Transatlantic Climate Dialogue](#) series concluded at the EYL40 autumn seminar in Lisbon.

Friends of Europe completed the first iteration of its [Iran in Focus](#) programme, which takes a wider perspective on security to identify new approaches to diplomatic relations with the country.

Enass Abo-Hamed

Co-Founder and CEO of H2GO Power and 2022 EYL40



Marko Russiver

Founder and CEO of Grantful and 2022 EYL40



Carlos Moedas

Mayor of Lisbon, former EU commissioner and Trustee of Friends of Europe



Edite Estrela

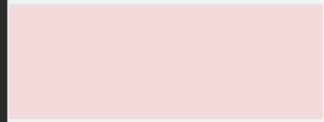
Vice President of the Portuguese Parliament



Negar Mortazavi

Host of The Iran Podcast and 2017 MENA Young Leader (EYL40)

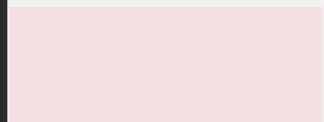




January



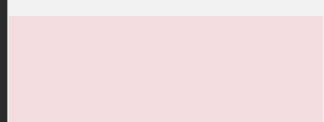
February



April



May



June



September



October



Ece Temelkuran

Award-winning Turkish novelist, political commentator, author of 'How to Lose a Country: The 7 Steps from Democracy to Dictatorship'



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Award-winning Nigerian novelist, writer and author of 'Americanah' and 'We Should all be Feminists'

Welcoming award-winning novelists Ece Temelkuran and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, our President's Gala Dinner centred around womanity to redefine what it means to be a human in Europe and the world.



We can change laws and policies, but if we do not change mindsets, nothing really changes.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

January

February

April

May

June

September

October

The State of Europe high-level roundtable was the starting point for the definition of ‘10 policy choices for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe’, which will feed into policy recommendations that will be presented and socialised among European and national institutions in the context of the 2024 European elections.

State of Europe was a great moment to renew my hope in the construction of a fairer and better Europe

Mariya Gabriel

European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Digital Economy and Society, and 2019 EYL40



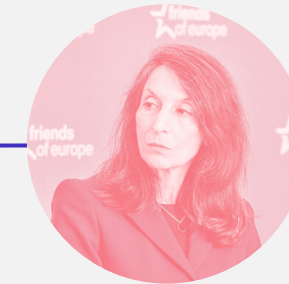
Anna König Jerlmyr

Former mayor of Stockholm, former member of the Swedish Riksdag and Trustee of Friends of Europe



Pilvi Torsti

Finnish State Secretary for Transport and Communications



Angela Paolini Ellard

Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)



Nadia Calviño

Spanish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation



Zanda Kalnina-Lukaševica

Latvian Parliamentary State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Trustee of Friends of Europe and 2017 EYL40



James Appathurai

NATO's Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges



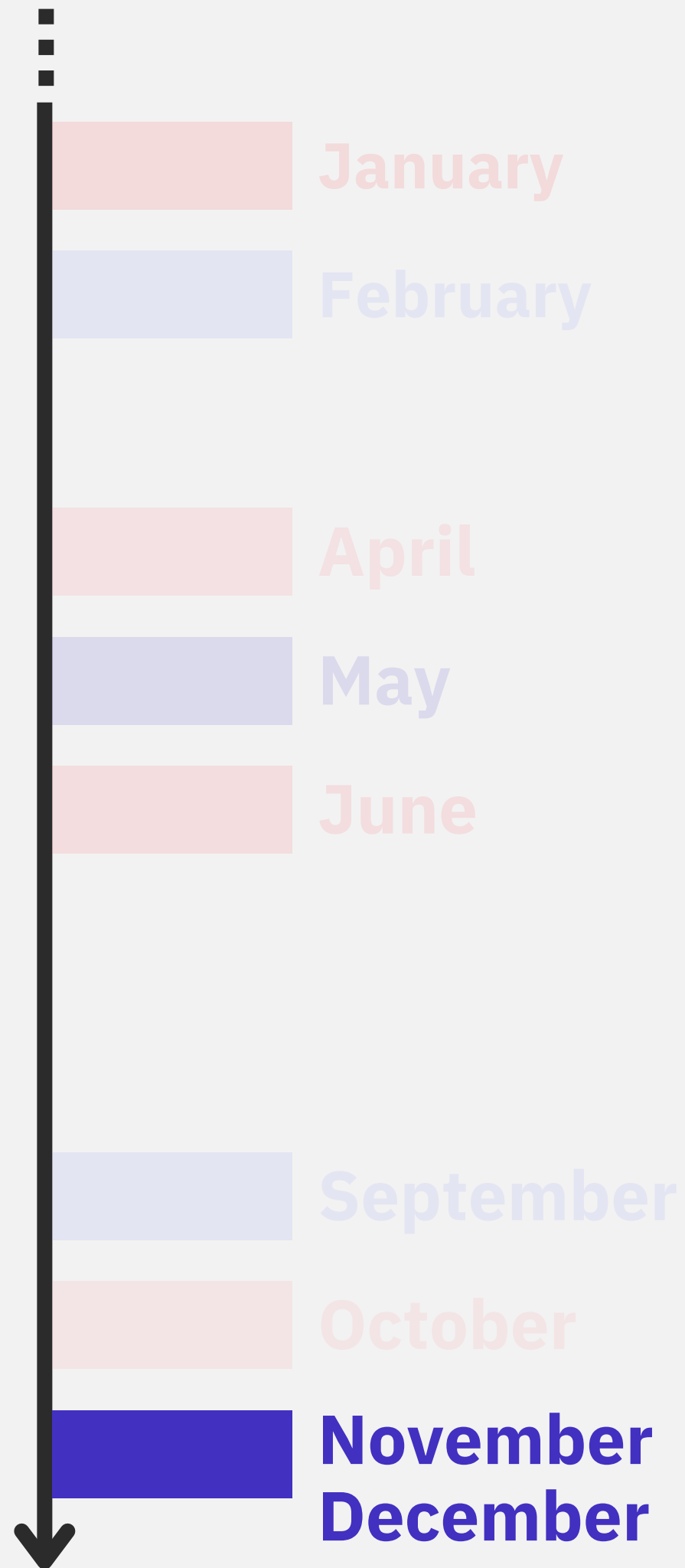
Elisa Ferreira

European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reform



Isabelle Durant

Former deputy secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), former deputy prime minister of Belgium and Trustee of Friends of Europe



As Debating Europe and Debating Africa published its findings on young people’s perceptions of the greatest threats to [global security](#) and the [future of democracy](#), our teams also hosted and took part in various activities around COP27 to address climate challenges.

We closed the year with our annual [Health Innovation](#); [Peace, Security & Defence](#); and [EU-Western Balkans](#) summits, as well as the [Europe-China Forum](#).



Stelios Kypouropoulos

Member of the European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)



Ludivine Dedonder

Belgian Minister of Defence



Tamsin Rose

Senior Fellow for Health at Friends of Europe



Edi Rama

Prime Minister of Albania



Stevo Pendarovski

President of North Macedonia



Liang Linlin

Director of Communication and Research of the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU)



Dritan Abazović

Prime Minister of Montenegro



Thank you!

Friends of Europe

Connect. Debate. Change.

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*All affiliations mentioned in this publication are the ones held at the time of participation and may not reflect current functions.