



The festival of politics and ideas

President's Gala Dinner
& State of Europe

Brussels

6-7 Nov
2024



The festival of politics and ideas

The Festival of Politics and Ideas is a fixture and a highlight on the European calendar. The reason is simple: it is a place where today's top leaders from the worlds of politics, business and civil society in Europe and beyond connect and offer thought leadership to influence change and the future of Europe.

The 2024 Festival of Politics and Ideas will take stock of the outcomes of the 2024 European Parliament elections and present an opportunity to engage with both the newly (re)elected MEPs and the incoming European Commission to ensure that the policy choices on the table for the Renewed Social Contract are firmly on the radar of the new policymaking mandate.

6 NOV

Sparking ideas

President's Gala Dinner

On the eve of the State of Europe we bring together senior stakeholders for an intellectually stimulating and entertaining evening ahead of the next day's high-level roundtable. We will welcome thought leaders and changemakers from the worlds of arts and culture to serve up food for thought, challenge us to think differently, and set the tone for the next day's roundtable.

7 NOV

Transforming ideas into action

State of Europe high-level roundtable

State of Europe is not only a unique brainstorm that has tapped into collective wisdom for the last 20+ years. It has become a journey that allows us to offer year-long engagement for partners with key decisionmakers. Recommendations sourced from the in-depth brainstorms will influence policy thinking ahead of the next EU mandate.

Harnessing a powerful network

At State of Europe, European commissioners, current and former (prime) ministers, CEOs, top representatives of European and international institutions, members of parliaments, mayors, civil society leaders and media influencers will join for a frank and open debate. Friends of Europe's trustees and European Young Leaders (EYL40), a solid pan-European network of up-and-coming leaders, including artists, writers and entrepreneurs, will also be in attendance, while our citizen engagement unit, Debating Europe, will underpin all discussions with qualitative data generated via citizen-led focus groups and surveys.

Recent editions of State of Europe have brought together over 200 discussants from 40+ countries, including 30 ministers and state secretaries and 40 MEPs and MPs. We place a high value on diversity and our State of Europe audience comprises over 40% women while the voices of younger generations are well represented to ensure that we engage the decision-makers of tomorrow too.

Paschal Donohoe, Irish Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure, NPD Delivery, and Reform, President of the Eurogroup

Mario Monti, Italian Senator for life, Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, Former Italian Prime Minister and EU Commissioner



Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA)



Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, European Young Leader (EYL40)

Sven Smit, Chair of the McKinsey Global Institute and Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company



Luca Parmitano, Astronaut of the European Space Agency (ESA)



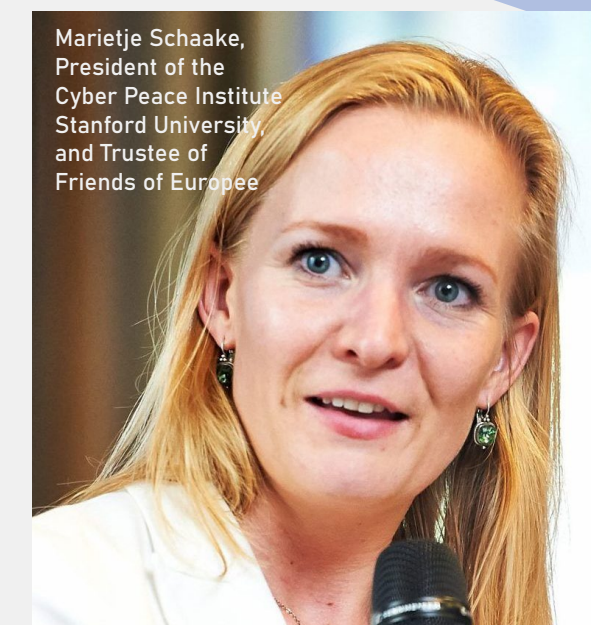
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, award-winning Nigerian novelist and writer.



Jean-François van Boxmeer, Chairman of Vodafone Group Plc



Marietje Schaake, President of the Cyber Peace Institute Stanford University, and Trustee of Friends of Europe



200+
discussants



40+
countries represented, including Africa, Asia and America



2,024
citizens' voices via our multi-country, multilingual focus groups



99
pieces of media coverage

30
ministers and state secretaries



5.8mn
Twitter impressions on the day of the event

40%
female participants and young leaders well represented - we strive to get the most diverse audience possible

6 NOV

Sparkling ideas

President's Gala Dinner

Hosted by the President of Friends of Europe, Etienne Davignon, Belgian Minister of State, Count Etienne Davignon, this is more than a dinner. Held on the eve of State of Europe, the President's Gala Dinner is a unique opportunity for the 'who's who' of Europe to mingle with distinguished guests for inspiring conversations, debate and connections in an informal evening with music and performances.

This year's President's Dinner will offer an occasion to meet newly (re)elected Members of the European Parliament and key officials of the incoming EU mandate.



7 NOV

Transforming ideas into action

State of Europe high-level roundtable

The best events stimulate new thinking and build trust among key stakeholders. The State of Europe is a unique forum to come together with current decisionmakers for a lively brainstorm that allows all to explore opportunities to collaborate, think beyond the current crises, and shape policy choices for Europe's future.

The 2024 edition of State of Europe will be focused on bringing stakeholders together to shape the next steps of our work towards a renewed social contract for Europe and ensure that the renewed social contract is firmly on the radar of key decisionmakers within the new EU mandate.

To help us prepare the day's discussions and kick start the exchange of ideas, throughout 2024, we will host a series of roundtable discussions with policymakers driving key files and panels and debates connecting policymakers with citizens all over Europe.

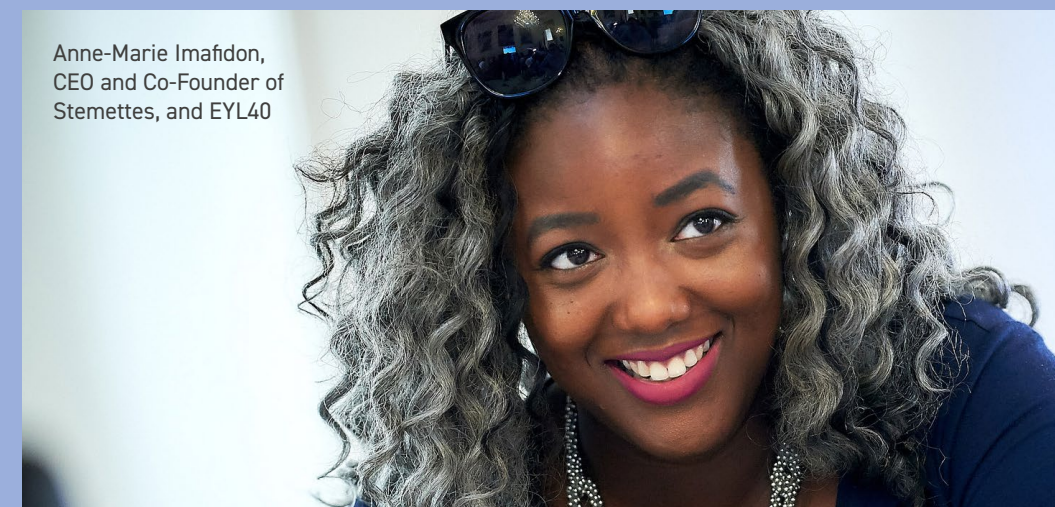
Alexandra Dariescu,
Award-winning concert
pianist and EYL40



Ilham Kadri,
Chairwoman of
the Executive
Committee,
member of the
Board of Directors
and CEO of Solvay
and Trustee of
Friends of Europe



Anne-Marie Imafidon,
CEO and Co-Founder of
Stemettes, and EYL40



Bono, Founder of
The ONE Campaign



State of Europe blends a range of diverse formats to offer for a lively exchange and fresh thinking. Most of the sessions will be on the record, livestreamed, live-tweeted, and further promoted after the event to reach out to as wide an audience as possible.

- **Early-bird briefings:** Interactive breakfast briefings with a leading experts on key issues facing Europe.
- **High-level sessions:** interactive brainstorm with all discussants joining in with the aim to develop forward looking policy proposals.
- **'Idea sharing' sessions** are 10-minute inspiring, multidisciplinary talks focused on the power of ideas.
- **Policymakers' briefings:** closed-door meetings for a limited number of senior stakeholders to offer insights on the way forward for the most pressing issues challenging Europe.
- **Sharing of data and analysis** from our Debating Europe citizen focus groups.



Bastian Obermayer,
Pulitzer Prize-winning
investigative journalist,
Süddeutsche Zeitung
and EYL40



(Left) Nicolas Schmit, European
Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

(Right) Frank Vandenbroucke, Belgian
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for
Health and Social Affairs



Roberta Metsola,
President of the
European Parliament
and EYL40



(Top) Yulia Svyryenko, First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine
and Minister of the Economy.

(Right) Nadia Calviño, Deputy Prime Minister of Spain and
Minister for Digitalization and Economy



Reaching out to a wider audience

Throughout the year, Friends of Europe will reach out to our influential networks and will be socialising the reports '10 Policy Choices for a Renewed Social Contract' and '2,024 Voices: Which Europe do citizens want?' with European and Member State decisionmakers and engaging them through a series of panels and debates to prepare for State of Europe.

- **Think pieces:** In the lead-up to the State of Europe, Friends of Europe will commission articles from prominent figures to provide insightful commentaries on and around the issues we will be discussing.
- **Newsletter:** our #CriticalThinking newsletter reaches the who's who of

European leaders across the policy, business and civil society sectors, as well as spread across our 360k+ strong social media platforms.

- **Press:** carefully curated media outreach will ensure that media outlets across key target areas have journalists covering each of the sessions.
- **Social media:** our high-profile network will act as influencers across a range of social media platforms.
- **Videos:** session recordings, clips, key takeaways and other audio-visual content will be developed to promote the event outcomes.
- **Podcasts:** via our Policy Voices podcast we be engaging in debates with thought-leaders and changemakers to feed the political debate.

 **Didier Reynders** @dreynders
Very pleased to receive the recommendations for Europe in 2030 #Europematters from the participants in @FriendsOfEurope conference. We need to recall what Europe has achieved, and that those achievements were based on our common values. #Brussels #EU #Belgium



in | October 31st - Evening

Join Subscribe 12 Share Download Thanks

 **Ambassador Mark Gitenstein** @USAmbEU · Oct 28, 2022
Yesterday, I was honored to join @YuliaSvyrydenko3, @femeninna and @JamesAppathurai to talk about countering modern warfare at @FriendsOfEurope's #StateofEU event. Thank you for an insightful discussion.



1 2 21 111 1

A wide- and high-reaching network

Valerie Amos, Master of University College Oxford and former UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs



Joseph Nye, Professor of International Relations at Harvard University



Emmanuel Faber, CEO of Danone



Ricardo Mourinho, Vice-President European Investment Bank
Nadia Calvino, Spanish Deputy PM
Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner Cohesion and Reform
Wouter Vermeulen, the Coca-Cola Company



Margrethe Vestager, European Commission Vice-President



Ece Temelkuran, Turkish Award-winning writer and novelist



Qiufan Chen, Science fiction writer, columnist, scriptwriter and author of 'AI 2041: Ten Visions for our future', China



Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



Carlos Moedas, former European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

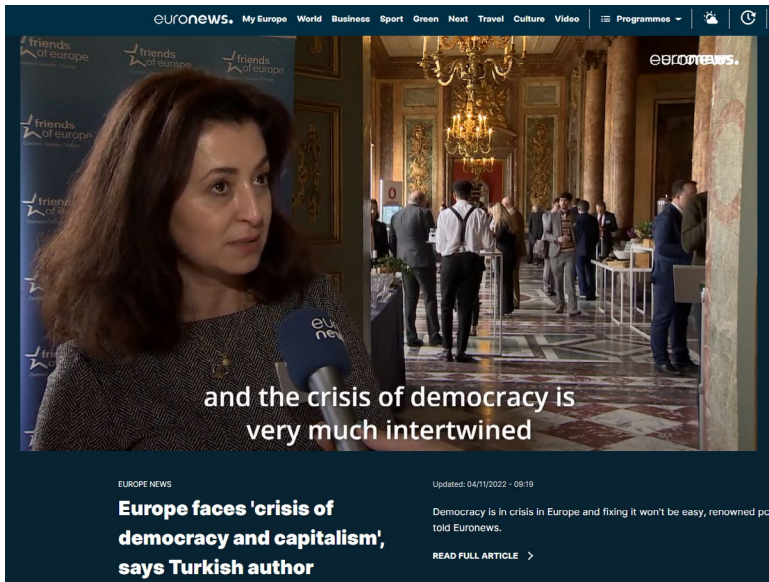




Mary Robinson, Chair of the Elders, former president of Ireland and Member of the AEF High-Level Group



Frans Timmermans, European Commission Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal



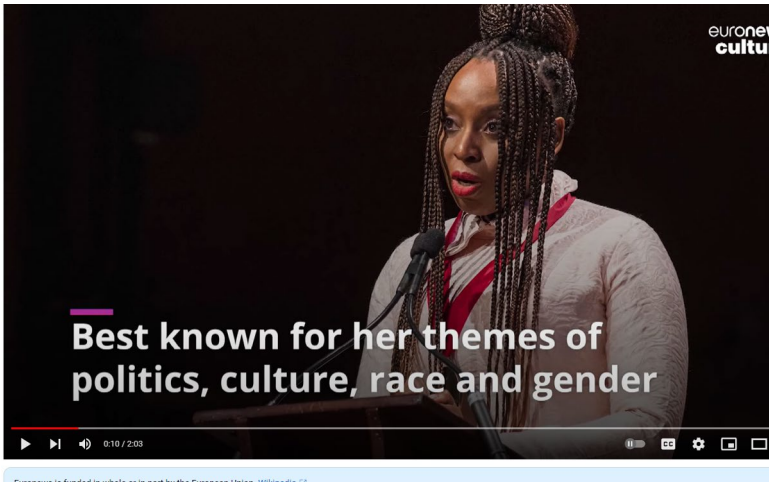
Mario Monti, Senator, WHO Pan-European Commission Chair and Trustee of Friends of Europe



Petra De Sutter, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, Minister of Digitalization, Administration and Postal Services



Zanny Minton Beddoes, Editor-in-Chief of The Economist



Clement Beaune, French Secretary of State for European Affairs and EYL40



Tedros Adhanom, Director General of the WHO



Thomas Van Vynckt

Programme manager State of Europe

thomas.vanvynckt@friendsofeurope.org

Nathalie Furrer

Director

nathalie.furrer@friendsofeurope.org

Natasha Ibbotson

Head of Partnership Development

natasha.ibbotson@friendsofeurope.org

www.friendsofeurope.org