



## **Outline Programme**

### **40 Years of European Parliament Direct Elections**

**Thursday 22 November - 14.00-18.30**

**Friday 23 November - 9.00-16.00**

**European University Institute – EUI  
Badia Fiesolana**

The conference is organised jointly by the Alcide de Gasperi Research Centre (EUI) and the Historical Archives of the European Union (EUI), with support of the Robert Schuman Centre (EUI), the School of Transnational Governance (EUI), the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Rome Office, the Association ‘Friends of the Historical Archives of the EU’, the European Parliamentary Research Service (EUI-EP History Roundtable), the European Parliament Information Office for Italy and the European Parliament’s Former Members Association.

\*\*\*

After exactly forty years, in May 2019, European citizens will elect the 9<sup>th</sup> legislature of the European Parliament (EP). Since 1979, the political and institutional relevance of this institution has progressively and decisively grown. In the last decades, the EP managed to establish itself as a keystone of the European Union’s policy-making process, increasingly acquiring legislative, supervisory, and budgetary responsibilities. This conference aims to discuss this evolution of the EP, highlighting not only its expansion as a powerful institution, but also its role in democratizing decision-making processes at the supranational level. At the same time, the conference will also look forward towards May 2019, discussing the relevance of the growing powers of the EP in a political context wherein the legitimacy of the European Union is increasingly contested and Eurosceptic parties seem to gain popularity across national electorates. The panels and roundtables bring together high-profile academics and European Parliament actors, who will share insights and experiences about the role of the European Parliament in the construction and democratization of the European Union.

#### *Featured panels:*

#### **The road to a more powerful European Parliament, 1979-2019**

This panel will focus on the policy competences covered by the European Parliament, and how these have considerably grown between 1979 and today. More specifically, it will highlight the active role played by the EP itself in claiming competence on a growing sphere of policy-fields and in empowering itself *vis à vis* other European institutions.

## **The contribution of the European Parliament to the construction and democratisation of Europe**

The second panel shall discuss one of the most distinguishing and important aspects of the EP: its role in bringing citizens closer to supranational policy decisions. The speakers look back at the attempts made throughout history at democratizing the European Union and focus on how the EP played, and continues to play, an active role in this process.

## **The role of Political Groups and European Political Parties**

The third panel will zoom more deeply into the political processes within the EP and examine the role played by the political groups and the European political parties. More specifically, it shall map the political activities of the different political groups and parties, and discuss their impact both on the evolution of the EP and on the process of European integration.

\*\*\*

## **List of confirmed speakers in alphabetical order**

Monica Baldi (Former Member of the European Parliament)  
Luciano Bardi (Professor, European University Institute)  
Enrique Baron Crespo (Former President of the European Parliament, Former President of the former Members' Association)  
Etienne Bassot (Director of Members' Research Service, European Parliamentary Research Service)  
Laurens Jan Brinkhorst (Former Member of the European Parliament)  
Patrick Cox (President of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe, Former President of the European Parliament)  
Deirdre Curtin (Head of Department of Law, European University Institute)  
Alfredo De Feo (Professor, European College of Parma, EUI Fellow, Former Official of the European Parliament)  
Renaud Dehousse (President of the European University Institute)  
Desmond Dinan (First Visiting Fellow, European Parliamentary Research Service)  
Laura Ferrara (Member of the European Parliament)  
Monica Frassoni (Co-chair of the European Green Party)  
Wojciech Gagalek (Professor, University of Warsaw/ European University Institute)  
Klaus Hänsch (Former President of the European Parliament)  
Adrienne Héritier (Professor, European University Institute)  
Francis Jacobs (Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, University College Dublin, Former Official of the European Parliament)  
Karl Magnus Johansson (Professor, Södertörn University and European University Institute)  
Martin Kamp (Secretary-General of the European People's Party Group)  
Brigid Laffan (Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute)

Alain Lamassoure (Member of the European Parliament)  
Íñigo Méndez de Vigo (Member of the Spanish Congreso de los Diputados and Former Minister)  
Dietmar Nickel (Research Fellow, Europa-Kolleg Hamburg)  
Christine Neuhold (Professor, University of Maastricht)  
Emmanuelle Ortolí (President of the Association 'Friends of the Historical Archives of the EU')  
Daniele Pasquinucci (Professor, University of Siena)  
Michael Shackleton (Professor, Maastricht University)  
Birte Wassenberg (Professor, University of Strasbourg)  
Richard Whitaker (Associate Professor, University of Leicester)