



CONFERENCE

The European Ambition

Study on the EPP Group's contribution and impact on the European integration process in the directly elected European Parliament

14-15 November 2019

European University Institute (EUI)
Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU)
Villa Salviati, Sala degli Stemmi
Via Bolognese 156, 50139, Florence

■ **ABSTRACT**

European Parliament (EP) groups have had and still have a fundamental role in the EP's and in the European Union (EU)'s institutional development, but they have not been the subject of consistent scientific research.

The Conference presents the results of a study on the impact of the European People's Party (EPP) Group on the European integration process, especially since the first direct elections of the EP in 1979. This study, commissioned by the EPP Group, has been conducted by a research team based at the EUI and composed by leading European historians and political scientists. The research has been articulated into five different chapters addressing specific relevant themes for the understanding of the EPP Group's history, structure, organization, political objectives and institutional relevance, as well as ability to impact on the EU's constitutional structure and policies.

As well as discussing the findings of the study, the Conference will bring together high-profile former MEPs, who will share insights and experiences about the role of political groups in the construction and democratization of the EU.

■ **PROGRAMME**

Thursday 14 November

14:45-15:00 **Welcome addresses**

Dieter Schlenker | Director of the Historical Archives of the European Union, EUI

Martin Kamp | Secretary-General of the EPP Group

- 15:00-15:45 **Wolfram Kaiser** | University of Portsmouth/EUI
The EPP Group in the European Communities
Discussant: **Sandro Guerrieri** | Università di Roma “La Sapienza”
- 15:45-16:30 **Karl Magnus Johansson** | Södertörn University/EUI
The EPP Group in the Process of Constitutionalizing the European Union
Discussant: **Alfredo De Feo** | European College of Parma/EUI
- 16:30-16:45 **Coffee Break**, Sala della Conchiglia
- 16:45-17:30 **Carine Germond** | Norwegian University of Science and Technology/EUI
Co-shaping the Internal Market: The EPP Group and EU Internal Policies
Discussant: **Lorenzo Cicchi** | EUI

Friday 15 November

- 9:15-10:00 **Wojciech Gagatek** | University of Warsaw/EUI
The EPP Group and EU External Relations
Discussant: **Angela Romano** | EUI
- 10:00-10:45 **Luciano Bardi** | EUI
The EPP Group within the EU institutional and political framework
Discussant: **Martin Bull** | University of Salford
- 10:45-11:00 **Coffee Break**, Sala della Conchiglia
- 11:00-12:30 **Roundtable** | The role of political groups in the European integration process
Chair: **Carlos Closa** | School of Transnational Governance, EUI
Hans-Gert Pöttering | MEP 1979-2014, President of the EP 2007-2009
Jo Leinen | MEP 1999-2019
Andrew Duff | MEP 1999-2014