

The Historical Archives of the European Union at the European University Institute and the Otto von Habsburg Foundation are organising an exhibition and conference on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Otto von Habsburg, entitled

“I thank God that I am a member of the European Parliament.”
Otto von Habsburg, the European Parliament, and the European Idea

In May 1990, when a journalist asked the former heir to the Hungarian throne if he felt any regret at not having become King of Hungary, Otto von Habsburg replied with the above response. During his nearly 20 years in the European Parliament between 1979 and 1999, Otto von Habsburg played an active role in the dismantling of the Iron Curtain and in promoting the idea that genuine European integration could only be completed with the accession of the Central and Eastern European states of the continent. His vast historical and political experience gave him great insights into world politics as well as a sound understanding of the specificities of national policies. The exhibition of the Otto von Habsburg Foundation, complemented by a selection of documents from the Historical Archives of the European Union, aims to summarise the story of the long life of its namesake. During the conference, participants will recall the political activities of Otto von Habsburg and discuss the relevance of his ideas and thoughts.

Venue: European University Institute, Villa Salviati (Via Bolognese 156 - 50139 Firenze)
Date: Friday, October 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Program

11:00 – 11:20 Opening remarks

Renaud Dehousse, President, European University Institute

Dieter Schlenker, Director, Historical Archives of the European Union

Gergely Pröhle, Director, Otto von Habsburg Foundation

11:20 – 11:40 Delivery of speech prepared by Alain Lamassoure, Former Member of the European Parliament and Former Minister for European Affairs

The Role of Otto von Habsburg in Forging the European Idea

11:40 – 12:00 Aline Sierp, Associate Professor at Maastricht University

The Role of the European Parliament in the Changes of 1989

12:00 – 12:20 Enikő Győri, Member of the European Parliament

The Responsibility of the European Parliament in Shaping the Profile of Europe

12:40 – 13:00 Tibor Navracsics, Hungary’s Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds

What Does Subsidiarity Mean for Today’s European Politics?

13:00 – 13:15 Discussion

13:15 – 13:30 Closing remarks

13:30 Reception

The event will be held in English.

We look forward to welcoming you at our event!