



Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”  
European Studies Department, Faculty of Philosophy  
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

“Hanns Seidel” Foundation

and Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies<sup>1</sup>

organise

**Eleventh International Conference**  
**“The Agenda of the New EU Institutional Cycle”**

**30-31 May 2024, Sofia <sup>2</sup>**

*The conference is dedicated to **25 years European Studies** at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University.*

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<sup>1</sup> The conference receives financial support from the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with the organiser, the European Parliament is not responsible for the activity.

<sup>2</sup> The conference is planned as follows: 30 May 2024 (full day) and 31 May 2024 (morning session only).

**30 May 2024 (Thursday)**  
**Conference Hall of the House of Europe in Bulgaria**  
**Sofia, 124 G.S. Rakovski Str.**

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| 09.00 – 09.30 | <b>Registration</b>   |
| 09.30 – 10.00 | <b>Opening of the conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Yordanka Chobanova</b> – Head of the European Commission Representation in Bulgaria (tbc)</li> <li>○ <b>Teodor Stoychev</b> – Head of the Bureau of the European Parliament in Bulgaria</li> <li>○ <b>Prof. Ingrid Shikova, PhD</b> – European Studies Department, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”- Chairman of the Scientific and Organizing Committee</li> <li>○ Representative of the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Bulgaria (tbc)</li> <li>○ <b>Dimitar Lilkov</b> – Senior Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies</li> <li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Nikolina Tsvetkova, PhD</b> – Head of the European Studies Department, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”</li> </ul> |
| 10.00 – 10.15 | <b>First panel: THE AGENDA OF THE NEW EU INSTITUTIONAL CYCLE</b><br><br><u><i>Keynote speech:</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Herman Van Rompuy</b>, the former President of the European Council in office from November 2009 to November 2014. Video address.</li> </ul>  |
| 10.15 – 11.15 | <b>First panel: THE AGENDA OF THE NEW EU INSTITUTIONAL CYCLE / Economic Studies</b><br><br><u><i>Moderator: Prof. Ingrid Shikova, PhD</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Simeonov, Dr. Habil and Slaveya Vasileva, PhD candidate</b>, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>We Are Sorry But the Eurozone Isn't About to Collapse</i></li> <li>○ <b>Dimitar Lilkov</b>, Senior Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies – <i>Reinforcing European Economic Security and Cyber Resilience: Getting Real on Strategic Autonomy</i></li> <li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Todor Yalamov, Assist. Prof. Kiril Velitchkov and Lin Lin Ma, PhD student</b>, FEBA, Sofia University – <i>The Role of European Programs for Boosting the Innovations of SMEs</i></li> </ul>   |

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|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assist. Prof. Roxana Trifonova, PhD</b>, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>Program Period 2021-2027 – Main Trends in the EU Funds Management in Bulgaria</i></li> <li>○ <b>Discussion</b></li> </ul>   |
| 11.15 – 11.45 | <b>Coffee break</b>   |
| 11.45 – 12.30 | <p><b>Continuation of the first panel: THE AGENDA OF THE NEW EU INSTITUTIONAL CYCLE / Political Studies</b></p> <p><b><i>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Simeonov, Dr. Habil</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assist. Prof. Vihar Georgiev, PhD</b>, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>Strengthening the EU’s Crisis Management Framework: Pathways to Institutional Resilience and Policy Innovation</i></li> <li>○ <b>Assist. Prof. Gergana Radoykova, PhD</b>, Political Science Department, Sofia University – <i>The Debate for Institutional Reform in the EU and the Role of the European Parliament</i></li> <li>○ <b>Assist. Prof. Miruna Andreea Balosin, PhD</b>, Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of European Studies, Romania – <i>Shaping and Reforming European Active Citizenship from 2019 to 2024 European Elections</i></li> <li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Teodora Kaleynska, PhD</b> – <i>Development of the European Construction in the combined EU and CoE Efforts</i></li> <li>○ <b>Prof. Kai Enno Lehmann, Dr. Habil</b>, University of São Paulo, Brazil – <i>Can a New European Security System Emerge out of the ‘Era of Permanent Crisis’? A Complexity Approach</i></li> <li>○ <b>Discussion</b></li> </ul> |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 13.30 – 14.00 | <p><b>Second panel: EUROPEAN IDENTITY, EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE</b></p> <p><b><i>Keynote speech to be confirmed:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Prof. Maria Stoycheva, PhD</b>, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>to be confirmed</i></li> </ul>   |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | <p><b>Second panel: EUROPEAN IDENTITY, EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE</b></p> <p><b><i>Moderator: Assist. Prof. Desislava Karaasenova, PhD</i></b></p>   |

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|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Nikolina Tsvetkova, PhD</b>, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>Are Bulgarian School Leavers Interested in Actively Participating in Civic and Political Life? (An Empirical Study)</i></li> <li>○ <b>Prof. Anna Krasteva, Dr. Habil</b>, New Bulgarian University – <i>Elites vs citizens: symbolic fights for the uses of Europe</i></li> <li>○ <b>Branimir Stanimirov, PhD</b>, European studies, Sofia University – <i>The EU’s Rule of Law Actorness: Persisting Deficiencies, Bifurcated Policies and the Ontological Security-Identity Nexus</i></li> <li>○ <b>Prof. Tadeusz Kopyś, Dr. Habil</b>, Jagiellonian University, and <b>Konrad Kopyś</b>, Krakow University of Economics – <i>Is Poland Eurosceptic? Poland's perception of the European Union's energy, migration and eastern policy</i></li> <li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Maria Huraj Rostekova, PhD</b> and <b>Eva Molnarova</b>, Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia – <i>Media coverage of Europe in EU member countries and the role of education</i></li> <br/> <li>○ <b>Discussion</b></li> </ul> |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | <b>Coffee break</b>   |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | <p><b>Third panel: EU ENLARGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD POLICIES</b></p> <p><b><u>Keynote speech:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Spasimir Domaradzki, PhD</b>, University of Warsaw, Poland – <i>Enlarging the „Waiting room”. The(un)anticipated Consequences of Merging Enlargement and Neighborhood Policies</i></li> </ul>  |
| 16.00 – 17.00 | <p><b>Third panel: EU ENLARGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Nikolina Tsvetkova, PhD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Jean Crombois, PhD</b>, American University in Bulgaria – <i>Resilience and EU Transformative Power: EU Enlargement and the Eastern Partnership</i></li> <li>○ <b>Assist. Prof. Lubomira Popova, PhD</b>, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>The Future of the EU’s Enlargement Policy: Moving Forward from Legal Approximation to Europeanisation?</i></li> <li>○</li> <li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Mira Kaneva, PhD</b>, Department of International Law and International Relations, Sofia University – <i>The Beijing and</i></li> </ul>  |

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|              | <p><i>the Brussels Effects on the Western Balkans Compared – Normative Dilemmas, Political Conundrums</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Discussion</b></li></ul> |
| <b>17.00</b> | <b>End of the first day of the conference</b>   |

**31 May 2024 (Friday)**  
**Conference Hall of the House of Europe in Bulgaria**  
**Sofia, 124 G.S. Rakovski Str.**

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| 09.00 – 09.30 | <b>Registration – <i>second day</i></b>   |
| 09.30 – 10.00 | <p><b>Fourth panel: MEDIA POLICY IN A SHIFTING INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p><b><u>Keynote speech:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Maya Sever</b>, President of the European Federation of Journalism – <i>Navigating Media Freedom in the EU: Challenges and Solutions</i></li> </ul>   |
| 10.00 – 10.45 | <p><b>Fourth panel: MEDIA POLICY IN A SHIFTING INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p><b><i>Moderator: Ralitsa Stoycheva, European Studies Department</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assist. Prof. Mariya Yurukova, PhD</b>, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>Topics and Influential Narratives Shaping the EP Election Campaign in Bulgaria and in EU</i></li> <li>○ <b>Prof. Viktorija Car, PhD</b>, University of Split, Croatia – <i>Media Policy and Infodemic: The Role of Journalism in a Fragile Information Society</i></li> <li>○ <b>Assist. Prof. Justine Toms, PhD</b>, New Bulgarian University – <i>Media Platforms, Online Content and Globalisation – European Perspective in the Shifting Information Environment</i></li> <li>○ <b>Discussion</b></li> </ul> |
| 10.45 – 11.15 | <b><i>Coffee break</i></b>  |
| 11.15 – 12.00 | <p><b>Continuation of the Fourth Panel: MEDIA POLICY IN A SHIFTING INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p><b><i>Moderator: Assist. Prof. Mariya Yurukova, PhD</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Jan Erik Kermer, PhD</b>, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute – <i>Article 4 of the European Media Freedom Act: A Missed Opportunity? Assessing its shortcomings in protecting journalistic sources</i></li> <li>○ <b>Assist. Prof. Ana Lazarova, PhD</b>, European Studies Department, Sofia University – <i>An EU legislative and regulatory framework fit for research and the Secondary Publication Right</i></li> </ul>   |

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|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Assoc. Prof. Denitza Toptchiyska, PhD</b>, New Bulgarian University – <i>Navigating the GDPR-DSA Nexus: Regulating Personal Data in Social Media and Search Engines</i></li><br/><li>○ <b>Discussion</b></li></ul> |
| <b>12.00</b> | <b>Closing the conference</b>   |