

Stay Calm and Keep Brexiting! UK's General Election – Implications for the EU and the UK

11 July 2024 11:15-12:45 CET WMCES HQ Rue du Commerce 20 Brussels The UK's General Election on 4 July could mark the end of an era in UK politics, following a period dominated by Brexit, high levels of political and economic turmoil, the pandemic, war in Ukraine and a rapid succession of Prime Ministers from David Cameron to Rishi Sunak.

However, one political thread has emerged intact – the commitment of British politicians in both the Conservative and Labour camps not to fundamentally revisit relations with the EU. Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has stated a commitment to keeping Britain outside of both the EU Customs Union and the Single Market.

Join us as we discuss whether the UK General Election can therefore lead to a new thaw in relations between London and Brussels? What are the constraints upon a Labour-led government when it comes to European policy? Does the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) offer potential as a basis for deepening the commercial relationship? Surely, the EU and the UK should work more closely together in areas like security and defence?

PROGRAMME 11:15 Registration and coffee 11:30 Welcome remarks: Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre 11:40 **Panel Discussion** Tim Bale, Professor, Queen Mary University Jannike Wachowiak, Researcher, UK in a Changing Europe Luigi Sciazzieri, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform Moderated by: Eoin Drea, Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre 12:30 A&O 12.45 End of discussion and light lunch