



STATE of the UNIONS

The U.S. Mid-Term Elections: Implications for U.S. Democracy, the EU, and Global Politics

Wednesday, November 16th, 2022

2:00-5:00 PM CET

Hotel NH Brussels EU Berlaymont
Bd Charlemagne 11/19, 1000 Brussels

[Register here](#)

The succession of Trump by Biden in the White House and the American “return to the world” has given a fresh impetus to transatlantic relations. However, both Europe and the U.S. continue to face major political, economic, and social issues. The deep frictions in U.S. society and the persistent signs of democratic erosion have not been overcome with the change of administration. Against this backdrop, the U.S. mid-term elections in November 2022 will be crucial to define the state of democracy in the U.S., its influence and ability to shape international politics, as well as the terms of transatlantic relations in the coming years. In the context of rising polarization, divisions, and contestation, what do the mid-term elections say about the state of U.S. democracy? How do Europeans interpret the outcomes of the mid-term elections and what are the implications for U.S. internal politics and external relations? To analyze and discuss these issues, the *Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)* and the *German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)* will bring together leading European and U.S. experts and policymakers at the 5th State of the Unions conference, in Brussels, to engage in a debate about the vote that takes place in the other side of the Atlantic but has global repercussions.

13:30 – 14:00 CET

Registration

14:00 – 14:15 CET

Opening remarks:

Ian Lesser, Vice-President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

14:15 – 15:30 CET



Session I: A Polarized Democracy and the Future of U.S. Politics

Building on an analysis of the mid-term election results, this session discusses what they reveal about the state of U.S. democracy and the divisions within U.S. society. Over the last years, U.S. politics has been characterized by increasing polarization among parties and voters, setbacks in democracy, and rising instability and contestation. What factors can help explain the deep divisions and recent developments in U.S. politics? What would a Republican upturn reveal about the strength of Trumpism and the expectations for 2024? What additional challenges would a Republican majority mean to the Biden administration? What expectations are there for the future of both the Republican and Democratic parties, as well as the future of U.S. democracy?

- **Colin Woodard**, State and National Affairs Writer, Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram, GMF Fellow 2001, Journalism Program
- **Laurence Nardon**, Head, North America Program, French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)
- **Arun Chaudhary**, Political Messaging Expert, and former Creative Director for Bernie Sanders

Moderator: Ian Lesser, Vice-President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

15:30 – 15:45 CET

Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:00 CET

Session II: Implications of a new U.S. Congress for the EU and global politics

Going beyond the domestic implications of the mid-terms, this session assesses the impacts of the new U.S. Congress on the future of U.S. foreign policy and transatlantic relations. With the new composition of the House and Senate, what directions is U.S. policy likely to take in different domains, such as security and defense, multilateralism, and NATO? How does Europe interpret the elections in the U.S.? What will transatlantic relations look like under a different, potentially conservative-leaning U.S. Congress?

- **Miapetra Kumpula-Natri**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Benedetta Berti**, Head, Policy Planning, Office of the Secretary-General, NATO
- **Steven Erlanger**, Chief Diplomatic Correspondent in Europe, The New York Times
- **Peter Kmec**, Member, National Council, Slovak Republic, and former Ambassador of Slovakia to the United States

Moderator: Uwe Optenhögel, Vice-President, FEPS

Concluding remarks:

Uwe Optenhögel, Vice-President, FEPS