



# The Future for the UK and Europe under a Labour Government

*FEPS – FES London – Fabians Society  
Public Panel Discussion*

**Sunday, 22 September, 6pm – 7.15pm**  
*Maritime Museum, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Royal Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ*

With the emphatic election victory of the UK Labour party in the 2024 General Election, the prospects for a productive EU-UK relationship look brighter. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer hosted the European Political Community summit in July, and having travelled to different EU countries a number of times since the election victory, a new strategy to ‘reset’ UK-EU relations seems to be underway.

A number of areas are earmarked for co-operation. Security and defence tops the list, with ongoing support for Ukraine and commitment to NATO as key areas of mutual interest. Talk of an EU-UK Security Pact in 2025 suggests a willingness for close co-operation. Labour is also hoping to reach agreement on other areas under the banner of security, such as stronger coordination and communication on migration, and climate measures. The new government is also aware of the potential to compensate for the loss of trade with the EU since Brexit, suggesting removing some border checks on goods and introducing mutual recognition of qualifications. A number of outstanding issues, such as musician and artist mobility, a veterinary agreement and membership of regulatory bodies such as REACH, may well also be discussed.

Do these measures amount to a reset? The government has ruled out customs union or single market access, as well as the reintroduction of freedom of movement, and on questions like youth mobility, there seems to be hesitancy on the UK side.

What is a realistic approach to this closer relationship? Which strategic priorities can bring the UK and the EU closer together? And what kinds of co-operation can be fostered to ensure a closer relationship on the societal, as well as the political and economic level?

## Agenda

18.00 Welcome

**Michèle Auga**, Director, FES UK & Ireland

18.10 Introduction

- **Nick Thomas-Symonds**, MP and Shadow Minister without Portfolio (Cabinet Office) (confirmed)
- **Stephen Doughty**, MP and Shadow Minister for Europe, North America & UK Overseas Territories (confirmed)
- **Jens Zimmermann**, MdB, SPD Member of the Committee on Digital, Chairperson of the German-British Parliamentary Group of the Bundestag (confirmed)
- **Ania Skrzypek**, Director for Research and Training at FEPS (confirmed)

*Moderation: **Andy Harrop**, General Secretary, Fabian Society*

18.45 Q&A

19.15 End of event