FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES

FEPS ANNUAL AUTUMN ACADEMY

FEPS 7th ANNUAL AUTUMN ACADEMY 2026

For a Europe of courage, cooperation and cohesion

	SUNDAY, 11th October 2026
	Check-in Hotel Aqua
	OPENING SESSION: For a Europe that shows courage to think beyond today
19:00	**FEPS AAA Bingo**
19:30	**DINNER (buffet)**
20:00	**Inauguration of the 7th FEPS Annual Autumn Academy** **Opening:** **Ania Skrzypek,** FEPS Director for Research and Training **RED SOFA DISCUSSION: From culture of fear towards courage to dream – how can the EU break out of the narrative of perpetual crisis?** - **Sergio Amante,** President of IUSY - **Mariam Asghari,** Secretary General Young European Socialists (YES) - **Christos Papagiannis,** Secretary General Young European Federalists (JEF) Moderated by **Ania Skrzypek,** FEPS Director for Research and Training

	MONDAY, 12th October 2026 – FEPS Office
	For a Europe that builds strength with and across all the regions
09:00	**OPENING LECTURE** **Social Europe – is it still enhancing the European Integration?** **Dominic Afscharian**, Zentrum fur neue Sozialpolitik, Germany Moderated by **François Balate**, Policy Analyst on Social and Academic Coordinator
10:30	**BREAK**

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10:45	**PANEL 1: European cohesion – is it a pray of MFF negotiations and hunt for competitiveness?** **Opening:** **Ireneusz Bil**, Director Amicus Europae **Jordi Harrison,** PES CoR Secretary General **Speakers:** - **Victor Negrescu,** Vice President of the European Parliament, VP of the PES and Chair of MFF WG of the PES - **Eleni Marianou,** Senior Advisor on the Multiannual Financial Framework and Cohesion Policy, former chair of the SMOR Working Party in the European Council - **Florian Marin,** EESC Quaestor and Workers' Group Member Closing: **Pascal Smet,** Member of Brussels Regional Parliament Moderated by **Ania Skrzypek,** FEPS Director for Research and Training
12.15	**LUNCH**
13.00	**FEPS AAA TREASURE HUNT with a Twist** *Participants will be divided into groups of 5. Each group will receive their own route for the Treasure Hunt with the tasks added to them. One among will be to record a video message / create an insta post on the theme of the Treasure Hunt.*
14.30	**FEPS AAA World Cafe:** **Opening: Marcos Ros,** MEP, Coordinator REGI - **EU Cohesion – how do we make the sound of it resonate countless aspirations for a better future for all?** Chaired by **Irène Brandt**, FEPS YAN - **Local democracy – can it be a gateway to save democracy altogether?** Chaired by **Kido Koenig**, Director Pro International - **EU Subsidiarity – when does it work and when it doesn't?** - **---** - **Rural and urban divides – can progressives bridge and appeal to both sides?** Chaired by **Ania Skrzypek**, FEPS Director for Research and Training Moderated by **Kido Koenig,** Director Pro International
16.00	**BREAK**

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16:15	**FEPS AAA COUNTRY CASE STUDIES**		
	Croatia **Jure Zubčić**, Secretary General SDP **Sonja Kovač**, Vice President of the SDP Croatia's Women's Forum and the Vice President of PES Women **Daša Šilović**, Chair, International Board, CEE Network Gender for Gender Issues **Karlo Vedak**, YES Vice president and Councilor of Zagreb Moderated by **Kido Koenig,** Director Pro International	**Finland** **Lauri Finner**, Director at Kalevi Sorsa Foundation **Johan Wahlsten**, Doctoral Researcher at University of Helsinki **Antti Alaja**, expert at the Finnish Centre for New Economic Analysis in Helsinki Moderated by **Ania Skrzypek,** FEPS Director for Research and Training	**Italy** **Brando Benifei**, S&D MEP **Niccolo Carboni**, Secretary for International Partito Democratico **Eleonora Poli**, Head of Office Centro Poltiche Europee in Rome, CEP Moderated by **Hedwig Giusto,** FEPS Head of the International Programmes and Editor in Chief of the Progressive Post
17.30	**Discussion tables on country case studies** **Followed by Walking Dinner at FEPS Office**		

	TUESDAY 13th October 2026
	For a Europe that delivers in the era of digital capitalism
09:00	**Keynote speech:** **Iratxe Garcia Pérez,** President S&D Group in the European Parliament Moderated by **László Andor**, FEPS Secretary General
	Lecture: The new social contract for the new era of digital capitalism **Paul Magnette,** President of PS Belgium Moderated by **Ania Skrzypek,** FEPS Director for Research and Training

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11.00	**BREAK**
11:15	**PANEL 2: Digital Europe: can it become a powerhouse built on values and rules that empower people?** **Opening: Knut Dethlefsen,** Director of FES Competence Centre Future of Work **Krzysztof Śmiszek,** S&D MEP **Claes-Mikael Stahl,** Deputy General Secretary ETUC **Kaisa Vatanen,** Chief Research Officer at Mandate Research and FEPS Vice President Moderated by **Victoria Hiepe**, Policy Officer FES Competence Centre Future of Work
12:15	**LUNCH BREAK**
13:00	**Hard choices: EU technological sovereignty and the geopolitics of AI (European Parliament)** Organised by FES Competence Center Future of Work and **S&D MEP Laura Ballarin** Among the speakers: **Alex Agius Saliba**, MEP and S&D Vice President and **Francesca Bria**, Honorary Professor at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) at UCL in London
15.00	**BREAK**
15.15	**FEPS AAA THEMATIC WORKSHOPS (3)** **Quality Jobs Act: forward looking or a failure?** **Vincent Bocquillon**, S&D Deputy Secretary General, Head of the Sustainable Development Department **Marie Klein-Hitpass,** PES Social and Employment Policy Adviser **Lena Katharina Moidl,** APA to MEP Evelyn Regner Moderated by **François Balate**, Policy Analyst on **Democracy shield – can it hold?** **Alice Stollmeyer**, Executive Director, Defend Democracy **Elisa Gambardella**, Education and Lifelong Learning Coordinator, Director SOLIDAR + **Holger Kiik,** FEPS YAN **Cybersecurity – what is Europe preparing for?** **Vagelis Papakonstantinous,** Director VUB Ciber & Data Security Lab **Christos Papagiannis**, FEPS YAN Moderated by: **Monty Aal,** Digital Policy Analys, FEPS

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	Social and Academic Coordinator		
16:15	**BREAK**		
16:30	**FEPS AAA POLICY SEMINARS (two rounds of 45 mins)** **Each of the seminar will feature an S&D Group MEP explaining a key report they are working on**		
	Marc Angel, recommendations to the Commission on digitalisation, artificial intelligence and algorithmic management in the workplace Moderator: Moderator: **Victoria Hiepe**, Policy Officer FES Competence Centre Future of Work	**Hana Jalloul** on Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula Moderator: **Hedwig Giusto,** FEPS Head of the International Programmes and Editor in Chief of the Progressive Post	**Matthias Ecke**, REPORT on a coherent tax framework for the EU's financial sector Moderator: **Anna Kolesnichenko,** FEPS Policy Analyst
17:30	**Thijs Reuten;** REPORT on the implementation of the common security and defence policy Moderator: **Beatriz Abellan,** FEPS Policy Analyst	**Vivien Constanzo** on future of mobility with a focus on the automotive industry	**Thomas Bajada** on Climate Resilience Moderator: **Unai Gómez-Hernández**, FEPS YAN Alumni
18:30	**BREAK**		
19.00	**DINNER**		
19:30	**EU as a Global Actor** **Introduction by Andreas Schieder,** S&D MEP, Chair of the EP Austrian Delegation and Chair of Next Left **Fishbowl Discussion**		
21:00	**FEPS AAA Quiz for Social Democrats** by **László Andor,** FEPS Secretary General		

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	WEDNESDAY 14th October 2026
	For a Europe that puts People First
09.00	**Opening by Sascha Obrecht,** Director of Karl Renner Institut **Academic Lecture:** **The rise of the Far-Right in Europe** **Daphne Halikiopoulou,** Professor, University of York Moderated by **László Andor,** FEPS Secretary General
10.30	**BREAK**
10.45	**Opening by Giacomo Filibeck,** PES Secretary General **Guest Speaker:** **A Possible Road Ahead: Re-Igniting the Social and the Democratic of Social Democracy** **Eunice Goes,** Professor Richmond University Moderated by **Ania Skrzypek,** FEPS Director for Research and Training
12.00	**Closing ceremony** **Nicolas Schmit**, President of FEPS Moderated by **László Andor,** FEPS Secretary General
12.30	**Lunch to take away and departures**

Colour code
Light grey: plenary
Grey: parallel activities
White: networking

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