Public Panel:
For the impactful EU-UK partnership in the rapidly changing world

FEPS fringe event at the EU-UK Progressive Forum 2026

3rd of November 2026, FEPS headquarters

Background:

This fringe event will kick of the second edition of the EU-UK Progressive Forum, that, since its inception, is a unique format of annually held events that offer space for leading politicians, academics, trade unionists and experts from across Europe. The aim of these exchanges held in the heart of Brussels remains strategic – enabling an honest conversation that goes beyond the post-Brexit negotiations, and instead of focusing on the past allows looking jointly at the most pertinent questions that are to frame not only the EU-UK partnership, but possibly the entire new global order emerging after the period of poly-crisis and grand unravelling that it brought.

The first Forum looked at the new opening and the momentum it created in 2025. This year, the intention is to place the conversation in the context of the grand transformations and examine the questions such as: what should the EU-UK partnership focus on to promote a values and international law-embedded international order? What kind of change can there be in the relations in the short and long term, taking the change in the government and the premiership of Andy Burnham into account? And then, what are the political innovations that social democrats can inspire one another with?

Agenda:

17.30 Registration

18.00 Panel Discussion: For an impactful EU-UK partnership in a rapidly changing world

The EU-UK partnership saw a new chapter of relations starting in 2025. Following that, there have also been further rapprochements and new agreements reached between the UK and the respective Member States. While multiple issues are being discussed in those frameworks, there is no doubt that the silver thread remains the question of security. It is implicitly understood in a broad manner, including the traditional matters (such as defence capacities), as well as trade relations and diplomacy. Is there convergence around the understanding of how to respond to transformations in the fields of environment, digitalisation, democracy and others.

Key questions:

- How can the UK and EU move beyond transactional security cooperation toward a more integrated, strategic partnership that reflects their shared democratic values and global responsibilities?

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- In the face of hybrid threats like cyberattacks, disinformation, and energy disruption, what practical steps should the UK and EU take to build joint resilience across critical infrastructure and information ecosystems? Could we come up with a common European identity which strengthens our resilience?

- What are the priorities of Ed Miliband's agenda, and how do they correspond with what the EU is considering to its CFSP priorities? What is the place of the UK amid the broader consideration of the EU in regard to the key strategic policies – like the proposal on the Associated Membership for Canada, the relations with Iceland and Norway, the prospect of enlargement?

Welcome Remarks:

- László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS
- Luise Rürup, Director, FES London

Keynote: Stewart Wood, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Europe, Eastern Europe, International Security and Growth *(online)*

Discussion:

- Ben Coleman, MP, House of Commons
- Brando Benifei, MEP
- Katarzyna Ueberhan, MP, Sejm

Moderation: Ania Skrzypek, Director for Research and Training, FEPS

19.30 End of public discussion, followed by reception

This public panel discussion is a FEPS fringe event at the "EU-UK Progressive Forum" organised by the FES Brussels Office and FES London Office.

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