



WHAT DO EUROPEAN CITIZENS WANT FROM EU FOREIGN POLICY?

FEPS – ECFR Internal Seminar

Tuesday, 19th of November 2019, 12:00 – 14:30

FEPS Offices, Rue Montoyer 40, 4th floor, Brussels, Belgium

Ahead of the new European Commission taking over, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) are delighted to invite you to an internal seminar to discuss and share some insights as to what citizens want the EU's role in the world to be.

With the EU election results now known, the pertinent questions are: how is the new composition of the European Parliament going to impact the EU's political system, especially in terms of the balance of powers? What sort of political initiatives should be brought about so that the European Union delivers to the expectations of its citizens in terms of foreign policy?

In a dangerous, competitive world, citizens made clear at the recent European elections that they want the EU to 'come of age' as a geopolitical actor. This has also been reflected in the FEPS [Millennial Dialogue survey](#). Over 56% of Millennials believe that the EU should have more powers to represent Europe with a single voice on the world stage. A recent ECFR representative polling of 60,000 individuals in Europe in turn shows that most believe that they are living in a EU that can no longer rely on the US security guarantee and feel vulnerable to Russian interference in domestic politics.

From the EU's relations with Russia, the US and China, to sanctions, migration flows trade and climate change – what can European Progressives learn from the recent elections? How can they deliver on the mandate for change – including in the sphere of foreign policy – that EU citizens gave them?

With Josep Borrell likely to take over as High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and building on Federica Mogherini's important legacy, Progressives have a clear opportunity to advance a strategic agenda for the EU's role in the world aligned with what European citizens want.

Join a FEPS – ECFR insightful and exclusive internal seminar where these issues will be debated in the frame of the latest ECFR publication, [Give the people what they want: Popular demand for a strong European foreign policy](#), forms part of the [Unlock Europe's Majority](#) project which aims at pushing back against the rise of anti-Europeanism that threatens to weaken the EU and its influence in the world.

Agenda

12:00 – 12:30

Registration & light lunch

12:30 – 12:40

Welcome and opening remarks by

Dr Ania SKRZYPEK, FEPS Director of Research and Training

12:40 – 13:15

EU citizens' perspective on EU foreign policy

Ms Susi DENNISON, Director of ECFR's European Power Programme

Mr Pawel ZERKA, Policy Fellow, ECFR

- Europeans in a complex world: How do EU citizens think and feel about the EU's role in the world, and its relations with other powers?
- What do they perceive as key priorities, challenges and threats?
- How do EU voters, particularly PES voters, respond to key foreign policy questions – from sanctions and trade, to migration versus emigration and climate change?

13:15 - 13:20

First respondent

Dr Hedwig GIUSTO, FEPS Senior Policy Advisor

13:20 – 14:30

Roundtable discussion – Chatham house rule

The view from Progressives: The EU's role in the world

Moderated by: Ms Maria FREITAS, FEPS Senior Policy Advisor

About FEPS

The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) is the only progressive think tank at the European level that fosters open, provocative and fresh debates to stimulate new thinking in Europe and in the social democratic movement.

More information on www.feps-europe.eu

Suggested readings:

[The European Elections 2019: 10 observations on how they made a difference and will resonate further on](#) by Dr Ania SKRZYPEK

[Millennial Dialogue on Europe: Shaping the New EU Agenda](#) by FEPS, Think Young and partners

[European Public Opinion and Migration: Achieving Common Progressive Narratives](#) by FEPS and partners

[Walking the Strategic Talk: A Progressive EU Foreign Policy Agenda for the Future](#) by Nicoletta PIROZZI and Vassilis NTOUSAS

[United for Climate Justice](#) by FEPS & partners

About ECFR

The European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) is the first pan-European think-tank. Launched in October 2007, its objective is to conduct research and promote informed debate across Europe on the development of coherent, effective and values-based European foreign policy. More information on www.ecfr.eu

Suggested readings:

[Give the people what they want: Popular demand for a strong European foreign policy](#) by Susi DENNISON

[How to govern a fragmented EU: What Europeans said at the ballot box](#) by Susi DENNISON, Mark LEONARD, and Pawel ZERKA