



Invitation to the  
**Panel discussion**

**The East-West Divide in Europe: The Need of a Progressive Counter-Narrative against Illiberal Trends**

**Date** Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Venue** Karl-Renner-Institut  
Karl-Popper-Straße 8, 1100 Vienna  
See [Map](#)

**Welcome and moderation**  
**MARIA MALTSCHNIG**, Director of the Karl-Renner-Institut

**Introduction**  
**LÁSZLÓ ANDOR**, Secretary General of FEPS

**Discussants**  
**ATTILA ÁGH**, Professor emeritus at Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Political Science  
**PAUL SCHMIDT**, Secretary General, Austrian Society for European Politics, Vienna  
**MARIA SKÓRA**, Das Progressive Zentrum, Berlin  
**MAGDALENA ZELASKO**, Director of the Let's CEE Film Festival, Vienna

**Concluding remarks**  
**JOSEF WEIDENHOLZER**, former MEP, SPÖ

**Content**  
Much talk is about the disagreements between CEE states (especially the Visegrád Four) and Western European states within the EU regarding the question on how to deal with refugees and migrants. Another issue of divide is the crisis of democracy in Hungary and Poland and rule-of-law deficits there and in other Eastern countries. However, looking at the (far-right) populist wave and illiberal trends in many European countries, the picture is much more mixed. The main question is therefore how democracy and rule of law can be defended. What can social democracy contribute to challenge illiberalism and to create a progressive counter-narrative?

*The discussion will be held in English.  
Refreshments will be served after the event.*

**Registration:**  
[Karl-Renner-Institut](#)

*By participating in this event you agree that any photos or recordings taken that include footage of your person may be published or used in any other way by the organizers of the event.*