

Tyranny and Hope: The state of Central Europe in the European Union

Conference organized by Republikon and the Hungarian Europe Society, hosted by Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit

Date: 10 December 2019 (Tuesday)

Location: Friedrich Naumann Foundation Europe, Avenue de Cortenbergh 71, 1000 Brussels

In the last decade, populist governments in Central Europe moved away from the values of liberal democracy. Hungary's and Poland's political leaders have created new illiberal regimes and entered into permanent conflicts with European institutions. Moreover, the spreading of populism in the region and beyond has become one of the most dangerous crises the European Union faces today.

The first objective of this conference is to introduce the country report on Hungary elaborated by the Hungarian Europe Society and discuss the future of the Central European countries inside the European Union. Secondly, our invited guests - politicians and experts – will share their thoughts also about political developments since the recent European elections and will analyse how EU institutions, member states, democratic and liberal parties as well as civil organisations should react successfully to the challenges of illiberalism and populism in the European Union.

Program:

15:00: Opening Remarks

Andrea Virág, Director of Strategy, Republikon Institute

15:10: Opening Speech: Tyranny and Hope – Hungary under Orbán

István Hegedűs, Chairman, Hungarian Europe Society

15:25: How could the European Union cope with populism in Central-Europe and beyond?

- **Bernard Guetta**, Member of the European Parliament, Liste Renaissance, Renew Europe
- **Katarzyna Mortoń**, Civil Society & Media Capacity Builder, Political Commentator
- **Dániel Mikecz** Researcher, Republikon Institute
- **Michal Šimečka**, Member of the European Parliament, Progresívne Slovensko, Renew Europe
- **István Hegedűs**, Chairman, Hungarian Europe Society
Moderator: **Erik Uszkiewicz**, Vice-Chairman, Hungarian Europe Society

16:40 Q&A

17.15 Closing Remarks:

Thomas Ilka, Regional Director of European Dialogue, FNF Brussels

17:30 Buffet Dinner