

RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES SERIES

EUROPEAN VALUES SERIES

THE MEDIA – THE ARTILLERY OF FREEDOM?

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

6 JUNE 2013 ■ BUDAPEST

INVITATION

“The Press is the artillery of freedom”. This famous sentence was uttered by former German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hans-Dietrich Genscher to describe the important role played by the press in bringing about change in Central and Eastern Europe in 1989. Since 1989 the medial landscape has changed drastically, and today bloggers as much as traditional press outlets can be said to stand at the forefront as guardians of free speech and the rule of law. What is the role of the media in contemporary Europe? Where are the challenges to media freedom found, and what can the EU do to promote the essential independence of the third estate?

Welcome by **SUSANNE HARTIG** | Executive Director of the European Liberal Forum

Moderated by **CSABA TÓTH** | Director of Research at Republikon Scientific, Educational and Research Foundation

Video message by **NEELIE KROES** | European Commissioner for Digital Agenda

Keynote by **LASZLO MAJTENYI** | Former Hungarian Ombudsman

Discussion with

ISTVÁN HEGEDŰS | Chairman of the Hungarian Europe Society

RUBINA MÖHRING | Member of the International Council of Reporters without Borders, President of Reporters without Borders Austria

DICK ROCHE | Vice-President of the ALDE Party and former Irish Minister of State for European Affairs

BORBÁLA TÓTH | Researcher, Centre for Independent Journalism

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION: ENGLISH/HUNGARIAN

THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2013 | 17H00 – 19H00

YBL PALOTA | DÍSZTEREM

1053 BUDAPEST | KÁROLYI MIHÁLY UTCA 12.

For further information, please contact the ELF Secretariat at info@liberalforum.eu or at +32 (0)2 401 87 12.

LORD
RALF DAHRENDORF

1929 – 2009

ELF hopes to promote a series of excellent ELF events connected to the name of Lord Dahrendorf. Further, ELF wishes to provide liberal stakeholders at all levels with policy recommendations on unforeseen political events of European liberal interest. Through this, we also aim to enhance the ELF profile by hosting a series of events under the Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable banner.

By connecting the roundtable series with the name of Lord Dahrendorf, ELF wishes to underline his achievements. In his many functions he championed liberal democracy and European integration. He consistently promoted the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty.

His wide experience combining science and politics provided an excellent background to his activity in the German Parliament for the liberal Free Democratic Party, as European Commissioner, as member of the British House of Lords and as Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (1982 – 1987).

During his four years in Brussels (1970 – 1974), Lord Dahrendorf was responsible for the European Community's Foreign Relations and Trade, and later for Research, Science and Education. He actively supported a stronger Europe. As Commissioner he was a sharp critic of European Union bureaucracy while he was passionately in favour of a European Parliament exercising greater power.

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