

“The Twenties of the Twenty-First Century: Liberal Answers to Anti-Liberal Challenges”

Online conference organised by the Hungarian Europe Society

Date: 6 November 2020, Friday

We live in a world that is permanently changing with an accelerated speed. The next decade of the 21st century will be different to the life we know today. Technological revolutions, social turbulences, political tensions, transformation of the media systems, great power conflicts are significant spheres of the current transition period. Today's crisis management might lead to a new global order or to a disorder - under the increasing threat of climate emergency – in which the role of Europe will also inevitably transform.

Moreover, 2020 has been a peculiar year with a worldwide crisis caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The political, economic and cultural consequences of the spreading coronavirus cannot be overestimated. It is highly debated how a new normality will be shaped when the disease is finally over. Political actors and civil society representatives are supposed to learn from the unexpected development of human history. Nevertheless, the struggle between the representatives of democratic, liberal forces and those who propose nationalist/ethnocentric populist answers to the current multiple challenges will continue.

Draft program:

9.30 Welcome speech

István Hegedűs, Chairman, Hungarian Europe Society, Budapest: Thirty Years After

9.45 Key-note address

Karl-Heinz Paqué, Chairman, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Berlin: Multiple Crises and Liberal Responses

10.30 - 12.00 Morning session: Reactions to Economic, Social and Political Challenges: A New Era of Populism and Euroscepticism?

Moderator: **István Hegedűs**, Chairman, Hungarian Europe Society, Budapest

Šárka Prát, Director, Institute for Politics and Society, Prague: [The Impact of the Current Economic Transformation on the Political Systems in Europe](#)

Stijn van Kessel, Senior Lecturer in European Politics, Queen Mary University of London: Mobilising For and Against Europe in Times of Populism and Nationalism

Stephan Lewandowsky, Chair in Cognitive Psychology, University of Bristol: Populism, Misinformation, and Human Cognition



Thibault Muzergues, Political analyst, Author of the book "The Great Class Shift": [Social Media, Political Attitudes, Tribes in Global and Central European Perspectives](#)

12.00 Break

14.00 Key-note address

Veronica Anghel, Political Science Researcher, Fellow in the Max Weber Programme, European University Institute, Florence; Analyst, The Economist Intelligence Unit: [Political and Institutional Impacts of the US Presidential Elections on the Transatlantic Relations and the Central and Eastern European Region](#)

14.45 – 16.15 Afternoon session: Liberal Order or Disorder during the Twenties?

Moderator: **Erik Uszkiewicz**, Vice-chairman, Hungarian Europe Society, Budapest

Christophe Hillion, Senior Researcher in Law, Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies and Professor of European Law, Universities of Oslo and Leiden: The Significance of the Rule of Law in the European Integration Process and Its Implications for the Member States

Hajnalka Vincze, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia: [The Risks of Europelessness](#)

Volodymyr Dubovyk, Director, Center for International Studies, Odessa Mechnikov National University: Liberalism under Attack, Transatlantic Strain and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

16.15 Closing remarks

The conference is supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.



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