



15th European Democracy Conference 2024

The EU at a Crossroads: Perspectives on Europe's Future after the Elections

#WeNeedEU

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

Schumannstraße 8, 10117 Berlin

Tuesday, 2 July 2024

9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Symposium with experts from science, media and politics

6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

Public panel discussion

Europe has voted. The results show that the conservative EPP and the far-right groups ECR and ID have emerged stronger from the election. The liberal Renew group and the Greens/EFA, on the other hand, have suffered heavy losses. While there is still a pro-democratic and pro-European majority in the European Parliament, it has shrunk in favour of far-right parties. In times which are characterised by wars and conflicts, the rise of authoritarian regimes, climate change and a crisis-ridden economy, the result poses immense challenges for the EU.

Four weeks after the European Parliament elections, we therefore want to analyse the election results with European experts, media professionals, academics and actors from an active and courageous civil society. We want to scrutinise the causes and consequences of this trend and discuss how the new electoral majority structure will affect the European Parliament's ability to operate, the interaction between the European institutions and the future political direction of EU policy.

- How should the results be assessed and what are the causes of voting behaviour? What national differences in voting behaviour can be identified?
- How will the new majority structure affect the work in the European Parliament? How can cooperation with the European Council and the new European Commission be developed?
- How can the EU overcome the current major challenges and continue to drive forward its agenda for transformation despite this shift to the right?
- How can the EU drive forward its reform and enlargement agenda and what contribution can Germany make to this?
- What can we learn from the bright spots where a political return to the path of democracy was possible, such as in the Czech Republic and Poland?

Tuesday, 2 July 2024

Expert symposium from 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

9.00 **Registration and Coffee**

9:30 **Welcome address**

Jan Philipp Albrecht, President, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation

9.45 **1st Panel | Analysis of the election results**

How should the results of the elections be assessed and what are the causes of voting behaviour?

with:

- o **Heidi Hautala**, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA, Brussels
- o **Costanza Hermanin**, Assistant Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Fiesole
- o **Merijn Oudenampsen**, Political Sociologist, Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
- o **Edit Zgut-Przybylska**, Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology (IFIS) in the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), Warsaw

Chair: **Gordon Repinski**, Executive Editor Politico Europe, Berlin

11.00 **Interview | Spotlight on France**

Jacob Ross, Research Fellow, Franco-German Relations, German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin

In conversation with: **Mathilde Lanciaux**, Programme Coordinator Democracy & Foreign and Security Policy, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Paris

11.20 **Coffee break**

11.45 **2nd Panel | New majorities in the European Parliament**

How will the new majority structure affect the work in the European Parliament? How will cooperation with the European Council, the Council of the European Union and the new European Commission be organized? How can the EU institutions' ability to act be guaranteed? How can reform and enlargement go hand in hand?

with:

- o **Sergey Lagodinsky**, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA, Brussels
- o **Renata Mieñkowska-Norkiene**, Professor European Politics, Warsaw
- o **Shahin Vallée**, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, and Technology, German Council on Foreign Relations
- o **Corina Stratulat**, Associate Director and Head of the European Politics and Institutions Programme, European Policy Centre (EPC), Brussels

Chair: **Eva van de Rakt**, Head of European Union and North America Division, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Berlin

13.00 **Lunch break in the foyer and terrace**

14.30

**Parallel breakout sessions | Democracy through the lens of:
[English only]**

Energy policy

- o **Eliška Beranová**, Head of the Legislative Group, Community Energy Union, Brno
- o **Ákos Éger**, Executive President, National Society of Conservationists - Friends of the Earth Hungary (MTVSZ), Budapest
- o **Julian Schwartzkopff**, Senior Expert Energy and Climate Protection, Deutsche Umwelthilfe, Berlin
- o **Chris Vrettos**, Associate at REScoop.eu and Electra Energy Cooperative, Brussels

Chair: **Urszula Papajak**, Project Lead, Bündnis Bürgerenergie, Berlin

Agricultural policy

- o **Andrea Calori**, President, EStà - Economia e Sostenibilità, Milano
- o **Alex Pazaitis**, Researcher at the Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance, Tallinn University of Technology and Core Member of P2P Lab, Ioannina
- o **Justyna Zwolińska**, Advocacy Coordinator of the Living Earth Coalition, Warsaw

Chair: **Lena Luig**, Head of International Agricultural Policy Division, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Berlin

Gender democracy

- o **Anna Krenz**, Artist and Activist, Berlin
- o **Katrin Lange**, Head of the Europe Department, Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe, Frankfurt a.M.
- o **Açelya Uçan**, Programme Coordinator, Mor Çatı, Istanbul
- o **Burtejin Zorigt**, Head of Democracy Programme, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Prague
- o **Umut Rojda Yıldırım**, Lawyer and Board Member at Social Policy Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association (SPoD), Istanbul

Chair: **Claudia Rothe**, Senior Programme Officer European Union, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Berlin

Fiscal policy

- o **Marco Cappelluti**, Doctoral Researcher, University College London
- o **Max Krahé**, Research Director and Co-Founder, Dezernat Zukunft, Berlin
- o **Martyna Linartas**, Doctoral Researcher, Freie Universität Berlin & Founder of ungleichheit.info

Chair: **Georg McCutcheon**, Project Officer European Union, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Berlin

15.30

Closing remarks

Spotlight Interview | 3 questions with:

- o **Thu Nguyen**, Deputy Director, Jacques Delors Centre and **Jan Philipp Albrecht**

15.45

End of the expert symposium

Tuesday, 2 July 2024

Public panel discussion from 6.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.

6.00 p.m. **Welcome address**

Jan Philipp Albrecht, Co-President, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation

6.05 p.m. **Opening statement**

- o **Anna Lührmann**, Minister of State for Europe and Climate, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

6.15 p.m. In conversation with **Jan Philipp Albrecht**, Co-President, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation

6.30 p.m. **Debate | Results and perspectives on the EU's future**

- o **Tarik Abou-Chadi**, Associate Professor in European Union and Comparative European Politics, Nuffield College, University of Oxford
- o **Annika Brockschmidt**, Journalist and Author, Berlin
- o **Ricarda Lang**, Federal Chairperson, Alliance 90/The Greens, Berlin

Chair: **Jan Philipp Albrecht**, Co-President, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Berlin

7.45 p.m. **Reception and exchange**

9.00 p.m. **End of the event**
