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EIN-A4

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EIN - YMN Seminar on EU response on the upcoming UK referendum and possible subsequent events commonly (known as Brexit)

Co-Chair:

- **Paulo Rangel MEP**, *EIN Chairman, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament responsible for Political Strategy and the European Ideas Network*
- **Esther de LANGE MEP**, *Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament responsible for Relations with National Parliaments*
- **Tom VANDENKENDELAERE MEP**, *Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs in the European Parliament*

Speakers:

- **Prof. Dave SINARDET**, *Free University of Brussels, Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, Department of Political Science*
- **Dr Nicholas STARTIN**, *Deputy Head of Department of Politics, Languages & International Studies, University of Bath*
- **Prof. Richard WHITMAN**- *Head of the School of Politics, University of Kent, Director of the Global Europe Centre*
- **Duarte MARQUES MP** (PT, PSD)
- It is very important that the United Kingdom remain in the EU. But if they decide to leave, there is no chance for a second renegotiation. There is no way back. The UK will still have to deal with EU because of our common destiny but Friendship is one thing, membership is another.
- The EU has given everything that it could give to the British and the EU should now keep apart from this British discussion. The EU presence in the debate would be counterproductive.
- A referendum could give an answer to a question that you did not ask. Indeed, it can produce unexpected dynamics and unexpected results. Plus, there is a tendency for people to focus on other issue than the one originally at stake. The UK referendum is a very emotional one, based on sovereign symbolism (crown, army, pound, financial independence, etc.).
- Why did David Cameron make this decision to go for the 'nuclear option'? First, a huge split in the Conservative party. Second, the rise of the UK independence party (UKIP). Third, the unique tabloid press extremely hostile to the EU and prepared to picture and influence this debate with an anti-European propaganda.
- The variables that may impact in the results of the referendum are immigration, security and economic crisis.
- We could picture 3 different scenarios. A vote to remain in large number. In this case, that could change significantly the way UK see the EU. A narrow outcome, either in or out, will lead to a continuation of an uncertainty for the UK and the future of Europe. The titanic scenarios in which the UK population vote to leave by comfortable marge. In this case, a second Scottish independence referendum would be conceivable.
- This Referendum is a breaking point in Europe history. We are going towards a two speed European Union and not an EU 'à la carte' which is unacceptable. Some countries will deepen their integration in a federal path and others take the option to remain with a strong link within the EU but with a moderate degree of integration.

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