



ein

european ideas network

December 2017

**IDEAS IN ACTION
ON EUROPE'S CENTRE-RIGHT**



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What is the EIN?

The European Ideas Network (EIN) is an open pan-European think tank sponsored by the EPP Group in the European Parliament. It is a network of policy-makers and opinion-shapers, aiming to promote the discussion about key challenges and issues at a worldwide level, which are of interest of EU legislators and their policy making function.

EIN offers a unique opportunity to address current and future EU policy challenges as it is the only think tank that joins EU legislators and civil society experts from all spectrums in its events, thus promoting the broadest forum in which to find the solutions that will better shape the Europe of tomorrow.

Launched in the summer of 2002, the network rapidly emerged as an important meeting-point and intellectual crossroad for the centre-right European politics, enabling politicians to make informed decisions regarding the most current and relevant issues on a global scale.

The EIN is formed by a large network of politicians, businessmen, academics, and policy advisers, members of think tanks and representatives of civil society, who share a common outlook on an European level. Non-party experts and critics interested in

public policy issues are also welcome to reflect and debate upon different subjects contributing positively to different solutions for all. The forum offers unique ways to develop ground-breaking ideas by promoting a broad and reality based search for solutions which may help the EPP Group in accomplishing its aim: to continuously build a strong and united Europe.

Every year, the EIN organises a series of seminars and breakfast meetings in the European Parliament. Furthermore, the EIN organises events outside Brussels in cooperation with local think tanks on request of the National Delegations, in which we highlight the **EIN Summer University**. In addition, the EIN organises or co-organises events outside Europe, extending the EPP Group's network of centre-right contacts, on an international level.

The Summer University is the EIN's main annual event in which, during two days, key speakers take the stage to debate and reach for solutions on the most pressing issues faced by the European Union and the world. Gathering MEPs, Members of National Governments, key representatives of European Institutions, academics and representatives of civil society; this event constitutes a privileged forum to debate and reach important conclusions in a

truly global perspective.

In its 16th edition, the success of the event and the global character of the discussions has been reinforced, with hundreds of participants from all over the world debating and presenting proposals for future policy-making.

Since 2008, the EIN proudly organises its **Trans-Atlantic-Group (TAG) annual meeting**, aiming to provide an opportunity for EPP Group MEPs to participate in an exchange with members of the US Congress and members of the main US political party representatives, providing a unique experience for them to liaise with their American counterparts.

These meetings represent a great opportunity to strengthen the transatlantic strategic cooperation and thoroughly work on issues that implicate both European and American legislators, in an era of structural and continuous change.

The EIN Merit Award Francisco Lucas Pires, created in 2015 to serve as a recognition of a personality committed to promoting the European values, was primarily attributed to Mr Jaime Mayor Oreja. In 2016, Dr Hans-Gert Pöttering, was the one contemplated. This year, the award was attributed to Mr Joseph Daul.

Learn from the Past, acknowledge the Present and prepare for the Future

In 2017, the EIN team strived to deepen the networks role as a place to analyse worldwide issues, promoting the debate on the most crucial topics of our time. These included:

- > A continuous reflection on the “Future of Europe”;
- > The appraisal of nationalist and populist movements across Europe and its threats to democracy;
- > Tracking the roots and consequences of “Brexit”;
- > The Mediterranean’s social, economic and security stability and its geopolitical importance to the EU;
- > The immigration crisis;
- > EU security and defence;
- > The future of the Transatlantic Relations in a post-Brexit and Trump election era.

WORKING GROUPS

EIN’s core operations are prepared by its **six Working Groups**.

They contribute to the organisation of seminars, production of policy briefings, and preparation of the **EIN Summer University**.

Working Groups are in contact with the EPP Group coordinators, to ensure cohesion between the work of the EIN and the needs of the EPP Group MEPs.

Each Working Group is led by a Chairperson.

Working Groups

> **“Future of Europe”**

Chairman: **Paulo Rangel** MEP

> **“Immigration”**

Chairwoman: **Roberta Metsola** MEP

> **“Demography”**

Chairman: **György Schöpflin** MEP

> **“Transatlantic Relations”**

Chairwoman: **Mairead McGuinness** MEP

> **“Human Dignity and Bioethics”**

Chairman: **Miroslav Mikolasik** MEP

> **“SME Circle”**

Chairman: **Markus Pieper** MEP

Task forces

> **“Mediterranean Stability”**

Chairman: **Andrey Kovatchev** MEP

> **“Security”**

Chairman: **Artis Pabriks** MEP

> **“2019”**

Chairman: **Manfred Weber** MEP



COOPERATION WITH THINK TANKS, POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES

The European Ideas Network comprises political foundations, think tanks and research institutes – together with individual academic experts, policy researchers and opinion-formers – who wish to contribute to the policy discussions of the EPP Group in the European Parliament and of the European centre-right across national boundaries. Some of these are formally affiliated to the EPP Group or parties of the centre-right and support their objectives, others are independent and non-partisan who simply wish to engage in the activities organised by the EIN. They include:

Austrian Institute for European Security Policy, Azad Centre for Political Studies, Bertelsmann Foundation, BRUEGEL, CDA Research Institute, Centre for European Studies (CES), Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Center for Fundamental Rights, CEVRO, Civitas/KRDU Foundation, Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy, Copenhagen Institute, Centrum Rozwoju Edukacji Obywatelskiej (CREO), E-Stat, Eurolib, European-American Business Council, European Enterprise Institute, European Policy Centre (EPC), European Policy Forum, Free Europe Centre, Foedus Foundation, Foundation for a Civic Hungary, Fondation pour l'Innovation Politique, Fondation Robert Schuman, Fondazione Fare Futuro, Fondazione Liberal, Fondazione Magna Carta, Fondazione Res Publica, Fondazione Ugo Spirito e Renzo De Felice, Friedrich-August-von-Hayek-Stiftung, Hanns Seidel Stiftung/CREI (France), Hudson Institute, Institut Montaigne, Institute for Research on the Market Economy (IBNGR), Institute of Democratic Politics, Instituto Amaro da Costa, Instituto Francisco Sá Carneiro, Institutul de Studii Populare (ISP), International Republican Institute, Institut dr. Jožeta Pučnika (IJP), Jozsef Antall Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Mecs Laszlo Foundation, Natolin European Center, Policy Exchange, Political Academy of the ÖVP, Ratio Institute, Robert Schuman Foundation, Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE), SPK Europe, Stiftung Marktwirtschaft, Stiftung Ordnungspolitik, Stockholm Network, Századvég Foundation, Timbro, Tocqueville-Acton Centre for Studies & Documentation, US House of Representatives, Walter Eucken Institut.

Coordination of the Network

The membership of the EIN Working Groups attendance at its Summer University and other meetings are at personal invitation. The European Ideas Network is organised, administered and funded by the EPP Group in the European Parliament. The Chairman and the Board of the European Ideas Network are appointed by the Presidency of the EPP Group, which also assigns staff support to the EIN's Network Centre. The EIN offers the possibility of tracking its events on the official website, Twitter account and the newest Facebook page, launched in September.

CONTACT DETAILS

The EIN's daily activities are handled by a **Network Centre** located in the EPP Group Secretariat in the European Parliament in Brussels:

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THE NETWORK'S AIMS

The EIN seeks to:

- > promote new ideas and exchange best practice methods on how to address the social, economic and foreign policy challenges facing Europe nowadays;
- > broaden the vision and experience of key policy-makers and opinion-shapers, so that issues are seen in a wider, more global context;
- > involve centre-right think tanks and political foundations more closely in the evolution of policy and offer them a framework to cooperate more effectively at the European level;
- > reach out to people and groups otherwise not involved in party politics, especially by encouraging the younger generation to participate in political argument and debate.

NETWORK'S 2017 ACTIVITIES

During 2017, the European Ideas Network has carefully organised an active programme of events focused on providing a forum to discuss on the most crucial and contemporaneous policy challenges the European Union is facing. Throughout the year, the EIN Working Groups also organized numerous seminars.

Key events of 2017 were:

- > *"Protection of Human Life in the Era of Commodification"*
WG Bioethics, 10 January, Brussels
- > *"Future global trends: How can Europe progress towards a new common vision"*
EIN "Food for Thought", 1st February, Brussels
- > *"Patents as Biopolitical Devices of Globalisation"*
WG Bioethics, 7 February, Brussels
- > *"Transatlantic Relations after the US presidential elections"*
EIN & Hudson Institute Seminar, 8 February, Brussels
- > *"Empowering European Innovators and Entrepreneurs"*
EIN "Food for Thought", 1st March, Brussels
- > *"Future of inter-institutional/constitutional issues in light of Brexit"*
Seminar, 8 March, Brussels
- > *"World Down Syndrome Day: Treatment of Genetic Intellectual Disabilities"*
WG Bioethics, 28 March, Brussels
- > *"Does post-truth politics lead to post-truth societies? How can the challenges of populism be addressed?"*
Seminar on the occasion of the EPP Congress, 29 March, Malta

- > *"Political Block - A Europe for the 21st Century
Economic Block - Europe after the crisis
Social Block - Recover values to recover Europe"*
- EIN & Escuela Europa Seminar, 21-23 April, Spain
- > *"Media, political correctness and manipulation"*
- Seminar, 25 April, Brussels
- > *"Geopolitical consequences of Brexit: Security and Defence,
External relations and the EU place in the world"*
- EIN "Food for Thought", 2 May, Brussels
- > *"Future of Europe"*
- WG Future of Europe with Instituto Sá Carneiro, 3 -4 May, Porto
- > *"Is Europe full?"*
- WG Demography, 11-12 May, Budapest
- > *"Human Genetic Modification vs. Human Dignity"*
- WG Bioethics, 6 June, Brussels
- > *"Washington TAG Meeting"*
- TAG Meeting, 17-20 July, Washington DC
- > *"TTIP"*
- EIN "Working Breakfast", 12 July, Brussels
- > *"Challenges of Research and Science Ethics"*
- WG Bioethics, 26 September, Brussels
- > *"EIN Summer University 2017"*
- Summer University, 28-29 September, Rome
- > *"Wealth creation for all - Which policies help to strengthen trust
in market economies?"*
- EIN & KAS Seminar, 9-10 October, Berlin
- > *"Palliative care in times of demographic winter"*
- WG Bioethics, 17 October, Brussels
- > *"Maternity and Paternity - Right to Know"*
- WG Bioethics, 7 November, Brussels
- > *"Working Group Euro 2019"*
- Seminar, 29 November, Brussels

- > *"European Group on Ethics briefing"*
- WG Bioethics, 5 December, Brussels
- > *"The new framework for transatlantic security cooperation and
NATO partnership"*
- Seminar, 5 December, Brussels

NETWORK'S 2018 ACTIVITIES

In a defining moment for the European Union's project, the EPP Group has a great responsibility on finding solutions for the complex upcoming challenges. Therefore, in 2018, the EIN will continue reinforcing its role as a place to openly discuss and develop innovative ideas about the policy challenges facing Europe in the years ahead and to evolve practical solutions to address them.

During 2018, the EIN seminars and round table discussions will focus on deepening into the different angles and approaches of the European way of life.

