OPEN
EUROPEAN
DIALOGUE

INVITATION

THE AGE OF TURMOIL

Navigating Conflict in a Changing World

9TH ANNUAL POLICYMAKERS DIALOGUE

27-29 September, 2024

Zagreb, Croatia

INVITATION

Ninth Open European Dialogue – The Age of Turmoil
27 - 29 September 2024, Zagreb

DEAR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

You are cordially invited to the 9th Open European Dialogue, **“The Age of Turmoil: Navigating Conflict in a Changing World”**, taking place in Zagreb from September 27th to 29th, 2024.

In recent years, conflict has increasingly become a recurring feature of current affairs.

From the protracted war against Ukraine to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, along with farmer protests across Europe and inflamed national debates on abortion rights in France, Poland, and Italy, there are numerous instances where conflict keeps dominating the political agenda.

Driven by geopolitical tensions and amplified societal cleavages, the rise of domestic and global unrest is profoundly shaping the political landscape, polarising public opinion and influencing policy decisions, often leading to definitive and deeply entrenched stances.

In this political climate, politicians’ role in navigating societal tensions is crucial. Understanding, managing, and addressing these disputes while striving to address constituents’ concerns effectively has become a critical challenge of contemporary policymaking.

Exercising leadership in an age of turmoil challenges politicians to explore a new understanding of their role in society and may require the honing of new political skills and strategies.

This year’s Annual Policymakers Dialogue presents a unique opportunity for a selected cohort of parliamentarians from across Europe to engage in an in-depth exploration of the nature and socio-political implications of conflict in a democratic society.

Together, we will delve into some pivotal questions for our democracy:

- **What are the societal, economic and political implications of current conflicts for citizens and nations?**

- **What do we know about the underlying root causes and exacerbating factors that fuel political unrest?**

- **What role do political institutions, and particularly parliamentarians, have in navigating the tensions in our society? What role for parliamentary diplomacy?**

- **What tools and strategies can policymakers leverage to promote stability and consensus-building in a polarised society?**

- **Can societal conflict be harnessed as a catalyst for positive change?**

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Join us for a two-day exclusive parliamentary dialogue, informed by top-tier experts and practitioners, where, together with parliamentary colleagues from across Europe and the political spectrum, you will have the opportunity to explore new thinking and solutions to address some of the fundamental political challenges of our time.

We would be honoured to welcome you to Zagreb, where we will navigate “The Age of Turmoil” and reflect on the challenges and opportunities of this historical moment for European politics and its policymakers.

Warm regards,

Chiara Rosselli
APROPOS - Advancing Process in Politics

Henry Alt-Haaker
Robert Bosch Stiftung

Dr. Stefan Schäfers
King Baudouin Foundation

Dr. Malte Zabel
Bertelsmann Stiftung

Dr. Maria Gavouneli
Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy

Dr. Nathalie Tocci
Istituto Affari Internazionali

Dr. Pol Morillas
Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

AGENDA

The 9th Open European Dialogue will begin on Friday, September 27th (17:00 CEST) and close on Sunday, September 29th (16:00 CEST).

AGENDA PREVIEW

DAY 1: FRIDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER

17:00 - 19:00 Big-Picture Framing and Kick-Off of High-Level Political Dialogue

DAY 2: SATURDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER

09:00 - 18:00 Problem Exploration: The Role of Parliaments and Conflict Management

DAY 3: SUNDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER

09:00 - 16:00 Holding the Tension: Best Practice Sharing and Charting Ways Forward

A more detailed agenda is available for the registered participants.

WHY JOIN?

Discover a different kind of political conversation - in a trusted and protected environment.

The Open European Dialogue (OED) is specialised in creating spaces for dialogue and understanding between parliamentarians. You will be able to openly share your views with colleagues while operating under the OED House Rules of openness, respect and confidentiality.

Experience a dialogue for parliamentarians, by parliamentarians.

Engage with a richly diverse cohort of parliamentarians and exchange experiences and perspectives with colleagues from across Europe. Thanks to the internationally recognised ‘Good Offices’ of the Open European Dialogue, we will provide you with an exchange opportunity specifically designed around the needs and priorities of policymakers.

Join a pan-European network.

Finally, the Open European Dialogue offers you a unique network experience that ensures you will stay in touch with your colleagues after the dialogue. We provide you with a platform to establish long-term connections with colleagues who share a passion and responsibility for shaping the future and offer you the opportunity to launch your own collaboration initiatives supported by the OED team.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY AUGUST 9TH | Reserve your place at an exclusive dialogue

The Annual Policymakers Dialogue is an exclusive retreat for a limited number of selected parliamentarians from across Europe.

We aspire to connect a high-level and diverse cohort of parliamentarians from different political, geographical, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. To safeguard the diversity of the dialogue and ensure an enriching exchange, the Open European Dialogue hence reserves itself the right to select the final cohort of participants who will be part of the 9th Annual Policymakers Dialogue in Zagreb.

Fill out the PARTICIPATION FORM to reserve your spot!

LIMITED FULLY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE | Claim Yours!

To support the participation of a diverse group of policymakers in this unique exchange opportunity, we offer a limited number of exclusive Open European Dialogue scholarships.

The scholarship covers: full access to the Annual Policymakers Dialogue sessions; parliamentary lunches, and dinners; travel (one round-trip, flight, or train ticket); accommodation expenses from Friday, 27th, to Sunday, 29th September. Any cost that is not listed above is not part of the scholarship and will have to be covered by participants.

We encourage you to sign up by August 9th to be considered for a fully-funded scholarship.

Please note: If you are able to cover your travel and/or accommodation costs thanks to the travel budget offered by your parliament, we'll be happy to welcome you as part of the OED delegation and extend a scholarship to a colleague who might not otherwise be able to attend.

The final selection of scholarship awardees remains at the discretion of the Open European Dialogue.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION |

Childcare Policy — Family comes first. If you require childcare in order to participate in the dialogue, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We'll be happy to find a solution that meets your family's needs.

Agenda and Detailed Logistics — A more detailed schedule and further information on travel arrangements, venues, and accommodation will be shared with interested participants.

THE OPEN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE AT A GLANCE

The Open European Dialogue (OED) is Europe's first informal and politically neutral dialogue platform for Members of Parliament (MPs).

We deliver tailored conversation spaces that are respectful of all political views and where the sharing of political and personal perspectives can lead to a better understanding of complex political and policy challenges.

Established in 2015, the network serves as an exchange platform for the over 12,000 national parliamentarians of the EU and beyond. Its active network comprises over 180 members from 36 European countries, representing around 70 different political parties.

Our members convene regularly for policy dialogues, emergency conference calls, fact-finding missions, and MP-led initiatives - where the OED supports its parliamentary members to develop their own cross-party, cross-country collaboration initiatives.

- **36 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**
- **MP-LED INITIATIVES**
- **OVER 180 ACTIVE MEMBERS**
- **REGULAR DIALOGUE OPPORTUNITIES**
- **70+ POLITICAL PARTIES**
- **4 INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED THINK TANKS**

The OED is internationally renowned for its 'Good Offices' and has been recognised by the OECD's Observatory for Public Sector Innovation in 2021 as a global best practice for cross-border collaboration.

The work of the OED is coordinated by the non-profit organisation APROPOS - Advancing Process in Politics, in cooperation with the researchers and policy experts of the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, the Istituto Affari Internazionali in Rome, and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy in Athens. It is kindly supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the King Baudouin Foundation.

Find out more at: www.openeuropeandialogue.org

THE DIALOGUE EXPERIENCE: PARLIAMENTARY TESTIMONIALS

"A very good concept - an innovative way of creating parliamentary networks outside of formal protocol."

"As politicians we inhabit many different spaces, but there are very few spaces of generosity. The generosity to create an honest space, where criticism and other opinions can be expressed."

"This gave me the opportunity to talk, negotiate and build relationships outside the usual party structures. I am coming home with a lot of new experiences and information."

"The Open European Dialogue was extraordinary."

CONTACT OUR TEAM

For registration or logistical questions:

Rebecca Farulli
Program Manager of the Open European Dialogue

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For questions about the OED network:

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You may also wish to contact your regional representative:

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JOINING FORCES IN OUR EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM

King Baudouin Foundation
Working together for a better society

The King Baudouin Foundation's mission is to contribute to a better society. The Foundation is an actor for change and innovation, serving the public interest and increasing social cohesion in Belgium and Europe. We seek to maximize our impact by strengthening the capacity of organizations and individuals. We also stimulate effective philanthropy by individuals and corporations. The Foundation's key values are integrity, transparency, pluralism, independence, respect for diversity, and promoting solidarity. The Foundation's current areas of activity are poverty and social justice, philanthropy, health, civic engagement, developing talents, democracy, European integration, heritage and development cooperation. The King Baudouin Foundation is a public benefit foundation. The Foundation was set up in 1976 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. In its charitable work, it addresses social issues at an early stage and develops exemplary solutions. For this purpose, it plans and implements its own projects. Additionally, it supports third-party initiatives that have similar goals. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is active in the areas of health, education as well as global issues. Since it was established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has invested more than 2.3 billion euros in charitable work.

BertelsmannStiftung

The Bertelsmann Stiftung is an independent, private operating German foundation which engages in evidence-based nonprofit activities. Each day, some 360 employees aim to strengthen society, help people achieve their full potential, and develop the systems needed to achieve those goals. The foundation's fields of activity are Democracy & Social Cohesion, Digitalization & the Common Good, Education & The Next Generation, Europe's Future, Health and Sustainable Social Market Economies. In its work on EU-affairs, the Bertelsmann Stiftung advocates for a more sovereign and united Europe that helps shape the world of tomorrow based on its values. To this effect, it provides background, analysis and insights on its website globaleurope.eu.

APROPOS
Advancing Process in Politics

The APROPOS Group is a non-profit, politically neutral think tank. It operates in the field of democratic innovation and specialises in the development and implementation of process design methods for the political sphere. We believe in the impact that process design can have on improving political communication and cooperation because we have seen the results first-hand. To this end, we design and carry out meetings with policymakers, facilitate conversations, train practitioners, and publish research on political process design to advance the dialogue and collaborative capacities that will be vital for the decades of comprehensive societal changes ahead of us.

IAI Istituto Affari Internazionali

The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) is a private, independent non-profit think tank, founded in 1965 on the initiative of Altiero Spinelli. IAI seeks to promote awareness of international politics and contribute to the advancement of European integration and multilateral cooperation. IAI is part of a vast international network, and interacts and cooperates with the Italian government and its ministries, European and international institutions, universities, major national economic actors, the media and the most authoritative international think tanks.

CIDOB
BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) is an independent and plural think tank based in Barcelona, dedicated to the study, research and analysis of international affairs. Created in 1973 as an International Documentation Centre of Barcelona, it is a private foundation since 1979. CIDOB promotes global governance and good practices – based on local, national and European democratic government – to ensure that people possess the basic elements to live their lives free from fear and in liberty, by facilitating a dialogue that includes all diversities and which actively defends human rights and gender equality. CIDOB is a dynamic community of analytics that works to produce and offer to all political actors – from individual citizens to international organizations – information and ideas to formulate and promote policies for a more secure, free and fair world for everyone.

ΕΛΙΑΜΕΠ
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HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY

ELIAMEP is an independent, non-profit and policy-oriented research and training institute. It neither expresses, nor represents, any specific political party view. It is only devoted to the right of free and well-documented discourse. ELIAMEP's mission is to provide a forum for public debate on issues of European integration and international relations to conduct scientific research that contributes to a better informed and documented knowledge of the European and international environment.