

## The European Parliament Elections 2019: A Shake-up of EU Politics?

*A conference organised by the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute/ICDS together with the Representation of the European Commission in Estonia and Trans European Policy Studies Association*

3 May 2019

Vabamu, Toompea 8, Tallinn, Estonia

The European Parliament Elections in 2019 have been named as “the most decisive elections on the future of Europe” as well as a “referendum on Europe”. The political debates before and after the elections uncover some of the underlying trends and challenges shaping European politics today and tomorrow.

The conference will first look into the discussions and issues dominating the election debates in some of the key member states of the EU such as France, Germany, Poland and Sweden. These four countries represent a cross-cut of the political diversity in the EU and the panel aims to provide an insight into what role do European Parliament elections play in these specific member states. The second panel will focus on discussing the potential make-up of the new European Parliament and the subsequent effects it may have on the functioning of the European Union. The two panels aim to give an overview of the issues and trends affecting the future of Europe for the next four years.



## Programme

**08:30** Registration

**09:00** Welcome words

**Keit Kasemets**, Head of Representation of the European Commission in Estonia  
**Kristi Raik**, Director of Estonian Foreign Policy Institute/ICDS

**09:15** **European Parliament Elections in the Member States**

What are the main topics and issues in the upcoming European Parliament elections? How high is the interest towards European Parliament elections? What role does the EU play in domestic debates? How do national parties relate themselves to the EP political groups?

**Manuel Müller**, Institut für Europäische Politik (Germany)

**Julie Hamann**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (Germany)

**Piotr Maciej Kaczynski**, Blogger on EU Affairs (Poland)

Moderator: **Gustaf Antell**, World News Correspondent, Yle

**10:45** Coffee break

**11:15** **What kind of European Parliament to expect?**

What is the likely make-up of the EP after elections? Will the dominant role of the two largest political groups (EPP and S&D) be replaced by more fragmentation and more populism? How will the expected changes affect the workings of the EP and the EU at large? How likely is it that the Council will agree to the Spitzenkandidat who won the election? How will the upcoming elections feed into the debates on the future of the EU?

**Petros Fassoulas**, European Movement International (Belgium)

**Maïa de La Baume**, Politico Europe (Belgium/France)

**Tuomas Iso-Markku**, Finnish Institute of International Affairs (Finland)

Moderator: **Piret Kuusik**, Estonian Foreign Policy Institute/ICDS

**12:45** Conclusion

**13:00** Lunch