

Empowering
EU Civil Society



“WE ARE EUROPE” ACADEMY CITIZENS ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

13-14 September 2019, Brussels

 Union of European Federalists
Union Européenne des Fédéralistes
Union des Fédéralistes Européens

 **ecas**
European Citizen Action Service

 We are
EUROPE



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

13-14th of September 2019 | Brussels, Belgium

We are Europe Academy

Mundo-B

26, rue d'Edimbourg, 1050 Ixelles

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INTRODUCTION

The “[We are Europe Academy](#)” is a training event for civil society activists organised by the Union of European Federalists (UEF) and the European Citizens Action Service (ECAS) in the context of the **We are Europe** project, supported by the European Commission’s Europe for Citizens program.

The Academy will help activists from civil society organisations to develop their practical skills – particularly on Citizens Advocacy and Citizens Engagement - to better prepare themselves to be active participants in the ongoing debate on the future of Europe, particularly in aftermath of the European elections.

The event consists of two half days. One on the challenges facing the new European Parliament and the new European Commission and the policy expectations of citizens and civil society. One on practical skills for Citizens Advocacy and Citizens Engagement, addressing topics related to citizens' influence on national and European decision-makers.

Interaction and the exchange of ideas and experiences is encouraged – participants will learn from one another as well as from expert speakers and facilitators.

PROGRAMME



PROGRAMME

Mundo-B, 26 rue d'Edimbourg, 1050 Ixelles

Friday 13 September (15:30 – 20:00)

15:30	REGISTRATION
16:00 – 16:15	OPENING – WELCOME AND OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction by<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Judit LANTAI, Facilitator of the Academy</i><i>Paolo VACCA, Secretary General of Union of European Federalists</i><i>Assya KAVRAKOVA, Executive Director of European Citizen Action Service</i>
16:15 – 17:30	SESSION I – ROUND TABLE “A NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND A NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION: CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS” <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introductions by:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Andrew DUFF, President of The Spinelli Group</i><i>Sandro GOZI, President of Union of European Federalists</i><i>Domènec RUIZ DEVESA, Member of the European Parliament</i>Followed by Q&A session
17:30 – 17:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
17:45 – 20:00	SESSION II - TABLE-DISCUSSIONS “SHAPING CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY DEMANDS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ON KEY TOPICS ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA” Two rounds of 60 minutes facilitator-led table discussions (each participant joins two) <ul style="list-style-type: none">DEMOCRACY led by <i>Gabriel RICHARD-MOLARD, Accredited Parliamentary Assistant</i>CLIMATE CHANGE led by <i>Christian BECK, Accredited Parliamentary Assistant</i>ECONOMY led by <i>Sebastiano PUTOTO, Executive Board Member of the Young European Federalists</i>MIGRATION led by <i>Daphne GOGOU, European Commission, DG Justice</i>
20:00	<i>Networking drinks and bites</i>

Saturday 14 September (9:00 – 14:00)

09:00	Opening
09:00 – 09:15	Introduction to the day
09:15 – 10:45	SESSION III - CITIZENS ADVOCACY “HOW CAN CIVIL SOCIETY INFLUENCE NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN DECISION MAKERS?” <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introductions by <i>Isabelle BUSCKE, Head of the Brussels Office of the Federation of German Consumer</i> <i>Pauline GESSANT, Vice-President Union of European Federalists</i>▪ Discussion with participants
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 13:00	SECTION IV - CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT “HOW TO IMPROVE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES TO CITIZENS - BEST PRACTISES AND NEW IDEAS”
11:00 – 11:30	▪ HOW TO BRING EUROPE TO MARGINALIZED URBAN AREAS? Introduction by: <i>Assya KAVRAKOVA, Executive Director of European Citizen Action Service</i> Followed by discussion with participants
11:30 – 12:00	▪ HOW TO ORGANISE GENDER-BALANCED ACTIVITIES? Introduced by: <i>Jacqueline HALE, Founder of The Brussels Binder</i> Followed by discussion with participants
12:00 – 13:00	▪ HOW TO ORGANISE DEBATES AND EVENTS WITH NEW FORMATS? Workshop led by <i>Peter OOMSELS, Specialist in Organisational Development at the Flemish Government's Agency of Internal Affairs</i>
13:00	Closing
13:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>

PARTICIPANT LIST

N°	First name	Last name	Organisation	Country of Residence
1	Salah	ABDELHAMED	ECA	Belgium
2	Mahmoud	ABOUD	Europa Union Augsburg	Germany
3	Matteo	ADDUCI	European Parliament	Belgium
4	Francisco	ALDECOA-LUZARRAGA	Spanish European Movement	Spain
5	Christian	BECK	European Parliament	Belgium
6	Maxime	BOUILLARD	Meoh	Belgium
7	Chrissopighi	BRAILA	VUB/ULB	Belgium
8	Isabelle	BUSCKE	Federation of German Costumers	Belgium
9	Andreea	CAMEN	JEF Strasbourg	France
10	Christophe	CARREAU	Europe-unie	Netherlands
11	Stuart	CLARK	Federal Union (UEF UK)	United Kingdom
12	Cecilia	COMASTRI	ESN Erasmus Student Network	Italy
13	Alessandro	DA ROLD	None	Belgium
14	Andrew	DUFF	The Spinelli Group	Belgium
15	Thorsten	FRANK	Europa-Union Bayern	Germany
16	Agnès	GENDARME		Belgium
17	Pauline	GESSANT	UEF-Europe & UEF-France	France
18	Daphne	GOGOU	UEF	Belgium
19	Sandro	GOZI	UEF	Italy
20	Flavio	GRAZIAN	ECAS	Belgium
21	Laurent	GRÉGOIRE		Belgium
22	Jacqueline	HALE	The Brussels Binder	Belgium
23	Pavel	HAVLICEK	Association for International Affairs	Belgium
24	Maryan	HERRERA RODRIGUEZ	None	Belgium
25	Nicolas	HUBERT	JEF Liège	Belgium
26	Assya	KAVRAKOVA	ECAS	Belgium
27	Sophie	KEKIC	European Cooperation Centre	Belgium

28	Lucie	LAMBERT	None	Belgium
29	Judit	LANTAI	Facilitator	Belgium
30	Quentin	LEGOUY	UEF France/ JEF France/ Europe Ensemble	France
31	Julius	LEJTHA	JEF Austria	United Kingdom
32	Elisa	LIRONI	ECAS	Belgium
33	Zsuzsanna	LUKÁCS	Charter of European Rural Communities	Hungary
34	Alexandre	MARIN	UEF-Belgique	Belgium
35	Dylan Casey	MARSHALL	JEF Netherlands	Netherlands
36	Leonie	MARTIN	Young European Federalists (JEF) Europe	Belgium
37	Guillermo	MAYO GONZÁLEZ	None	Belgium
38	François	MENNERAT	UEF-France	France
39	Eszter	NAGY	UEF Hungary	Hungary
40	Fernanda	NEUTEL	University Lusofona	Portugal
41	Alina	OLSSON MARTÍN	JEF Catalunya (JEF-Spain)	Spain
42	Ophélie	OMNES	UEF France	Luxembourg
43	Peter	OOMSELS	Flemish Gouvenrment's Agency of Internal Affairs	Belgium
44	Marcel	PLANAGUMÀ	UEF	Belgium
45	Jan	POMES-LOPEZ	JEF/Spanish European Movement	Spain
46	Sophie	PORNSCHLEGEL	UEF Germany, France	Belgium
47	Chris	POWERS	Federal Union / UEF	United Kingdom
48	Valentina	PRESA	UEF	Belgium
49	Sebastiano	PUTOTO	Young European Federalists (JEF) Europe	Belgium
50	Andrea	RAIMONDI	UEF	Belgium
51	Brigitte	RICHTER	UEF	Belgium
52	Kristine	ROKE	UEF	Belgium
53	Domènec	RUIZ DEVESA	UEF /MEP	Belgium
54	Marta	RUSEK	City Council Frankfurt (Oder) Germany	Germany
55	Magdalena	RYMKIEWICZ	former advisor European Parliament	Belgium
56	Quentin	SAMIER	Jeunes Européens - Strasbourg	France

57	Jürgen	SAB	JEF Passau/JEF Belgium	Belgium
58	Iliyana	SAVCHEVA	UEF Bulgaria	Bulgaria
59	Renata	SCHIAVONE	Secretariat of the Council of the EU	Belgium
60	Stéphane	SIMON	Intellisphere Project	Belgium
61	Paolo	VACCA	UEF	Belgium
62	Catherine	VIELLEDENT	UEF Europe Group	Belgium
63	Alexander	VON LINGEN	EquipEuropa asbl	Belgium

SPEAKERS

Andrew DUFF

Andrew Duff is President of The Spinelli Group and a British politician. He was a Member of the European Parliament (ALDE/UK) from 1999-2014. He was a member of the Convention on the Charter of Fundamental Rights and of the Convention on the Future of Europe, and one of Parliament's representatives at the IGC which drafted the Treaty of Lisbon. Duff was President of the Union of European Federalists 2008-13. Before becoming an MEP, Duff was Director of the Federal Trust in London. He is a founder member of the European Council on Foreign Relations; an honorary member of the board of the Trans-European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA); and a member of the advisory board of Transparency International (Europe). Founding member of The Spinelli Group, Andrew Duff became its President in October 2017.



Christian BECK

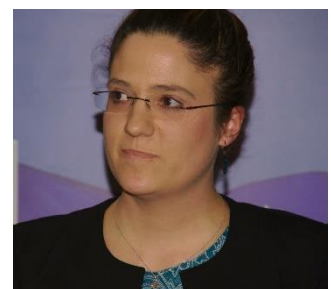
Christian Beck is Head of Office at Daniel Freund, Member of the European Parliament.

Isabelle BUSCKE

Isabelle Buscke is the Head of the EU liaison office in Brussels of the Federation of German Consumer Organisations Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband (vzbv) - and coordinates the organisation's EU work. She has been leading the office since its establishment in 2012. The organisation covers all topics necessary to strengthen consumer rights: consumer law, digitalisation, financial services, energy, food and mobility. Ms Buscke represents vzbv on the board of BEUC (the European Consumer Organisation). As a representative in the European Consumer Consultative Group (2013-2019), she has led the group's work on Artificial Intelligence which resulted in an opinion of the group. A German, French and Belgian national, Ms Buscke holds a Master's degree in Political Science and Roman languages from the University of Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. She is a 2018 fellow of the Transatlantic Digital Debates programme. Before joining vzbv in 2012, Ms Buscke has worked for different Public Affairs consultancies, an architecture office and completed a training in the European Parliament.

Pauline GESSANT

Pauline Gessant is member of the federalist family since 2003 and took various responsibilities in JEF, European Movement and UEF. She was in particular President of JEF-Europe between 2011 and 2015, and thus ex-officio member of UEF board. She is currently member of the Union of European Federalists - France, President of "Friends of JEF" (JEF alumni network) and member of European Movement - France Board. She studied political sciences and hold a Master's degree in European projects at local level.



Daphne GOGOU

Daphne Gougou is a Greek lawyer, specialised in European Law and in Private International Law. She joined the European Commission in 1992 and since then have been working in different policy areas such as telecommunications, internal market, environment, justice and home affairs. She has vast experience in relation to the functioning of the European Institutions and she is a specialist on migration, security, people mobility and Human Rights matters. From 2014 to 2017, she has been the president of European Demos, a Greek federalist NGO and over the past 3 years she has been chairing the UEF PC4 and since 2018 Daphne is member of the UEF elected bureau.



Jacqueline HALE

Jacqueline Hale co-founded the Brussels Binder – the go-to database for women experts working on policies across Europe and is head of its Partnerships team. Her day job is Head of Advocacy with Save the Children in Brussels, prior to which she worked as an analyst on Eastern Europe and Central Asia for the Open Society Foundations. Jacqui has also worked at the European Parliament, for the UK Labour Party and with UNHCR. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Partnership for Human Rights, and a Senior Research Associate with the UK's Foreign Policy Centre. Jacqui is a graduate of Cambridge University, where she studied languages, and holds an MA in international relations from Sussex University.



Sandro GOZI

Sandro Gozi is the President of the Union of European Federalists. Active in French politics since 2019, he was elected in the same year as an MEP on the French list of La République en Marche, before joining Prime Minister cabinet as a chargé de mission.

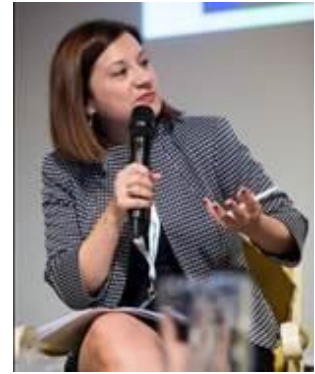
He was the Secretary of State for European Affairs in the Renzi and Gentiloni Governments (2014-2018) and Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies (2006-2018). Prior to that, he was a diplomat and then spent more than a decade in the European institutions notably as a European Commission official (1996-2000) and then as member of the Cabinet of European Commission President Romano Prodi (2000-2004) and advisor to European Commission President Jose Barroso.



Assya KAVRAKOVA

Assya Kavrakova is Executive Director of European Citizen Action Services. She possesses in-depth knowledge of EU Funding Rules and Procedures, EU structural and Cohesion Policy, Schengen regulatory framework, EU external policy decision-making, EU enlargement policy and leverage, European citizenship and Rights framework and EU civic participation formal and informal mechanisms.

She has served as the Director of European Policies and the Civic Participation Program at the Open Society Institute (OSI-S) in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 2000 to 2012 and as a Public Policies and Outreach Director at the Democracy Network Program (DemNet) of the USAID before that. She was also the Executive Director of the Bulgarian branch of Transparency International.



Judit LANTAI

Judit Lantai has been working as a freelance trainer and facilitator with various civil society and youth organisations from grass root levels to national and European, including JEF. She has been active in non-formal education, youth work and facilitation for more than 7 years now and her main fields of expertise are democratic participation, youth participation, citizenship education, human rights and intercultural and global learning.



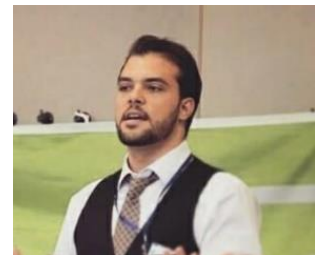
Peter OOMSELS

Peter Oomsels has been a member of JEF, UEF and European Movement since 2008, and has served on Boards at the local, national and European levels of these organisations. He currently works as Specialist in Organisational Development for the Flemish Government, after previously serving as Chief of Staff at the 'Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy' and as Doctor-Coordinator of the 'Policy Research Centre for Governance Innovation'. He holds a Ph.D. in Social Sciences from the University of Leuven and has degrees in Public Administration, Policy Economics and Political Science.



Sebastiano PUTOTO

Sebastiano Putoto is a member of the Executive Board of the Young European Federalists (JEF) since 2017, having held executive roles at national and local levels of the organisation before that. He has a background in Economics and until recently worked in Brussels as a policy advisor to a Member of the European Parliament, focusing on EU economic and monetary affairs, the EU budget, and youth policy. He irregularly writes (and more often tweets) about EU institutional reform and democratic governance.



Domènec RUIZ DEVESA

Domènec Ruiz Devesa is a Spanish politician and a Member of the European Parliament. He has since been serving on the Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs. Since 2013 he joined the Union of European Federalists (UEF), convinced that it is essential to complete the European construction in a federal key His participation in the foundation of UEF Madrid has also led him to participate in the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement.



Paolo VACCA

Paolo Vacca is (voluntary) Secretary General of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) since 2014. He is also Secretary General of The Spinelli Group, a network of federalist members of the European and national parliaments and like-minded supporters across Europe. A long-time campaigner for European unity and federalism, Paolo has organised and contributed to countless conferences, seminars, events and grass-root campaigns and actions across Europe promoting European democracy and European unity. Professionally he works as Director Legal Affairs Europe for a global chemical multinational with European headquarters in The Netherlands.



SESSION II – TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Shaping citizens and civil society demands for the next five years on key topics on the European Agenda

Extracts from the Union of European federalists Manifesto related to the topics on the programme.

DEMOCRACY

DEMOCRACY

Democratic and effective European decision-making: a Federal Europe

Currently, member states remain the ‘the masters of the treaties’ by retaining a veto right and most decisions must be or are taken by consensus. The unanimity voting system, combined with the absence of separation and lack of powers, impedes responsive, transparent, legitimate and accountable decision-making.

We advocate a shift to a federal system, which implies that:

- the Commission - with a reduced number of members – should become the only executive body, in fact the Government of the European Union;
- the Parliament should be on an equal footing with the Council of Ministers in all matters, thereby acting together as the legislative branch of the European Union;
- at least a part of members of the European Parliament from 2024 should be elected in transnational lists in a single European constituency, to promote real European political parties and movements and strengthen the democratic choice of the citizens;
- the European Council should only have high-level representative and political guidance functions.

Facing a global rise in protectionism and a decline in democratic values, only a Federal Europe has the leveraging power to lead the way in an increasingly interdependent world.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Fight against climate change

A new European Pact against climate change can be the new, limited and decisive project for a European refoundation which can play the same role played by coal and steel in the last century. We support the project of developing a European Bank for Climate, as a branch of the European Investment Bank (EIB), to support the European ecological transition, building upon previous experiences of the EIB in other sectors and open to national and private funding.

To promote the transition towards a sustainable and fully environment-friendly economy, we ask for the European Union to:

- develop a plan to phase-out fossil fuels, including stopping subsidies to the fossil industry in line with the obligations of the Paris Agreement;
- introduce a carbon tax;
- orientate investments towards sustainable renewable energies;
- promote energy efficiency;
- impose binding emission reduction targets;
- impose measures to minimise plastic waste;
- promote a Europe-wide public debate to introduce new rules for the ecological transition;
- promote “green jobs”.

ECONOMY

Completing the Economic Monetary Union

The Eurozone celebrates 20 years of existence. While its markets integrate, the predicted convergence of our economies fails to materialise. The Eurozone must become more resilient and democratic.

We ask for:

- the completion of the Banking Union to ensure financial stability, including a European Deposit Insurance Scheme and a democratically-governed European Monetary Fund;
- a Eurozone budget, run by a Eurozone Treasury, financed by genuine own resources and large enough to contribute to macroeconomic stabilisation;
- the introduction of stabilisation and solidarity tools, such as a European Unemployment Reinsurance Scheme;
- effective rules avoiding overspending in boom times, while at the same time introducing solidarity tools;
- a strong executive role for the Commission and full co-decisional power for the European Parliament also on the definition of such a Eurozone budget and its funding;
- after a decade of mostly ad hoc improvements, the Eurozone urgently needs new tools to contribute to its macro-economic stabilisation, convergence and solidarity. The Eurozone needs to become the core of a strong, united, democratic and social Europe able to act as a global economic power on the international stage.

MIGRATION

Implementing a coherent European immigration and asylum policy

Continued discord on immigration policies along with their ineffective and unfair implementation question Europe's ability to manage the migration flows at its doorstep, but even more so its ability to honour its shared values and international obligations.

We advocate a European immigration and asylum policy based on solidarity, fair sharing of responsibility and respect for human rights and ask for:

- the replacement of the Dublin regulation with a fair European Asylum System along with the creation of a European refugee status and a European Humanitarian Visa;
- the establishment of legal ways for economic migration and the development of effective integration policies;
- the reform of the European Union Visa policy in order to ensure effective reciprocity and facilitate legal movements of people;
- the development of a strong common European migration policy promoting global solutions on migration, focusing on pathways for regular migration and shared responsibility, ensuring the respect for human rights and shared responsibilities;
- a European border management authority set up to manage the European Union's external borders effectively;
- a European return policy in accordance with human rights obligations and accompanied by concrete reintegration measures;
- adequate European resources to fund the above instruments.

Since immigration remains a cause of major concern to citizens in all member states, Europe will emerge stronger through a common response.

THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEMBERS



David Maria SASSOLI
Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
Italy Partito Democratico



Manfred WEBER
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
Germany Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern e.V.



Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ
Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
Spain Partido Socialista Obrero Español



Dacian CIOLOȘ
Renew Europe Group
Romania Partidul Libertate, Unitate și Solidaritate



Ska KELLER
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
Germany Bündnis 90/Die Grünen



Philippe LAMBERTS
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
Belgium Ecologistes Confédérés pour l'Organisation de Luttes Originales



Marco ZANNI
Identity and Democracy Group
Italy Lega



Raffaele FITTO
European Conservatives and Reformists Group
Italy Fratelli d'Italia



Ryszard Antoni LEGUTKO
European Conservatives and Reformists Group
Poland Prawo i Sprawiedliwość



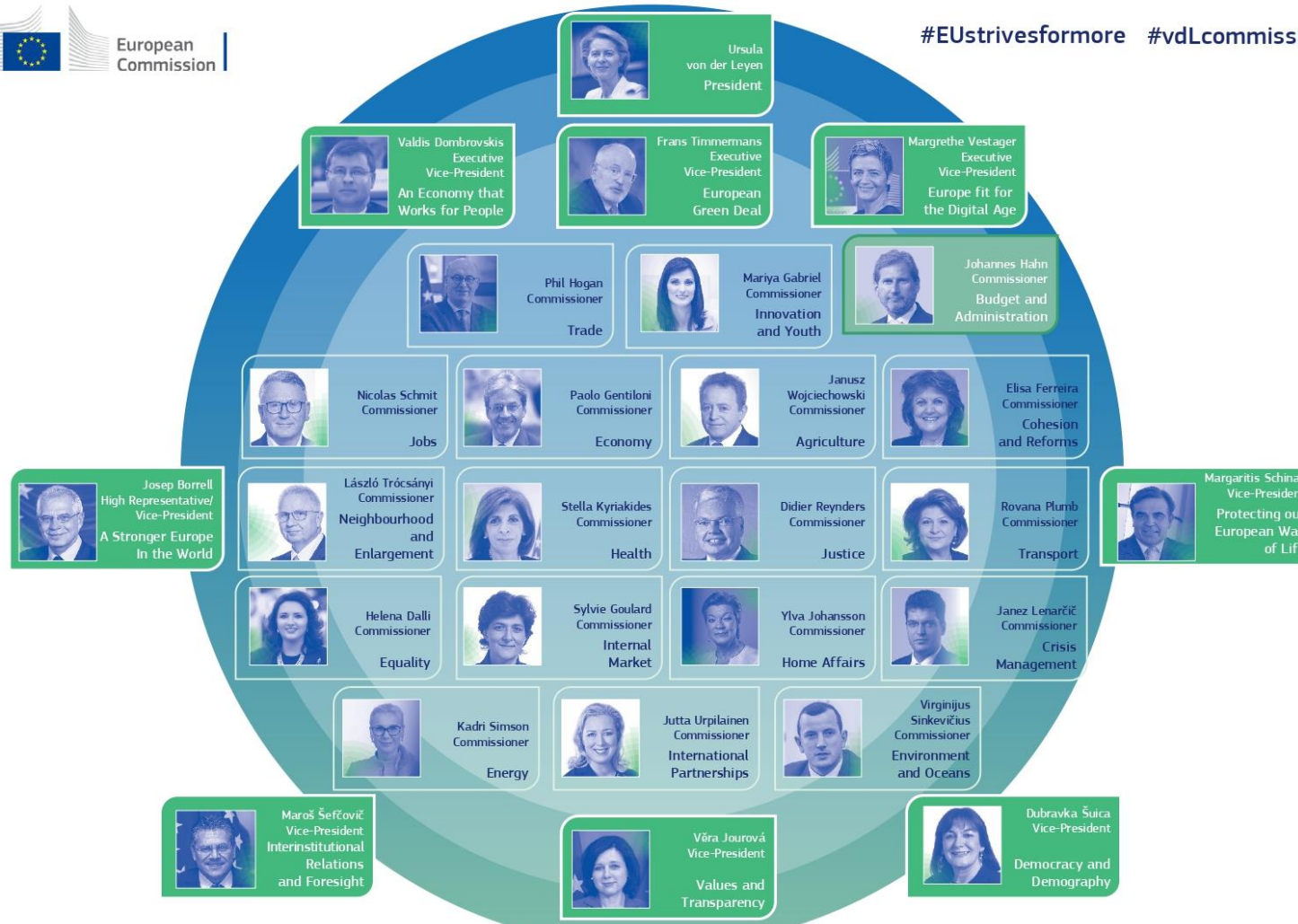
Martin SCHIRDEWAN
Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left
Germany DIE LINKE.

THE 2019-2024 COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS

President-elect Ursula von der Leyen proposal Please click here to see detailed list of Commissioners and portfolios assignments as designated by European Commission president-elect, Ursula von der Leyen.



#EUstrivesformore #vdLcommission



A New Push for European Democracy

PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

Contribution fee:

Accepted participants requesting a travel reimbursement (see below) are required to pay a participation fee of 25 euro to help towards covering the costs of venue hire, catering (one dinner, one lunch and coffee breaks, as indicated in the programme), documents and other expenses. The contribution must be transferred by bank transfer prior to the event:

Union of European Federalists

BNP Paribas Fortis

Agence Quartier Léopold

Place du Luxembourg 14B - 1050 Ixelles

IBAN: BE69 2100 3760 9578

SWIFT CODE: GEBABEBB

"We are Europe Academy": *First Name* *Last Name*"

Travel reimbursement:

Participants residing outside Brussels will be eligible to reimbursement of their travel expenses (accommodation and subsistence excluded) **exceeding 50 EUR and up to a maximum reimbursement of 175 EUR.**

Reimbursements will be made on the spot and in cash only. Please, do not forget to **bring the original receipts and tickets with you.**

Reimbursements will only be made in cash at end of the event. Please bring all relevant documents to the academy and note that original copies of all invoices, tickets and boarding cards are required.

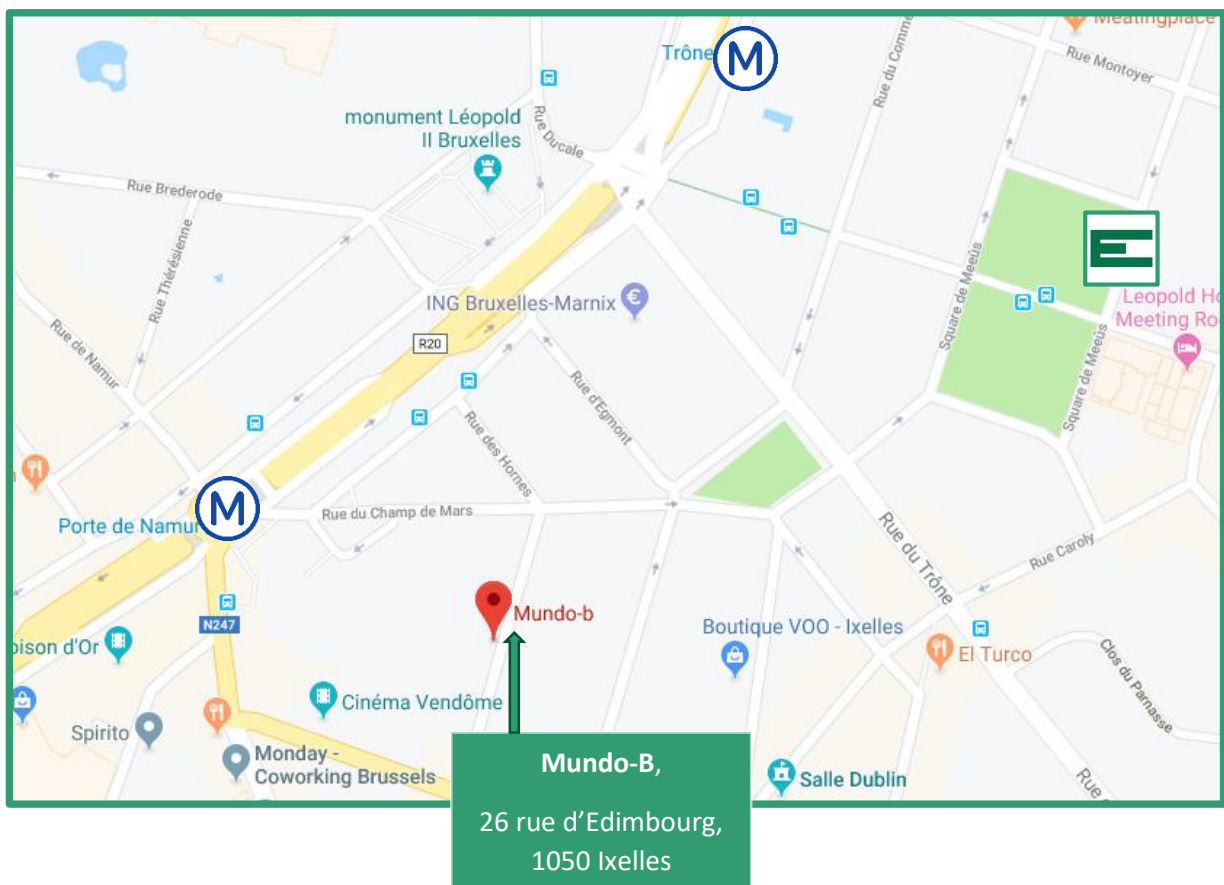
ACTIVITY VENUE

The event will take place at **Mundo-B**, 26, rue d'Edimbourg, 1050 Ixelles.



TRAM STOP: Porte de Namur / Naamsepoort, 3 minutes walking distance from the venue

TRAM STOP: Trône / Troon, 6 minutes walking distance from the venue.



CONTACTS



Paolo VACCA
Secretary-General



Valentina PRESA
Head of Office



Kristine ROKE
Project Officer



Marcel PLANAGUMÀ
Communications Manager

Union of European Federalists Secretariat

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