

*DigiDem-EU WP3: Democracy, Participation and Europeanisation*  
**Madrid & Barcelona Future of Europe Debates:  
European integration after European  
Parliament Elections**

**Barcelona, 26 June, 2024**

CIDOB, Elisabets, 12, 08001 Barcelona

*Organised by: CIDOB, Global Policy Center (GPC), School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs, IE University, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Madrid (FES) with the support of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) of the European Commission.*

2024 is a turning point for Europe and the world. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has reshaped dynamics across the continent, triggering discussions on EU reform, enlargement, competitiveness, and its global role. With critical elections worldwide, including in the United States, India, Mexico, and South Africa, it's a crucial time for scholars and decision-makers to examine both the EU's internal affairs and its role in the international scenario.

FES, the Global Policy Center (IE) and CIDOB have partnered to organise the Madrid & Barcelona Future of Europe Debates, a series of closed-door roundtable discussions. The aim of the initiative is to analyse the main challenges of the EU and to reflect on how current geopolitical trends might impact the future of Europe in the crucial electoral year of 2024. CIDOB is hosting the roundtable discussion dedicated to the challenges emanating from the elections to the European Parliament.

The debate will consist of three panels focusing on different aspects of the elections. First, it will examine how citizens' preferences will define the future of the EU and how could the new strategic agenda shape the course of European integration. Second, it will outline what is going to be the new institutional set up after the elections and whether and how the decision-making process of the Union may be impacted with the new composition of the Parliament. Third, it will reflect on the rise of the radical right in the European Parliament and what are the implications for the EU foreign policy.

### Agenda

10.00 – 10.30 **Welcome and setting the framework**

**PoI Morillas**, Director, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

**Luise Rürup**, Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Portugal & Spain (FES)

**Ilke Toygür**, Director, Global Policy Center (GPC) and Professor of Geopolitics of Europe, School of Politics, Economics & Global Affairs (SPEGA), IE University

- 10.30– 11.45 **Do citizens preferences match with the electoral results? What have citizens voted for and what does it mean for the EU**  
*Moderated by* **María Pallarés**, Head of Programmes, FES  
**Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul**, Deputy Head of Unit, Citizens' Dialogue, European Commission  
**Eleonora Poli**, Head of Analysis, Centro Poltiche Europee
- What were citizen's preferences before the elections? How have citizens engaged in participation beyond the electoral contest? What are the issues that have been prominently featured during the electoral campaign? Have there been common themes across member states? Have these elections still been 27 different elections? Is there a role for citizens' participation in this new political cycle?*
- 11.45– 12.15 **Coffee break**
- 12.15– 13.30 **Parliament configuration and potential shifts in the upcoming institutional cycle**  
*Moderated by* **Raquel García**, Analyst, Real Institute Elcano  
**Luise Quaritsch**, Policy Fellow, Jacques Delors Centre  
**Melchior Szczepanik**, Head of PISM Brussels Office, PISM
- How will the election results affect the parliament's configuration? Which policies can be decisive in the formation of unconventional coalitions? How can the new parliament configuration impact the continuity of the EU's last institutional cycle? Which issues can be expected to come at the forefront of EU policy priorities?*
- 13.30– 14.30 **Working lunch**
- 14.30– 15.45 **Looking forward: The rise of the radical right in the European Parliament and the future of the EU's foreign policy**  
*Moderated by* **Ilke Toygür**, Director, Global Policy Center (GPC) and Professor of Geopolitics of Europe, School of Politics, Economics & Global Affairs (SPEGA), IE University  
**Nicolai von Ondarza**, Head of Research Division EU/Europe, SWP  
**Zsuzsanna Szelényi**, Director, CEU Democracy Institute Leadership Academy
- How will the June elections affect the future of the EU's foreign and security policy? How will the election results (marked by an increased representation of the radical right) shape the EU's perception of future geopolitical challenges and its responses to it?*
- 15.45 – 16.00 **Concluding remarks**  
**Héctor Sánchez Margalef**, Researcher, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)



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