



CONDITIONAL COHESION POLICY NEW INCENTIVES FOR A LIBERAL EUROPE?

Cohesion Policy is a major driver for economic prosperity and social cohesion throughout the entire EU. As the EU's main investment policy it has an allocated expenditure of EUR 356 billion, making it the EU's second largest budget item equivalent to almost one third (32.5 %) of the total EU budget. As the discussions on the EU's post-2020 budget are getting underway, questions are raised about the introduction of new conditions for receiving cohesion funds. These "ex ante conditionalities" were first introduced in the current financial cycle and are seen by many as powerful incentive for Member States and regions to carry out reforms. How effective was the use of these conditionalities so far? Can the conditionalities be expanded to other policy areas, such as adherence to the rule of law and migration management? And is this an effective way to respond to new policy challenges?

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2018 | 8:00 – 9:30

HILTON HOTEL, SOFIA, BULGARIA

Welcome by

Dr Jürgen Martens MP | President of the European Liberal Forum and Member of the Bundestag

Discussion with

Petras Auštrevičius MEP | Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament (Liberalų Sąjūdis/ALDE)

Martina Dlabajová MEP | Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control, European Parliament (ANO/ALDE)

Iskra Mihaylova MEP | Member of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament (MRF/ALDE)

Michiel Rijsberman | Member ALDE-CoR, Member of the Executive Board of the Province of Flevoland (NL/D66)

Moderated by **Zinaida Zlatanova** | Former Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Liberal Institute for Political Analysis

Working language

EN

Light breakfast will be provided to all attendees.



RALF DAHRENDORF **ROUNDTABLES**

A roundtable discussion organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF), co-funded by the European Parliament. The European Parliament is not responsible for the content of the programme, or for any use that may be made of it. These views do not necessarily reflect those of the European Parliament and/or the European Liberal Forum.

ABOUT THE RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES

By connecting the roundtable series with the name of Lord Dahrendorf, ELF wishes to underline his achievements. In his many functions he championed liberal democracy and European integration. He consistently promoted the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty. His wide experience combining science and politics provided an excellent background to his activity in the German Parliament for the liberal Free Democratic Party, as European Commissioner, as member of the British House of Lords and as Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (1982-1987).

During his four years in Brussels (1970 – 1974), Lord Dahrendorf was responsible for the European Community's Foreign Relations and Trade, and later for Research, Science and Education. He actively supported a stronger Europe. As Commissioner he was a sharp critic of European Union bureaucracy while he was passionately in favour of a European Parliament exercising greater power.