



# RALF DAHRENDORF **ROUNDTABLES**

## UNDERSTANDING EUROPEAN POLITICS: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIBERALS

On the occasion of the JOVD's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Congress, this Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable will invite the members of JOVD, LYMEC and other interested parties to discuss politics from local to national level up to the European Level, how to become ready for politics in a broader perspective.

The core component of the Roundtable is to start a wide discussion around two specific topics. On the one hand, the challenges to a lively European democracy. On the other hand, looking into the thematic priorities for liberals in the EP for the upcoming mandate.

Furthermore, Members of the European Parliament from various countries will share their insights in EU politics, highlight the opportunities for liberals in the next 5 years, as well as sketching out which will be the hot topics on the EU agenda for the coming mandate. The final component of the Roundtable will be the overarching liberal perspective explaining these topics.

### ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

**12/10/2019 | 13:00 – 16:00**

### AMERSFOORT

**13:00** Welcome lunch with guests and participants

**14:00** Introduction

**Splinter Chabot**, President, JOVD

**Dr Jürgen Martens**, ELF President (TBC)

**14:20** Keynote speech:

**Mark Rutte**, Prime Minister, The Netherlands



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**14:45** Discussion – Opportunities for liberals in the next 5 years – views from different parliamentary committees:

**Ilhan Kyuchyuk**, Member of the European Parliament, MRF

**Hans Maes**, Candidate for the European Parliament, Open VLD

**Sophie in 't Veld**, Member of the European Parliament, D66

**Caroline Nagtegaal van Doorn**, Member of the European Parliament, VVD

Moderated by **Hans van Baalen**, President, ALDE Party

Working language

**ENGLISH**

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A roundtable discussion organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF) with the support of **LYMEC (European Liberal Youth)**. 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.

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## 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.