



Liberties in Lockdown

Business with new borders

Zoom Webinar

15 April 2020, 09h30 – 10h30 (CEST)

ABOUT THE EVENT

As we have seen in our own neighbourhoods, in our cities, and all over Europe, no business is immune to the coronavirus pandemic. From the small, family-owned corner shop to the automotive factory responsible for providing jobs to thousands of people in surrounding areas, to various intra-EU trade channels; we see how this virus has “tricked” us into putting up barriers between the four freedoms of the European Union: the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people.

Several governments have decided to unilaterally close their borders within the Schengen Area, leading to lines of cars and trucks that stretch on for miles. The passengers? Seasonal workers, trying desperately to get home before their country closes its borders. Workers who are needed in the French and German agricultural sectors, but who are restricted by their own countries to travel for work.

Furthermore, the delays caused by border closures had consequences: perishable foods being transported by trucks went bad, and items of in-demand medical equipment, such as hospital ventilators, were withheld. Certain export bans inside the EU are adding to the problem.

As the world economy is officially in a recession already, the EU and its member states should try to keep the Single Market intact and encourage cooperation across borders in Europe and internationally. Even after the four freedoms of the EU are fully reinstated, the economy will take some time to recover from COVID-19.

These questions, and many more, will be tackled by our distinguished speakers during the second online event of ELF’s new series – *Liberties in Lockdown*.

Further reading / More information

1. ELF Publication – [Machines, Jobs and Equality – Technological change and labour markets in Europe](#)
2. ELF Publication – [Sharing Economy in Europe – Opportunities and Challenges](#)
3. https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market_en
4. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/economy_en
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51706225>



EVENT SCHEDULE

09h25 Participants connect to the Zoom Webinar

09h30 Opening remarks
Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, ELF

09h32 Introduction of the Topic by the Moderator
Anders Edholm, International Director & Head of EU Office, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise

09h35 First intervention
Svenja Hahn, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

09h40 Second intervention
Sandra Parthie, Head of Brussels Office / Head of European Affairs, German Economic Institute (IW Köln)

09h45 Third intervention
Alena Kudzko, Director, GLOBSEC Policy Institute

09h50 Moderated debate

10h25 Closing remarks by the Moderator

10h30 End of event

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Speakers' Bios

Svenja Hahn, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

Svenja Hahn is a Member of the European Parliament since July 2019, and she is a member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and a substitute member in the Committee on International Trade (INTA).

Before coming to the European Parliament, Svenja was the Public Relations Manager at edding International GmbH. She received her Master's diploma in Media Studies from Humboldt University (Berlin) and her Bachelor's degree in History and Culture from the Justus Liebig University (Giessen).



Sandra Parthie, Head of Brussels Office / Head of European Affairs, German Economic Institute (IW Köln)

Sandra studied political sciences and economics at the Freie Universität in Berlin, Germany and the Université de Montréal, Canada.

From 2006-2011 she was the head of office and political advisor to a German Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Environment Committee. Her work focus was on environment, climate and energy policy. In 2011 she joined French-multinational company Alstom as the Director for EU Regulatory Affairs, with a focus on renewable energies and grid technology.

Since March 2015 she is running the Brussels Liaison office for private German economic think tank 'IW' (Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft / German Economic Institute), presenting economic research by the Institute to stakeholders in Brussels, often in cooperation with industry associations. The main focus area of the institute and the liaison office in Brussels are topics such as EMU, trade policy, structural and digital change, financial and energy policy.

Alena Kudzko, Director , GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Alena is the Director of the GLOBSEC Policy Institute think tank in Bratislava where she oversees policy development, research, and programming in the areas of defence and security, the future of Europe, global order, technology and society, and strategic communication. Her current research focus is concentrated on European and transatlantic relations and security, including the reform of security institutions and the EU, and migration.



As part of the broader GLOBSEC team, Alena, moreover, contributes to formulating the vision, crafting the agenda, conducting research, and organizing the annual GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum, the GLOBSEC Tatra Summit, and the GLOBSEC Chateau Bela Conference. Before joining GLOBSEC, she worked at various NGOs and academic institutions in Belarus, Estonia, and Hungary, specializing in the area of foreign relations, democratization, and community development. She further conducted research and project work with civil society organizations on the implementation and strengthening of liberal democratic norms and human rights.



Anders Edholm, International Director & Head of EU Office, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise (Moderator)

Anders Edholm is since 2019 heading up the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise's EU-office in Brussels. Prior to his current role, Anders worked for the Swedish center-right party Moderaterna as Deputy Secretary-General.

Anders has a background in business having worked for Electrolux, a global household appliance manufacturer with brands such as AEG and Zanussi, for fourteen years. There Anders held several roles including SVP Communications, including public affairs.