

How does anticipation guide decision-making in the EU?

Multi-disciplinary conference on the institutionalisation of Foresight in the European Union

Series of events organised by the Institute for European Law (KU Leuven) | the Centre for Global Governance Studies (KU Leuven) | the European Trade Union Institute | the College of Europe (Bruges) | the Europeum (coordinated by Oxford University)

Kick-off Conference in Leuven ('M' Museum) & online

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 May 2022

EU institutions and agencies have increasingly developed a 'Foresight' capacity, complementing or overlapping with other methods and processes put in place to assess the likelihood of future developments and best options for EU action. This two-days conference, co-organised by KU Leuven's Institute for European Law and by the European Trade Union Institute, takes a governance perspective on the development of Foresight in the EU institutional framework. It situates it in the context of the other institutional processes and means of anticipation available at EU level to prepare for crises, to conduct law- and policy-making – and to shape the future of the Union.

This conference kicks off a series of events on the topic, looking in detail at several policy areas including health, external action, climate action, defence, trade, and the world of work, organised in partnership with the College of Europe (Bruges), the Europeum (coordinated by Oxford University), and the Centre for Global Governance Studies (KU Leuven).

Programme

Thursday 19 May - Foresight and anticipation in EU governance

9.45 – 10.10 Registration & Coffee

10.10 – 10.25 Welcome & Introduction

Elise Muir (KU Leuven)
Philippe Pochet (European Trade Union Institute)
Robin Gadbled (KU Leuven)

10.25 – 11.10 Panel 1: Foresight (stricto sensu) in the European Union

Chair: Robin Gadbled (KU Leuven)

Presentations:

- Lieve Van Woensel (European Parliament Research Service) | *on Scientific & Strategic Foresight (definitions)*
- Eamonn Noonan (European Parliament Research Service) | *on Foresight in the EU institutional framework, a quick overview*

11.10 – 12.45 Panel 2: Foresight and crisis preparedness

Chair: Simon Schunz (College of Europe)

Presentation: Charles Parker (University of Uppsala) | *on 'Avoiding policy fiascoes: crisis preparedness & foresight'*

Roundtable discussion:

- Nick Fahy (RAND/University of Oxford) | *on crisis preparedness in health matters*
- Matjaž Sušec (European Stability Mechanism) and
- Adrienne Cheasty (International Monetary Fund / The Europeum) | *on crisis preparedness in economic/financial matters*

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.35 Panel 3: Foresight beyond crises: assessing options for the future

Chair: Ellen Vos (Maastricht University)

Presentation: Gaby Umbach (European University Institute)

Roundtable discussion:

- Jonathan B. Wiener (Duke University) | *on risk regulation*
- René Von Schomberg (Käte Hamburger Kolleg Aachen) | *on Foresight and the principle of precaution*
- Claudio Radaelli (European University Institute / College of Europe) | *on impact assessments*
- Stephanie Pamies (DG ECFIN, European Commission) | *on measuring fiscal sustainability and economic trends*

15.35 – 15.50 Closing of the first day

Presentation: Luuk Van Middelaar (Leiden University) | *reflexions on Foresight and political improvisation*

9.00 – 9.10 Introduction and Programme of the second day

Robin Gadbled (KU Leuven)
Zane Rasnača (ETUI)

9.10 – 10.45 Panel 1: Foresight in EU Health policy

Chair: Anne Pieter van der Mei (Maastricht University)

Presentations by:

- Nick Fahy (RAND/University of Oxford)
- Anniek de Ruijter (University of Amsterdam)

Discussion by:

- Artur Furtado (DG SANTE, European Commission)
- Klaudia Palczak (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction)

10.45 – 11.05 Coffee Break

11.05 – 12.40 Panel 2: Foresight and the world of Work in the EU

Chair: Zane Rasnača (ETUI)

Presentations by:

- Nicola Cianferoni (University of Geneva)
- Aida Ponce Del Castillo (European Trade Union Institute)
- Mario Mariniello (DG EMPL, European Commission)

12.40 – 13.55 Lunch Break

13.55 – 15.30 Panel 3: Shaping the future of the EU itself: Treaty change and the Conference on the Future of Europe

Chair: Elise Muir (KU Leuven)

Presentation by: Jim Cloos (TEPSA)

Roundtable discussion:

- Sacha Garben (College of Europe)
- Lorenzo Repetti (ETUC)
- Gerhard Huemer (SME United)
- Marta Arpio (Council of the EU/COFE)

15.30 – 15.40 Concluding words

Concluding words by the organisers & invitation to the next event in the series - Zane Rasnača (ETUI) and Robin Gadbled (KU Leuven)