



Dear Ana,

The European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and the Gulbenkian Foundation invite you to participate in:

ECFR's Annual Council Meeting 2019: Empowering Europeans
25-26 June 2019
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
Av. de Berna 45A, 1067-001 Lisbon, Portugal

Taking place just a few weeks after the European Parliament elections, amidst the UK's probable departure from the EU, and in light of the 10th anniversary of the Lisbon Treaty, this year's guiding theme will be Empowering Europeans in an era of great power competition.

From sanctions to technological disruption and trade wars – what is Europe's leverage vis-à-vis the United States, China and Russia? Is Europe ready to defend itself in a world where great power politics increasingly trump rules and norms? What is next for multilateralism and the European project in a year of growing political instability and disruption?

Topics:

Key sessions will be focused on topics including the European Parliament election results, European sovereignty in a multipolar world, cyber security, EU-UK security cooperation after Brexit, border revisions in Eastern Europe, trade wars with China, US foreign policy under the next American president, the diminishing leverage of Europe in the Middle East, Western Balkans and the cost of non-enlargement, and others.

Speakers:

Speakers confirmed to date include **Augusto Santos Silva**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal; **George Soros**, Founder and Chairman, Open Society Foundations; **Marietje Schake**, Member of the European Parliament; **Ben Rhodes**, former US Deputy National Security Advisor; **John Mearsheimer**, Professor of political science, University of Chicago; **Franziska Brantner**, Member of the German Bundestag; **Edward Luce**, US National Editor, Financial Times; **Jake Sullivan**, former Senior Policy Advisor to the Hillary Clinton Campaign; **Helle Thorning-Schmidt**, CEO of Save the Children; **Ghassan Salamé**, UN Special Representative and Head, UN Support, Mission in Libya; **Mohamed El Baradei**, Director-General Emeritus, International Atomic Energy Agency; and others.

Media registration:

We kindly ask you to confirm your participation with ECFR's Head of Communications Ana Ramic at ana.ramic@ecfr.eu by 21 June.

Interview requests:

ECFR handles requests for interviews with [ECFR Council Members](#) and facilitates contact with conference speakers.

Details:

[Full list of speakers and preliminary agenda is found here](#), using the password ECFRACM2019. Please do not share this password.

It is important to note that the gala dinner on Tuesday evening is not open to the press and is for Council Members by invitation only.

The status of each session (on the record, off the record) will be pre-determined and communicated.

12.6.2019

Invitation to Press: Annual Council Meeting, 25-26 June, Lisbon

Wireless-LAN and a meeting room for interviews will be provided. The conference language is English. This invitation is personal and non-transferrable.

If you wish to attend and for additional information, please contact ECFR's Head of Communications Ana Ramic, ana.ramic@ecfr.eu, or by mobile +49 15165114216.

We look forward to welcoming you at ECFR's Annual Council Meeting later this month.

With best regards,

Mark Leonard
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