



## Invitation to an online workshop

# The Future of Europe: What Role for the EU as a Global Player? Left Positions for the Conference on the Future of Europe

10 November 2020 at 6 p.m.

The Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Brussels Office and MEP Helmut Scholz are devoting the third event in our series 'Left Positions for the Conference on the Future of Europe' to European foreign policy and the EU's Global Strategy.

Calls for 'a stronger Europe in the world' have grown ever louder, and not just against the backdrop of the US elections. Amid Brexit, the Trump presidency and an ever-stronger China, the European Commission itself has advocated a reorientation of European foreign and security policy in recent years. In its 2016 Global Strategy, the Commission declared that the EU's 'strategic autonomy' was vital to Europe's ability to both safeguard peace on the international stage and promote European citizens' interests. To date, the EU has made considerable progress in this regard, but mainly in fostering military cooperation and armament projects.

Our third event will therefore address the following questions, among others:

- Currently, what are the most important European foreign policy issues from a left-wing perspective?
- What does European strategic autonomy mean and how can we deal with demands for it?
- How can we tangibly shape a peaceful, demilitarised EU focused on multilateral cooperation?

With us to discuss these topics will be **Petra Erler**, an expert on Europe and former Head of Cabinet within the European Commission; **Georgios Katrougalos**, a Member of the Greek Parliament (Syriza) and former Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs; and **Laëtitia Sédou**, EU Programme Officer for the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAAT). The event will be moderated by Gabriele Zimmer, former Chair of the Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL).

Interpretation in **English and German** will be provided.

Please **register** if you would like to attend this exciting, results-oriented debate, via:

[www.rosalux.eu/future-conference](http://www.rosalux.eu/future-conference)



## Background

When she became European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen made some big promises, including holding a [Conference on the Future of Europe](#) that would bring together politicians, civil society and citizens to rethink the integration process and examine how the EU should be reshaped in light of some immense challenges and ongoing crises.

One year on from that announcement, the conference has yet to get off the ground, mainly because of obstructionism by national governments. Nevertheless, we on the left cannot stand on the sidelines when the future of the EU is being debated. We must not leave the field to those who see this conference simply as a means to reaffirm 'business as usual' on EU policy and functioning, rather than opening up new paths and opportunities – something that is long overdue.

We need to get actively involved in this conference! In particular, we need to place the issue of a socially just, peaceful, green and democratic EU based on the principle of solidarity high on the agenda! We want to discuss with you the best way to do this, the topics we should focus on and the specific proposals we should put forward.

To this end, we are organising a series of online events to start sharing ideas about the way ahead. In the spirit of the Conference on the Future, we are inviting you, together with representatives from trade unions, organisations and civil-society movements, to be a part of these events. So please do get involved – we'd love to hear your ideas, arguments and visions, as well as any questions and objections you may have.

More information about the Conference on the Future of Europe can be found at [this link](#) (in German), among others. The report on our launch event on migration and asylum is available in German [here](#), while the report on our second event (on the climate crisis and a Red & Green New Deal) is available in German [here](#).

## Follow-up events

24 November 2020: The Future of Europe: Social Economic Policy

8 December 2020: The Future of Europe: Democratic Deficits in the EU

