

State of the Union Conference 2018: Reflecting on Europe's Future

Twitter hashtag: #SotEU18

Draft Programme

The Clingendael Institute, in cooperation with the European Parliament information office in the Netherlands and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is organising a “State of the Union Conference” for high-level reflection on the future of the European Union (EU). 2017 was the year of reflection papers, speeches and elections. Most notably, the European Commission *White Paper on the Future of Europe*, The *State of the Union* speech by Commission President Juncker, French President Macron’s *Initiative for Europe*, and the *Future of Europe* report by President of the European Parliament Tajani all underlined that the EU needs to change. The EU needs to find effective responses to challenges that have become apparent during the Euro crisis as well as those resulting from the changes in the EU’s geopolitical environment. The Union is facing a full agenda concerning the stabilization of the Euro, looming Brexit, a changing transatlantic relationship, growing Great Power rivalries, persistent public expectations regarding an effective and humane migration policy, and EU budget reform. In addition, discussions revolving around the European elections in 2019 will commence. Yet, it is far from clear what reforms should look like and many questions are still unanswered.

This high-level conference brings together EU officials, opinion leaders and EU experts. To ensure open debates, the Chatham House Rule will apply (unless otherwise indicated).

The 2018 State of the Union Conference *Reflecting on Europe’s Future* will take place in **The Hague** (The Netherlands) on **25 January** and will start with a dinner on the evening of the 24th.

Topics:

- The Future of European Defence Cooperation
- Managing Globalization - EU Trade Policy in the Trump era
- Social Europe in the context of deepening European
- The European Monetary Fund – Financial Risks and Political Consequences
- EU Migration Policies – From Crisis to Stability?
- The State of the Union – Prospects for 2018

Date 24 and 25 January 2018
Venue Sociëteit De Witte
Plein 24
2511 CS, The Hague

Wednesday, 24 January

19.30 – 22.00 **Dinner – *Clingendael Institute, Clingendael 7, The Hague.***
Keynote speaker: Pawel Swieboda - Deputy Head, European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission
Host: Adriaan Schout - Europe expert, Clingendael Institute

Thursday, 25 January

9.00 – 09.30 Registration and coffee/tea

09.30 – 10.00 **Opening by Monika Sie Dhian Ho, General Director Clingendael Institute.**
Room: 'Pleinzaal'
Keynote: Steven Blockmans, A preliminary assessment of EU during the presidency of Juncker (to be invited)

10.15 – 11.45 **Morning breakout sessions**

Session 1A – *Room: 'koepelzaal'*

European Defence Cooperation – Desirable and Feasible?

Moderator: Margriet Drent - Security and Defence expert, Clingendael Institute

Panel:

- Sophia Besch - Research fellow, Centre for European Reform
- Anthony Lawrence - Senior researcher, International Centre for Defence and Security
- Jean Pierre van Aubel - Chair, Political-Military Group, General Secretariat of the Council
- Hester Somsen - Director Security Department, Netherlands MFA



Session 1B – room: ‘leeszaal’

Managing Globalisation – EU Trade Policy in the Trump Era

Moderator: Rem Korteweg - International Relations expert, Clingendael Institute

Panel:

- Elvire Fabry - Senior research fellow, NotreEurope
- Joost Korte - Deputy DG, European Commission DG TRADE
- Jeremy Cliffe - Berlin Bureau Chief, The Economist

12.00 – 13.00

Lunch – Room: ‘Pleinzaal’

13.00 – 13.30

Keynote Speech on Social Europe in the context of deepening European Integration by Frank Vandenbroucke – Professor, University of Amsterdam - Room: ‘Pleinzaal’

Moderator: Adriaan Schout - Europe expert, Clingendael Institute

13.30 – 15.00

Afternoon breakout sessions

Session 2A – Room: ‘Leeszaal’

The European Monetary Fund – Financial Risks and Political Consequences

Moderator: Adriaan Schout - Europe expert, Clingendael Institute

Speakers:

- Charles Wyplosz - Professor of International Economics - the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva
- Lucio Vinhas de Souza - Chief of Economics team, European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission
- Anne-Laure Delatte - Deputy director, CEPII



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Session 2B – Room: ‘Koepelzaal’

EU Migration Policies – from Crisis to Stability?

Moderator: Monika Sie Dhian Ho - General Director Clingendael Institute

Panel: TBD

15.00 – 15.30

Afternoon break – *Room: ‘Pleinzaal’*

15.30 – 17.00

Public session

Room: ‘Pleinzaal’ (this session is held on the record)

Presentation of Clingendael’s Reflection Paper ‘State of the Union 2018’ to Thijs van der Plas - DG European Cooperation (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Monika Sie Dhian Ho - General Director Clingendael Institute

Keynote speech by Klaus Welle - Secretary General of the European Parliament

Closing remarks by Thijs van der Plas - DG European Cooperation (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

17.00

Closing reception, opened by Saskia Bruines - alderman International Affairs, City of The Hague

Room: ‘Pleinzaal’