

“The European Commission: Priorities for the Next Five Years”

The views of eight leading EU think tanks

Friday 20th of June 2014, 9.00-13.50
Polak Room, Résidence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155, 1040 Brussels

This meeting is by invitation and will take place under the Chatham House Rule.

Programme

9.00 – 9.10: Welcome by the Chair

- **Philippe de Schoutheete**, former Permanent Representative of Belgium to the European Union

9.10 – 10.10: Panel 1 – What structure for the new Commission?

Following the enlargement to 28 member states, the College has been expanded to 28 Commissioners. This has led to some tension in the Commission, thinking in silos, and some say the death of debate within the College. Several questions arise for the next Commission on how to improve the internal coordination of EU policy:

- *Should the College be composed of senior and junior commissioners?*
- *Should the Commission be organised in clusters of departments?*
- *Should the number of Directorates be reduced?*

Moderator setting the scene: **Juan Prat y Coll**, former Director General, European Commission & Special Adviser, Fipra

- **Eva Lichtenberger MEP**, Centre for European Policy Studies & Member of the European Parliament
- **Yves Bertoncini**, Director, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute
- **Janis Emmanouilidis**, Director of Studies, European Policy Centre
- **Discussion**

10.10 – 11.10: Panel 2 – Competitiveness, jobs and innovation: how to deliver on Agenda 2020 in a fragmented organisation?

The European Commission has a leading role in designing policies to deliver on the EU's main objectives.

- *Which cross-cutting priorities are needed to deliver on these objectives?*
- *Can the Commission be mobilised as a whole on overriding priorities of growth and jobs?*

Moderator setting the scene: **Hans Martens**, former Chief Executive, European Policy Centre & Special Adviser, Fipra

- **Ann Mettler (tbc)**, Executive Director, The Lisbon Council
- **Reinhilde Veugelers**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel & Professor, Catholic University of Leuven
- **Alisdair McIntosh**, Director, Business for New Europe
- **Discussion**

11.10 – 11.30: Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30: Panel 3 – Europe facing the world

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is still very young.

- *Does the EU have a coherent foreign policy?*
- *What needs to be done to define it?*
- *Is there political will at Member State level?*

Moderator setting the scene: **Pierre Rousselin**, Foreign Affairs Columnist, Le Figaro

- **Charles Grant**, Director, Centre for European Reform
- **Jaap de Zwaan**, Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam & former Director, Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael
- **Discussion**

12.30 – 12.40: Conclusions by the rapporteur

- **Dirk Hudig**, Secretary General, European Risk Forum & Director, Fipra

12.40 – 12.50: Concluding remarks by the Chair

- **Philippe de Schoutheete**, former Permanent Representative of Belgium to the European Union

12.50 – 13.50: Drinks + sandwich lunch

11 June 2014