



## The Crisis of Sovereignty in Europe

**October 24-25, 2019**

*Organised by: CIDOB, CETC*

*Partner: CCCB*

The erosion of national sovereignty has always been a matter of concern for European Union member states. Interdependence and global dynamics, from European integration to economic crises and climate breakdown, have curtailed the capacity for states autonomous action. At the same time, sub-national actors like cities, which govern everyday spaces, or regions, which reclaim further decentralisation, further contest state structures and their legitimacy to efficiently tackle current challenges.

One common response by EU member states has been the slowing down the process of European Integration, privileging intergovernmentalism over common strategies and policies. Supranational institutions such as the European Commission or the European Parliament are often relegated to a secondary role, overshadowed by the primacy of the European Council and the Council of the EU.

This conference, co-organised by CETC and CIDOB, seeks to explore first the meaning of sovereignty in today's Europe, as the tension between supranationalism and intergovernmentalism intensifies. Second, it discusses ways to institutionalise forms of shared sovereignty up from below, in order to better address citizen and global problems and compensate the tensions and crises of state sovereignty.

In order to meet these objectives, the seminar will be structured in three sessions. The first session explores the challenges to European Integration by considering the prospects for multispeed Europe and multi-level governance processes. The former considers how different parts of the Union can integrate at different pace and degree, to accommodate different political sensibilities and political demands. The latter discusses the role of different levels of governance, from cities or regions like Catalonia to supranational actors like the EU, to address future crises.

The second session looks at the management of migration flows to think of reforms that could enable more humane and efficient responses in the future. While the Catalan government and the Barcelona City Council have been critical of national and European responses, it is yet unclear which redistribution of sovereign competences would make a difference in addressing migration issues.

The third session examines the weakening of the social Europe, particularly as a consequence of the economic crisis and the rise of right-wing populism. The possibility of a social Europe does not merely consist of a greater and more efficient redistribution of resources, but also rethinking sovereignty by exploring the possibility of integrated fiscal programmes or improving service provisions at the subnational level.

Partner:

**October 24, CCCB**

16.00 – 17.00 **Opening and keynote speech**  
**Alfred Bosch**, Minister for Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency,  
Generalitat de Catalunya  
**Antoni Segura**, President, CIDOB

*Keynote speech:* **Ulrike Guérot**, Founder and Director, European Democracy Lab  
*Initial comments:* **Esther Vera**, Director, ARA newspaper

17.00 – 17.30 Coffee break

17.30 – 19.30 **Session 1: Sovereignty, European integration and multilevel governance**  
*Input statements:* **Simon Toubreau**, University of Nottingham  
**Nicoletta Pirozzi**, Istituto Affari Internazionali  
**Agata Gostynska-Jakubowska**, Centre for European Reform  
**Michael Keating**, University of Aberdeen

*Chair:* **Pere Almeda**, Director, Centre d'Estudis de Temes Contemporanis, CETC

20.00 Dinner

**October 25, CIDOB**

09.30 – 11.30 **Session 2: Sovereignty, migrations and European responses**  
*Input statements:* **Anna Triandafyllidou**, European University Institute  
**Sofia Nässtrom**, Uppsala University  
**Rainer Baubock**, European University Institute  
**Danièle Joly**, University of Warwick

*Chair:* **Blanca Garcés**, Research Coordinator and Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 – 14.00 **Session 3: Sovereignty, inequalities and social Europe**  
*Input statements:* **Rym Ayadi**, Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies and Centre for European  
Policy Studies (CEPS)  
**Eulalia Rubio**, Jacques Delors Institute  
**Henning Meyer**, Social Europe  
**Staffan Lindberg**, University of Gothenburg

*Chair:* **Pol Morillas**, Director, CIDOB

14.00 **Closing**  
**Mireia Borrell**, Secretary for Foreign Action and the European Union, Generalitat de  
Catalunya

14.15 Lunch and departures