

INVITATION

# ARCHITECTS OF THE FUTURE

European Policymaking in Times of Uncertainty,  
Technological Disruption and Societal Adaptation

8<sup>th</sup> Open European Dialogue

6-8 October 2023 - Helsinki



OPEN  
EUROPEAN  
DIALOGUE



## DEAR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

We cordially invite you to join us in Helsinki on the 6th – 8th of October 2023 to participate in the 8th Open European Dialogue – **Architects of the Future: European Policymaking in Times of Uncertainty, Technological Disruption and Societal Adaptation.**

Being a politician today, in times of uncertainty and ambiguous futures, is a challenge which is felt across the continent and regardless of political colours.

**Our Annual Policymakers Dialogue will bring together a select cohort of politicians from across Europe to explore today's policymaking challenges through the lens of technological advancements that are changing the world we live in.**

Technological advancements have the potential to radically alter the playing field of policymaking due to their profound and often ambiguous societal, economic, ethical, and political implications.

Recent developments surrounding the use of generative artificial intelligence are but the latest example of the pace and depth of change with which politics is confronted.

Beyond the obvious influence on the way in which we consume and make use of information, technological advancements affect the way we think about environmental policy, the future of the labour market, issues of migration and mobility, as well as foreign policy - to name a few of the affected policy areas.

There is an evident tension between those who see technology as a solution to all of humanity's problems and those who see an urgent need to address the harm these technologies can bestow upon the well-being of individuals and societies.

The divide grows deeper as a clear path on how to manage the regulation of emerging technologies is yet to be found.

- How can politicians be architects of our societies' futures while standing on ever-shifting grounds?
- How can policymakers handle the emergence of a new global competition among actors with different approaches towards the use of technology in society?
- How can policymakers prepare for the emergence of new societal disparities and ruptures?
- How can politicians regulate emerging technologies in the absence of an in-depth understanding of their opportunities and risks? Who will be involved in the shaping of new regulation?

### A Brave New World?

New technologies are changing the way we live and work with each other and may require new models for policymaking.

Our dialogue will take place against the backdrop of a European political agenda that has been championing a twin transition by linking technological and green investments. National and European policymakers are being called upon to build a regulatory architecture that encourages innovation while leaving no one behind.

This policy window reveals radically novel opportunities for politicians to have a profound impact on the way we design our future societies.

## YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Eighth Open European Dialogue – Architects of the Future  
6 - 8 October 2023 - Helsinki

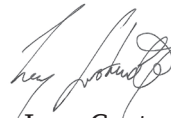
### Building Futures and New Thinking

Together with colleagues from across Europe and informed by top-tier experts and policy pioneers, the 8th Open European Dialogue will be a chance to explore new approaches towards technology.

You will challenge and, in turn, be challenged in your political and policy thinking as you explore new know-how and ideas for navigating the evolving relationship between technology, politics and society.

We would be honoured to welcome you to Helsinki and hear your contribution to this high-level political dialogue.

Kind regards,



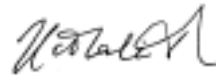
Dr. Lars Grotewald  
Stiftung Mercator



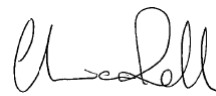
Dr. Stefan Schäfers  
King Baudouin Foundation




Dr. Martin Quencez  
German Marshall Fund  
of the United States



Dr. Nathalie Tocci  
Istituto Affari Internazionali



Chiara Rosselli  
APROPOS - Advancing Process  
in Politics



Henry Alt-Haaker  
Robert Bosch Stiftung



Dr. Malte Zabel  
Bertelsmann Stiftung



Dr. Maria Gavouneli  
Hellenic Foundation for  
European and Foreign Policy



Dr. Pol Morillas  
Barcelona Centre for  
International Affairs

### Reserve your spot!

Our Annual Policymakers Dialogue is an exclusive retreat reserved for selected parliamentarians from across Europe.

We aspire to connect a wide-ranging and high-level cohort of parliamentarians representative of diversity in terms of political, geographical, cultural, and social backgrounds.

As this is a closed-door event, there are only very limited spots available. Hence, we kindly ask you to signal your interest in participating at your earliest convenience by filling out our [participation form](#) or e-mailing Rebecca Farulli at [rebecca@aproposgroup.org](mailto:rebecca@aproposgroup.org).



## ABOUT US

### THE OPEN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

The Open European Dialogue (OED) is an informal and politically neutral platform exclusively tailored to Members of Parliament. Our aim is to create a conversation space that is respectful of all political views and where the sharing of political and personal perspectives can lead to a better understanding of complex political challenges. The OED is internationally renowned for its Good Offices and has been recognised by the OECD in 2021 as a global best practice for cross-border collaboration and innovation.

This European network is coordinated by APROPOS-Advancing Process in Politics, together with leading think tanks across Europe - the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, the Istituto Affari Internazionali, the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy. Our platform is supported by a consortium of philanthropic foundations - the Mercator Foundation, the King Baudouin Foundation, the Robert Bosch Foundation, and since 2023, the Bertelsmann Foundation.

Find out more at:

[www.openeuropeandialogue.org](http://www.openeuropeandialogue.org)



## WHY JOIN

### **A different kind of political conversation in a trusted and protected environment.**

The Open European Dialogue is specialised in creating spaces for dialogue and understanding between parliamentarians. You will be able to openly share your views with colleagues while operating under the OED House Rules of openness, respect and confidentiality.

### **A dialogue for parliamentarians, by parliamentarians.**

Over two and a half days, you will engage with a richly diverse cohort of parliamentarians and exchange experiences and perspectives. Thanks to the internationally recognised 'Good Offices' of the Open European Dialogue, we will provide you with an exchange opportunity specifically designed around the needs of policymakers.

### **Your European network.**

Finally, the Open European Dialogue offers you a unique network experience that ensures you will stay in touch with your colleagues after the dialogue. We provide you with a platform to establish long-term connections with colleagues who share a passion and responsibility for shaping the future and offer you the opportunity to launch joint initiatives supported by the OED team.



## AGENDA

The 8th Open European Dialogue will bring together policymakers from across Europe and across the political spectrum. We will engage in a peer-to-peer experience in which we will share and explore the challenges and opportunities that present themselves at the intersection of technology, politics, and society.

The dialogue will begin on Friday, the 6th of October (17:00 EEST) and end on Sunday, the 8th of October (16:30 EEST).

### AGENDA PREVIEW

#### DAY 1: FRIDAY, 6TH OCTOBER

17:00 Big Picture Framing and Kick-Off of High-Level Political Dialogue

#### DAY 2: SATURDAY, 7TH OCTOBER

09:00 - 18:00 Problem Exploration and Learning Stations, Marketplace of Ideas

#### DAY 3: SUNDAY, 8TH OCTOBER

09:00 - 16:30 Difficult Conversations Space and Policy Incubation Lab

A full agenda will follow closer to the date.



## KEY THEMES

Parliaments at the  
forefront: new policy tools  
and solutions



Societal adaptations to  
technological disruption

The role of  
policymakers in  
creating new visions  
of the future amidst  
uncertainty



Ethical dilemmas  
of technological  
innovation



Emerging  
technologies and  
their regulatory  
challenges: climate  
tech, information  
politics, and more





## LOGISTICS

### REGISTRATION - PLEASE NOTE OUR DEADLINE!

To ensure your participation, please make sure to register at your earliest convenience before the **28TH OF JULY 2023**. Please register by filling in the [linked participation form](#) or e-mailing **REBECCA FARULLI** at **REBECCA@APROPOSGROUP.ORG**. Between the 28th of July and 31st of August, registrations will only be accepted depending on the availability of places.

Detailed information on travel arrangements, the venue and accommodation will follow soon.

### EXPENSES

The Open European Dialogue would be pleased to offer to take care of your expenses. Please note, however, that we are able to provide only a limited number of fully funded scholarships covering travel and accommodation. As we aspire to bring together a diverse cohort of parliamentarians from different political, geographical, cultural, and social backgrounds, we reserve the right to select the final cohort of scholarship receivers with the aim of ensuring a balanced dialogue space.

To secure your spot in the conference and claim an Open European Dialogue scholarship, we therefore encourage you to register as early as possible.

### CHILDCARE POLICY

Family comes first. If you have a child or children and your participation depends on the offer of childcare for the duration of the event, we are happy to arrange a solution for you. We are flexible with regard to your preferred option. Please do not hesitate to get in touch and let us know how we can best tailor an offer to meet your family's needs.

## CONTACTS

### For registration or logistical questions:

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### For questions about the project:

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### You may also contact your regional representative:

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# THE OPEN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE AT A GLANCE

The Open European Dialogue is a politically neutral platform that aims to improve European politics by supporting policymakers in better understanding challenges and perspectives from across Europe. We do that by connecting European politicians across parties and countries, providing space for dialogue, and promoting innovative political conversations in ways that no one else does.

The network serves as a platform for the over 12,000 national parliamentarians of the EU and beyond. Its active network comprises over 180 members from 36 European countries, representing around 70 different political parties.

Our members convene regularly for dialogues, conference calls, fact-finding missions, expert workshops, and other activities.

Since 2017, the network also empowers parliamentarians to develop their own cooperative, cross-party and cross-country spin-off initiatives. Our policy experts from four internationally renowned think tanks offer input to ensure the highest quality of dialogue.



**36 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**



**70+ POLITICAL PARTIES**



**OVER 180 ACTIVE MEMBERS**



**5 INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED THINK TANKS**



**EXCLUSIVE PUBLICATION SERIES**



**REGULAR CONFERENCE CALLS**



**MP-LED INITIATIVES**

## THE DIALOGUE EXPERIENCE:

### FEEDBACK FROM OUR MEMBERS



"A very good concept - an innovative way of creating parliamentary networks outside of formal protocol."

"It is an opportunity to have a conversation with my EU peers, away from daily politics and not too influenced by national party political lines."

"Thank you for building bridges among European MPs and bringing us together for always enriching debates."

"I found the process very innovative and enjoyable. It gave everyone a chance to get their viewpoint across."



# A EUROPEAN PROJECT BY A EUROPEAN NETWORK OF PARTNERS

This European network is coordinated by APROPOS-Advancing Process in Politics, together with leading think tanks across Europe - the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, the Istituto Affari Internazionali, the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy. Our platform is supported by a consortium of philanthropic foundations - the Mercator Foundation, the King Baudouin Foundation, the Robert Bosch Foundation, and since 2023, the Bertelsmann Foundation.

Our European consortium of organisations is not merely spread across the continent to create regional points of contact, but to also bring together top-notch researchers from some of Europe's most influential political think tanks with different regional and thematic foci. This helps to ensure the best possible quality of informed conversations within the network.



# JOINING FORCES IN THE OPEN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE



Stiftung Mercator is a private and independent foundation. Through its work it strives for a society characterized by openness to the world, solidarity and equal opportunities. In this context it concentrates on strengthening Europe; increasing the educational success of disadvantaged children and young people, especially those of migrant origin; driving forward climate change mitigation and promoting science and the humanities.

Stiftung Mercator symbolises the connection between academic expertise and practical project experience. One of Germany's leading foundations, it is active both nationally and internationally. Stiftung Mercator feels a strong sense of loyalty to the Ruhr region, the home of the founding family and the foundation's headquarters.



The King Baudouin Foundation's mission is to contribute to a better society. The Foundation is an actor for change and innovation, serving the public interest and increasing social cohesion in Belgium and Europe. We seek to maximize our impact by strengthening the capacity of organizations and individuals. We also stimulate effective philanthropy by individuals and corporations. The Foundation's key values are integrity, transparency, pluralism, independence, respect for

diversity, and promoting solidarity. The Foundation's current areas of activity are poverty and social justice, philanthropy, health, civic engagement, developing talents, democracy, European integration, heritage and development cooperation. The King Baudouin Foundation is a public benefit foundation. The Foundation was set up in 1976 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.



The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. In its charitable work, it addresses social issues at an early stage and develops exemplary solutions. For this purpose, it plans and implements its own projects. Additionally, it supports third-party initiatives

that have similar goals. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is active in the areas of health, education as well as global issues. Since it was established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has invested more than 2 billion euros in charitable work.



The Bertelsmann Stiftung is an independent, private operating German foundation which engages in evidence-based nonprofit activities. Each day, some 360 employees aim to strengthen society, help people achieve their full potential, and develop the systems needed to achieve those goals. The foundation's fields of activity are Democracy & Social Cohesion, Digitalization & the Common Good,

Education & The Next Generation, Europe's Future, Health and Sustainable Social Market Economies. In its work on EU-affairs, the Bertelsmann Stiftung advocates for a more sovereign and united Europe that helps shape the world of tomorrow based on its values. To this effect, it provides background, analysis and insights on its website [globaleurope.eu](http://globaleurope.eu).



The APROPOS Group is a non-profit, politically neutral think tank. It operates in the field of democratic innovation and specialises in the development and implementation of process design methods for the political sphere. We believe in the impact that process design can have on improving political communication and cooperation, because we have seen the

results first hand. To this end, we design and carry out meetings with policymakers, facilitate conversations, train practitioners, and publish research on political processes to advance the dialogue and collaborative capacities that will be vital for the decades of comprehensive societal changes ahead of us.



The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan. GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering

democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation. Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.



The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) is a private, independent non-profit think tank, founded in 1965 on the initiative of Altiero Spinelli. IAI seeks to promote awareness of international politics and contribute to the advancement of European integration and multilateral cooperation. IAI is part of a vast international

network, and interacts and cooperates with the Italian government and its ministries, European and international institutions, universities, major national economic actors, the media and the most authoritative international think tanks.



The Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) is an independent and plural think tank based in Barcelona, dedicated to the study, research and analysis of international affairs. Created in 1973 as an International Documentation Centre of Barcelona, it is a private foundation since 1979. CIDOB promotes global governance and good practices – based on local, national and European democratic government – to ensure that people possess the basic elements to live their lives free from fear and in

liberty, by facilitating a dialogue that includes all diversities and which actively defends human rights and gender equality. CIDOB is a dynamic community of analytics that works to produce and offer to all political actors – from individual citizens to international organizations – information and ideas to formulate and promote policies for a more secure, free and fair world for everyone.



ELIAMEP is an independent, non-profit and policy-oriented research and training institute. It neither expresses, nor represents, any specific political party view. It is only devoted to the right of free and well-documented discourse. ELIAMEP's mission is to provide a forum for public debate on issues of

European integration and international relations to conduct scientific research that contributes to a better informed and documented knowledge of the European and international environment.

