# TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Summary

5 Format

6 Speakers

8 Workshops and Themes

9 Entrepreneurship Workshop

10 The Think Tank: Its Founding and the Future

12 ESC 2017 Program

14 Detailed Conference Challenges and Discussion Points

16 Partners
SUMMARY

The European Student Conference 2017 (ESC 2017) will take place at Yale University, in the School of Management building, on 10th and 11th February 2017. One hundred undergraduate and graduate students from universities all across the United States and Europe will gather to address some of the major challenges for the European Union. As participants of ESC 2017 they will:

• Craft policy perspectives that shed new light on European challenges in the realms of migration, legitimacy, productivity, security, and identity.

• Enter into a debate with distinguished professors, current and former decision-makers from Europe, and representatives of European Institutions.

• Draft a concrete plan of action for implementing the policy visions and strategies that they develop.

• Learn about European Horizons, a think-tank with chapters at universities across the United States, Canada, and Europe, dedicated to exploring the meaning of European identity, modernizing and reforming the concept of the social market economy, pursuing European integration, and deepening transatlantic relations.

The ESC 2017 is a European Horizons conference that is co-funded by the European Union as a Jean Monnet Activity under the Erasmus+ Programme. European Horizons is proud to feature Renée Haferkamp as the Special Advisor of ESC 2017.

European Horizons will cover all travel expenses for participants traveling from within the United States and will provide accommodation in student housing.

Applications are open by October 14 at www.europeanhorizons.org.
FORMAT

The conference is structured around three main formats:

• **Keynote speeches** are held in the opening and closing plenaries with all participants in attendance, followed by questions from the audience.

• **Panels** feature three to four VIPs, professors, or experts, plus a professional moderator. All participants will be in attendance and there will be time for questions from the audience.

• **Workshops** feature 16 students, 3–4 professors, experts and/or VIPs each, tackling one of the five challenges described below, plus an entrepreneurship workshop. They meet for three sessions during the conference. Students arrive with policy ideas prepared before the conference, and will revise these in light of the discussions.
SPEAKERS

European Horizons is inviting dignitaries from government, business and academia to share their views on challenges in Europe with the European Student Conference. The outreach to potential speakers is ongoing. So far, confirmed speakers include:

**GÉRARD ARAUD**
Ambassador of France to the United States

**DAVID CAMERON**
Professor of Political Science and Director of EU Studies, Yale University

**MAI’A CROSS**
Edward W. Brooke Professor of Political Science, Northeastern University

**ALEXANDER GÖRLACH**
Founder of The European and visiting scholar at Harvard University

**RENNÉ HAFAKEMP**
Former DG European Commission, Senior Adviser to the European Parliamentary Research Service, and Special adviser European Students Conference 2016 and 2017

**MATTHEW KAMINSKI**
Executive editor of POLITICO Europe

**WILLIAM KENNARD**
Former United States Ambassador to the European Union

**SERGEY LAGODINSKY**
Head of EU and North America at Heinrich Böll Stiftung

**MARTINA LARKIN**
Head of Europe and Eurasia and Member of the Executive Committee at the World Economic Forum

**DAVID O’SULLIVAN**
Ambassador of the European Union to the United States

**ANTOINE RIPOLL**
Director of the European Parliament Liaison Office with the US Congress
STEPHEN ROACH
Former Chief Economist at Morgan Stanley, Senior Fellow at the Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, Yale University

JACEK SARYUSZ-WOLSKI
Member and former Vice President of the European Parliament

JOSÉ M. MARTÍNEZ SIERRA
Jean Monnet ad personam Professor for the Study of European Union Law and Government, Faculty Affiliate of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and Faculty Associate of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard

JOHN SHATTUCK
President and Rector emeritus of Central European University, Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government

ROBERT SHILLER
Sterling Professor of Economics at Yale University, Nobel Laureate

JOSEPH WEILER
University Professor, Joseph Straus Professor of Law, European Union Jean Monnet Chaired Professor, and Co-Director of the Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law and Justice, New York University

PETER WITTI
Ambassador of Germany to the United States
WORKSHOPS AND THEMES

Each workshop will be framed around a challenge that participants will seek to solve—together with one another, and with the expert participants. The aim of the conference is to make progress towards answering these challenges—both through coming up with possible policy ideas and through identifying concrete steps that conference participants themselves can take.

The headline challenge is “Reforging the social contract in Europe.” The six subsidiary challenges are given below. An expanded description of these topics can be found at the end of this document.

1) Migration: How can we preserve the privileges of Schengen while effectively addressing challenges associated with Brexit and the refugee crisis?

2) Legitimacy: How can the political legitimacy of European political institutions be restored?

3) Productivity: How can we increase productivity without breaking the social market economy?

4) Foreign and Security Policy: How can the European social contract be protected and promoted internationally?

5) Belonging/Identity: How can we supplement already existing European institutions and law with a sense of emotional belonging and identity?

6) Entrepreneurship: How can we create an environment which better fosters entrepreneurship within Europe?
ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

European Horizons believes that changing Europe requires not only policy proposals but also practical business ideas. In addition to the policy portion of the entrepreneurship workshop, there will also be a business competition bringing together students, entrepreneurs, and innovators in order to develop business projects that can have a positive economic and social impact on Europe. Participants will present their business plans to a panel of business figures, entrepreneurs, and the other student participants in the Entrepreneurship Workshop. Further questions about the Entrepreneurship Workshop and competition should be directed to Fabian Hutter, the Head of Innovation of European Horizons, at innovation@europeanhorizons.org.
European Horizons is a US-based, non-partisan think-tank devoted to exploring the meaning of European identity, modernizing and reforming the concept of the social market economy, advancing the cause of European integration, and deepening transatlantic relations. To this end, European Horizons has established a network of students, professors, and European decision-makers, with links to academia, politics, civil society, and business. Together, we will engage in a constructive dialogue that will propound a platform of ideas for reforming the European Union and setting a policy vision for its future.

European Horizons was founded on February 14th, 2015 at the European Student Conference 2015 at Yale University by undergraduate and graduate students from 45 American universities and College d’Europe.

The idea of the think-tank sprung from a group of European students at Yale University who were inspired by their deep commitment to the future of the European ideal and the state of transatlantic relations. Studying and living in the United States, these students aspired to use their perspective from both sides of the Atlantic to build a think-tank that could unite bright young minds in order to articulate and advance a credible plan for the future of the European Union.

After a period of preparation, we conceived the name “European Horizons” as an evocative symbol of the think-tank’s focus on the future potential of the European project. The inaugural European Student Conference provided a great opportunity to share the idea for the think-tank with students
studying in the United States and Europe, policy-makers, decision-makers from civil society and business, and professors. The overwhelming support and insightful feedback that emanated from the Conference provided the final motivation to build European Horizons.

Since the first European Student Conference European Horizons has grown substantially to include more than 30 chapters in the United States, Canada, and Europe. In addition to the ESC the think-tank hosts a Fall Policy Convention, Spring Forum, and publishes research and policy papers through its journal, The Review of European and Transatlantic Affairs. In November 2016 European Horizons will host its first event in Europe, the Digital Economy Youth Summit, at the College d’Europe.

From the beginning, non-Europeans, and particularly Americans, were central to European Horizons. European Horizons was created as a think-tank open to all individuals with an honest interest in the future of the European Union, and we currently have many non-Europeans participating in our activities. We have valued this inclusiveness and are convinced that it will raise awareness about the values, vision, and actions of the European Union in countries beyond Europe.

For more information about European Horizons, please visit www.europeanhorizons.org.
ESC2017 PROGRAM

This program is provisional and is subject to change.

Thursday, 9th February 2017
Evening welcome reception for student participants. VIPs, experts and professors already in town are warmly invited to attend.

Friday, 10th February 2017

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<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 – 11.00</td>
<td>Welcoming, registration, breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 – 11.45</td>
<td>Opening plenary, keynote #1</td>
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<td>12.00 – 13.30</td>
<td>FIRST WORKSHOP SESSIONS</td>
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<td>• Migration  • Legitimacy  • Productivity  • Foreign and security policy</td>
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<td>• Belonging and identity  • Entrepreneurship</td>
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<td>13:30 – 14:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30 – 16.00</td>
<td>SECOND WORKSHOP SESSIONS (same groups)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:15 – 16:45</td>
<td>How to get involved with European Horizons information session</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00 – 18.30</td>
<td>Opportunities of Brexit Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30 – 20:00</td>
<td>Students meet in workshop groups to begin paper re-drafting</td>
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<td>20.00</td>
<td>Dinner and Film Screening</td>
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**Saturday, 11th February 2017**

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<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>European Public Sphere Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td><strong>THIRD WORKSHOP SESSIONS</strong> (same groups)</td>
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<td>12:30 – 13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30 – 15:00</td>
<td>Innovation and Business in the Context of a new Social Contract Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:15 – 16:30</td>
<td>Closing plenary, keynote #2</td>
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DETAILED CONFERENCE CHALLENGES AND DISCUSSION POINTS

1) MIGRATION—How can we preserve the privileges of Schengen while effectively addressing challenges associated with Brexit and the refugee crisis?

Discussion points:

a. Labor market angle—how do we prevent migration from both undermining and from being perceived to undermine social protection and wages?

b. Security angle—how do we prevent migration from contributing to security risks, e.g. through creating difficult-to-policy communities like Molenbeek?

2) LEGITIMACY—How can the political legitimacy of European political institutions be restored?

Discussion points:

a. Retain, reform, or refound?—is the best way forward (a) to retain the existing settlement, working on implementation and/or communication; (b) reform, either via treaty change or via a de-facto (if not de jure) change; or (c) an act of re-founding.

b. A Europe of Two Speeds?—how would a Europe of Two/Multiple speeds operate? How could it be communicated? How would one prevent it from becoming a chaotic free-for-all?

c. European Public Sphere—how can we facilitate the emergence of a ‘European public sphere’?

3) PRODUCTIVITY—How can we increase productivity without breaking the social market economy?

Discussion points:

a. Technology—how can we speed up the adoption of new technology throughout Europe and boost the development of technology?
b. **Education**—how can we improve productivity through better/different education? What alternatives can we imagine to our current model that frontloads, centralizes, and standardizes all 10/12/15+ years of education?

c. **Demand management**—how can we prevent aggregate demand from being deeply uneven across different parts of Europe?

d. **Youth unemployment**—how can we reduce youth unemployment throughout Europe? Given highly unequal youth unemployment rates across member states, what can member states learn from one another?

**4) FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY**—How can the European social contract be protected and promoted internationally?

**Discussion points:**

a. **Ideological competition**—what can we do to weaken the appeal of fundamentally antagonistic ideologies that are developing on Europe’s borders (such as Islamism, extreme nationalism, or anti-enlightenment racial- or gender-supremacist thought)?

b. **Refugees as an opportunity**—can we turn the refugee crisis into an opportunity? If so, what is the appropriate time frame for such a project, and how could it be implemented?

c. **Brexit as an opportunity**—does Brexit allow for deeper defense integration? If so, how could this proceed?

**5) BELONGING/IDENTITY**—How can we supplement already existing European institutions and law with a sense of belonging and identity?

**Discussion points:**

a. **A new narrative**—the ‘peace narrative’ often fails to excite and resonate with the majority of Europeans under the age of 50. What new narrative could take its place?

b. **Pragmatic steps towards fostering belonging**—what pragmatic steps could be taken to construct a shared sense of belonging?
6) ENTREPRENEURSHIP—How can we create an environment which better fosters entrepreneurship within Europe?

Discussion points:

a. **Engagement**—how can we best prepare and encourage young people to explore and invest in new ideas?

b. **Accessibility**—there are many people who have great ideas but don’t have the funding to make them a reality. How can entrepreneurs better gain access to capital so that ideas can flourish?

c. **Promotion**—what policy solutions are there to ensure that innovation is promoted in all economic sectors and all regions and not focused on a select few?

d. These topics will be expanded and influenced based on the outcomes of the Digital Economy Youth Summit to be held in November 2016 at College d’Europe.

PARTNERS

We thank the following partners for their support for the ESC 2017:

Yale School of Management

BMW Stiftung

Herbert Quandt

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