



# EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE 2018

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A EUROPEAN HORIZONS CONFERENCE

Yale University, Rosenkranz / Luce Hall  
March 29–March 31, 2018

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## TIME & PLACE

The European Student Conference 2018 (ESC 2018) will take place at Yale University's Rosenkranz Hall in the spring of 2018, between Thursday March 29th and Saturday March 31st.

## PARTICIPANTS

As in the previous years, 100 students will be selected from universities all over North America and Europe in a competitive application process. We expect, on the basis of previous years, that around 50% of those students will be American or Canadian nationals, 40% European nationals, and 10% non-European and non-North American nationals. In addition, there will be up to 20 dignitaries from academia, politics, diplomacy, business, and the media.

## FORMAT

The conference is structured around three main formats:

- **Keynote speeches**, are held in the opening and closing plenaries (all ~120 participants in attendance); followed by questions from the audience.
- **Panels** feature up to three decision-makers and professors, plus a professional moderator (a professor or journalist). Each panel will be followed by questions from the audience.
- **Workshops** feature up to 20 students, and up to three professors and/or decision-makers each, tackling one of the conference themes described below. 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.



## PURPOSE & THEMES

The conference will be framed around a number of themes (“challenges for Europe”) that participants will seek to solve—together with one another, and with the expert participants, the professors and decision-makers. 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 **“Creating a United Europe based on common values and benefits”**. The six subsidiary challenges are given below. Schedule and detailed descriptions on the next pages.

1. **Democracy:** How can Europe curtail anti-democratic behavior of its national governments?
2. **EU-China:** How can Europe and China establish a mutually beneficial relationship?
3. **Security:** How can Europe become self-sufficient from a security perspective?
4. **Energy:** How can Europe become smarter about energy policy and supplies?
5. **Technology:** How should Europe take advantage and drive technological innovation?
6. **National Sovereignty:** How will national sovereignty evolve as the European Project progresses?



## OUTCOME

Before the conference, students in groups will discuss their policy ideas for the themes of the respective workshops and formulate them into policy-papers.

At the conference, students will present these policy-papers to one another as well as to the decision-makers and professors. During the workshops, they will refine the policy-papers based on other participants' input and common discussion. They will present the final version of the policy-papers during the final presentation session on day two of the conference.

After the conference, the students will go back to their respective universities and share their policy ideas for Europe's future with their respective university communities. European Horizons will furthermore publish the policy-papers in our journal, the *Review of European and Transatlantic Affairs*, and distribute the journal to university libraries across the European Union and the US, as well as to European decision-makers. See our prior editions of the journal here: <https://www.europeanhorizons.org/reta/>

# ESC2018 PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

## Thursday, March 29

| TIME          | ACTIVITY   |
|---------------|--|
| 19.00 – 21.00 | Evening welcome reception for student participants. Decision-makers and professors already in town are warmly invited to attend. |

## Friday, March 30

|               |   |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
|---------------|---|-----------|--------|----------|------------|----------|----------------------|
| 9.00 – 10.00  | <b>Welcome, registration, breakfast</b>   |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 10.00 – 11.00 | <b>Opening plenary and welcoming speeches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome of the Yale team and Marius and Toni</li> <li>• Welcome by Igor Mitschka, Chairman of the Board of Directors</li> <li>• Vice President for Communications at Yale, Eileen O'Connor</li> <li>• Former President of the European Parliament, Enrique Baron Crespo</li> <li>• Assistant Secretary for Europe, Wess Mitchell (<i>to be confirmed</i>)</li> </ul> |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | <b>Panel “Are common values and benefits strong enough to support a United Europe?”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistant Secretary for Europe, Wess Mitchell (<i>to be confirmed</i>)</li> <li>• Moderated by Igor Mitschka</li> </ul>  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | <b>Lunch</b>  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 13.00 – 14.30 | <b>FIRST WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Democracy</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Energy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EU-China</td> <td>Technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Security</td> <td>National Sovereignty</td> </tr> </table>  | Democracy | Energy | EU-China | Technology | Security | National Sovereignty |
| Democracy     | Energy  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| EU-China      | Technology  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| Security      | National Sovereignty  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 14:30 – 15.00 | <b>Coffee break</b>   |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 15.00 – 16.00 | <b>Panel #1</b> ( <i>theme to be decided when we know who our speakers and policy experts will be</i> )   |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 16.00 – 18.00 | <b>SECOND WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Democracy</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Energy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EU-China</td> <td>Technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Security</td> <td>National Sovereignty</td> </tr> </table>   | Democracy | Energy | EU-China | Technology | Security | National Sovereignty |
| Democracy     | Energy  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| EU-China      | Technology  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| Security      | National Sovereignty  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 18.00         | <b>Pizza Dinner</b>   |           |        |          |            |          |                      |

## Saturday, March 31

|               |   |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
|---------------|---|-----------|--------|----------|------------|----------|----------------------|
| 9.00 – 10.00  | <b>Breakfast</b>  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 10.00 – 11.30 | <b>Panel #2: Security in Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador of Serbia to the US, Djerdj Matkovic</li> <li>• Ambassador of Bosnia to the US, Haris Hrlje</li> <li>• Moderated by former US Ambassador to the UN, Rosemary DiCarlo</li> </ul> |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 11.30 – 13.30 | <b>THIRD WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b> <table> <tr> <td>Democracy</td> <td>Energy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EU-China</td> <td>Technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Security</td> <td>National Sovereignty</td> </tr> </table>   | Democracy | Energy | EU-China | Technology | Security | National Sovereignty |
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| EU-China      | Technology  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| Security      | National Sovereignty  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 13.30 – 14.30 | <b>Lunch</b>  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | <b>Presentation of European Horizons</b>  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 15.00 – 16.00 | <b>Presentation of final policy papers</b>  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |
| 16.00 – 17.30 | <b>Closing plenary, farewell speeches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lucas Feuser, Executive Director</li> <li>• Chief of Strategic Partnerships at UNFPA, Mariarosa Cutilo</li> </ul>  |           |        |          |            |          |                      |

## DETAILED CONFERENCE THEMES

### 1) **DEMOCRACY: How can Europe curtail anti-democratic behavior of its national governments?**

#### **Discussion points:**

- a. What can civil society across Europe do to help bring governments from Hungary and Poland back to a path aligned with the values of the European Union? What can European business do to help this cause?
- b. How should the European Commission react to such governments in the future – should there be a change to the treaty options that are currently available?
- c. Why did Hungary's and Poland's current government's appeal to the electorate to begin with, and what can we learn from their success?

### 2) **EU-CHINA: How can Europe and China establish a mutually beneficial relationship?**

#### **Discussion points:**

- a. What will be the impact of the completion of China's 'One Belt, One Road' project on the future of the EU-China relations? What are some of the challenges and opportunities created by the resulting improvements in trade and infrastructure?
- b. How can the EU and China cooperate on climate policy? What are some of the opportunities enabled by the steadfast commitment of both EU and China to their own energy transitions to a low-carbon economy? What role can business play?
- c. How can EU and China build on their existing economic ties to form a true partnership in other policy areas? What are the prospects for EU and China to emerge as co-leaders of a new multilateral world?



### 3) SECURITY: How can Europe become self-sufficient from a security perspective?

#### Discussion points:

- a. Defense Sourcing—how can Europe achieve self-sufficiency in the procurement of defense resources? How can European defense companies be empowered to innovate and decrease reliance on imports from external providers?
- b. Intelligence Sharing—what are some of the challenges facing intelligence sharing across the EU? How can logistics be improved? Is there a role for intelligence sharing to increase trust between member states and can it stand out to citizens as a security boost provided by the European Union to help better protect citizens from terrorism?
- c. European Armed Forces—how realistic is President Macron’s plan for a pan-European army? What needs to be done to make it happen? According to that framework are soldiers contributed by member states? Will national armies be dissolved and if they won’t, to what extent will their operations and purpose change? How will the relations to NATO change? Will NATO still be necessary also considering President Trump’s calls? What body will be held accountable for a European Army?

### 4) ENERGY: How can Europe become smarter about energy policy and supplies?

#### Discussion points:

- a. Future of Energy— will there be a shift from fuels to electricity, what are advantages and disadvantages, and what can Europe do to facilitate this shift? Case-in-point is the future of electric cars.
- b. New pipelines - does Europe need new gas pipelines to become more independent from an energy standpoint? Currently, the need to export oil and gas have strong influences on Europe’s geopolitical considerations. What would happen if these constraints were not binding anymore?

- c. How can Europe further facilitate the smart use of renewable energy? How can Europe facilitate more innovation and investment in the renewables sector?
- d. What are the forces that will shape the future of the European energy grid? How can infrastructure investments in the energy grid be directed towards facilitating a low carbon economy?

## 5) **TECHNOLOGY: How should Europe take advantage and drive technological innovation?**

### **Discussion points:**

- a. Future of Banking—how can banking in Europe make the most of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain? What are the opportunities and challenges? What kind of regulations are needed? How can financial literacy be increased among the general population with the help of these new technologies?
- b. Technology Companies—how should technology companies be taxed? What would enforcement look like? How can a consensus be achieved that balances the interests of different member states including Luxembourg and Ireland? What would America’s reaction be to a tax increase of Silicon Valley firms in Europe and how can a sustainable dialogue be achieved in this regard?
- c. Blockchain technology: What are the benefits and dangers, and how can Europe facilitate the use of blockchain in areas where it improves people’s lives?
- d. Technology as a Catalyst—how can technology invigorate innovation and improve citizens’ lives? What can the EU learn from Estonia’s push? What would a legal structure look like that embraces technological innovations to increase productivity and reduce barriers created by bureaucratization?

## 6) NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY: How will national sovereignty evolve as the European project progresses?

### Discussion points:

- a. Multispeed Europe—should there be a multispeed Europe or should integration proceed? If further integration is to be pursued, what would it look like? Is the concept of a “multispeed Europe” an economic one?
- b. National Sovereignty—how will national sovereignty be redefined in the face of progressing integration? What are the most important aspects of national sovereignty that should be preserved? Which ones should be consolidated on a European level? What needs to happen and how in order to make these changes?
- c. European Parliament—how should the role of the European Parliament look like in a more integrated European Union? What needs to be done to level the playing field between the new role and its legitimacy among European citizens? What are some of the competencies the European Parliament is best equipped to handle? Should it at one point have power over a pan-European fiscal budget?

In partnership with  
**European Parliament Liaison  
Office with U.S. Congress**

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