



THE STATE OF THE UNION

THE STATE OF THE UNION 2018

THE ANNUAL EVENT FOR HIGH-LEVEL REFLECTION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

This year, the 8th edition of The State of the Union will take place in Florence from **10 to 12 May 2018**. Under the title “**Solidarity in Europe**”, the conference will focus on topics including European economic, monetary and fiscal policies, social investment, migration, defence and security, climate change, and energy.

In a unique event, this edition of **The State of the Union** is honoured to feature the presence of four heads of state, with **Sergio Mattarella**, President of Italy, **Michael Higgins**, President of Ireland, and **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, President of Portugal, participating on Thursday 10 May at the European University Institute. **Prokopios Pavlopoulos**, President of the Hellenic Republic, will speak on Friday 11 May at Palazzo Vecchio.

The programme welcomes both **Jean-Claude Juncker**, President of the European Commission and **Antonio Tajani**, President of the European Parliament as representatives of the EU Institutions. Elsewhere in the programme, **Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security will speak on EU Defence and Security Policies; **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice President of the European Commission for the Energy Union will discuss burden sharing and Europe’s ‘Energy Union’; **Corina Crețu**, European Commissioner for Regional Policy and **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, President of the Committee of the Regions will take part in a panel discussion on Solidarity and the EU Budget; and **Mario Draghi**, President of the European Central Bank will deliver a keynote address. Five Members of the European Parliament will also participate in panels on social investment, asylum seeker integration, attitudes to migration, climate change, and emerging energy markets.

The State of the Union creates a unique forum in which these high-level political leaders and policy makers can engage world-leading academics and researchers from the European University Institute and beyond in stimulating debate and reflection on matters concerning Europe.

On **10 May 2018**, the conference will take place at the Badia Fiesolana, the EUI’s main building. Participating speakers will discuss how this important principle informs specific policy areas. The interventions will take place across several parallel sessions, each chaired by a member of the EUI with relevant scientific expertise. On **11 May 2018**, participants will reconvene in the historic surroundings of Palazzo Vecchio, the seat of Florence’s city council. Representatives of the EU and national institutions will contribute their views on the conference’s theme. On Saturday **12th May**, the European University Institute and Historical Archives of the European Union welcome all members of the public to an Open Day dedicated to music, culture and food at Villa Salviati.

For more information, visit:

<https://stateoftheunion.eui.eu/>

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REGISTRATION & CONFERENCE INFO

- Registration is by invitation only. For more information contact – SoURegistration@eui.eu
- For any organisational questions concerning the event, please contact:

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ABOUT THE STATE OF THE UNION

The State of the Union is an annual event for reflection on the European Union. It is organised by the European University Institute and takes place in Florence each May. Over the past seven years, The State of the Union has become a key reference point for EU policy-makers, civil society representatives, business and opinion leaders, and academics. Previous speakers include Presidents, Prime Ministers, and the heads of the European Institutions. The State of the Union is a unique forum where a diverse group of key actors can gather to debate and reflect, together, on Europe's most pressing issues. In times of crisis or instability, such a nuanced understanding of the EU's successes, failures and challenges is crucial.



Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, The State of the Union 2017

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