

State of the EU in 2018 and beyond: How can Europe succeed after EP elections?

<i>Date</i>	11 October 2018
<i>Place</i>	Main Hall, University of Economics, Bratislava
<i>Organizers</i>	Representation of the European Commission (ZEK) – EU Citizens Dialogue, Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA)
<i>Partners</i>	Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), University of Economics, Bratislava, EURACTIV Slovakia
<i>Aims</i>	The main aim of the conference is to analyze the state of the EU following the September speech by Jean-Claude Juncker on the state of the Union and explore ways how the EU can materialize Juncker's ambition to become a more global financial and economic player and more effective security and international actor. The timing of the conference will allow for discussion of the main achievements and failures of the current European Commission. It will also provide space for debate on how the EU can succeed politically while facing Brexit and growing anti-European movements across member states in the run-up to EP elections in 2019.
<i>Languages</i>	Slovak and English with simultaneous interpretation

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

10:00	Opening <i>Ferdinand Daňo</i> , Rector of the University of Economics <i>Ladislav Miko</i> , Head of EC Representation in Slovakia <i>Claudia Ehing</i> , Deputy Director for Czech and Slovak Republics, FES <i>Alexander Duleba</i> , Director, Research Center of the SFPA
10:15	<u>Panel discussion on the state of the EU</u>
Chair	<i>Oľga Baková</i> , journalist
Speakers	<i>Miroslav Lajčák</i> , Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovakia <i>Maroš Šefčovič</i> , Vice President of the European Commission

11:30 **Coffee Break**

12:00 **Moderated panel discussion: Can the EU become stronger after Brexit and European elections?**

The panel will discuss the state of the EU with an eye to EP elections and in particular consider the salience and relevance of three risks to Europe's future: Brexit and its consequences, eroding European values in domestic politics and lack of clear policy priorities in EU-27.

Chair *Aneta Világi*, Department of Political Science, Comenius University

Panelists *Ivan Štefanec*, Member of the European Parliament
Alexander Micovčín, Director General for European Affairs, Slovak MFA
Ladislav Miko, Head of European Commission Representation, Bratislava
Uwe Optenhögel, Vice President, Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Discussant *Zuzana Gabrižová*, Editor-In-Chief, EURACTIV Slovakia

13:30 **Conclusions followed by lunch**