

La ampliación de la Unión Europea en el nuevo contexto geopolítico

The enlargement of the European Union in the new geopolitical context

Madrid, 7-8 June 2023

Venue: University of Alcalá (Alcalá de Henares - Madrid)

Organised by *Política Exterior* journal, Secretariat for the European Union-Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and University of Alcalá

The seminar will be conducted in English and Spanish with translation services.

The EU is at a critical juncture one year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In addition to economic difficulties stemming from spiraling inflation, the disengagement from Russia's energy and a return of trade protectionism, there is also the challenge posed by growing strategic competition between major powers. In this changing global order, the EU seeks to advance both deepening and widening, and to equip itself with the necessary tools to realise its ambition to remain relevant in a more "geopolitical" world.

In this context, Enlargement Policy has returned to the centre of debates on the EU's future. Despite being described as one of the EU's most successful policies, Enlargement is now in need of a renewed, realistic and honest approach, as the relationship with the Western Balkan region attests. In June 2022 the EU leaders granted Ukraine and Moldova the status of candidate countries and the European perspective to Georgia. That decision marked an unprecedented shift in the Enlargement Policy and created an opportunity to rethink and revitalise a complex and transformative process. Since then, a number of proposals have emerged to relaunch the enlargement process, mostly to restore the incentive power of accession prospects and also for the EU's own internal reforms.

On the eve of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July-December 2023), *Política Exterior* journal, in collaboration with the State Secretariat for the European Union-Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation and University of Alcalá, brings together a group of experts from EU member states and candidate countries to discuss the new geopolitical context of enlargement, the different existing proposals to promote a profoundly transformative policy and the challenges it implies for each of the countries and for the European Union as a whole.

PARTICIPANTS:

- **Drita Abdu-Halili**, State Secretary and EU Negotiator of the Government of North Macedonia
- **Ioannis Armakolas**, Associate Professor, University of Macedonia. Senior Research Fellow and Head of the South East Europe Programme, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP, Greece)
- **Belén Becerril**, Professor of European Union Law at the San Pablo-CEU University (Spain)
- **Nikola Dimitrov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia (2017-20) and Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs (until 2022)
- **Ruth Ferrero Turrión**, Professor of Political Science at the Complutense University of Madrid and researcher at ICEI (Spain)
- **Miguel García-Herráiz Roobaert**, Deputy Director General for European Union Institutional Affairs (SEUE-MAEC, Spain)
- **Henning Hoff**, Director of *Internationale Politik Quarterly* (DGAP, Germany)
- **Carlos Jiménez Piernas**, Professor of International Public Law and International Relations (University of Alcalá, Spain)
- **Gert Jan Koopman**, Director General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
- **Ignacio Molina**, Senior Researcher for Europe at the Real Instituto Elcano (Spain)
- **Hedvig Morvai**, Director for Strategy and Europe (ERSTE Foundation, Austria)
- **Áurea Moltó**, Director of the magazine *Política Exterior* (Spain)
- **Pascual Ignacio Navarro Ríos**, State Secretary for the European Union (Spain)
- **Zoran Nechev**, Director of the Centre for EU Integration at the Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis' (North Macedonia) and associate member of DGAP (Germany)
- **Serhii Pohoreltsev**, Ambassador of Ukraine to Spain
- **Oana Popescu-Zamfir**, Director of the GlobalFocus Center (Romania)
- **Salvador Rueda Rabanal**, Director General for Integration and Coordination of General Affairs (SEUE-MAEC, Spain)
- **Nathalie Tocci**, Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI, Italy)
- **Wouter Zweers**, Researcher at the European Union and Global Affairs Unit (Clingendael, The Netherlands)

WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE

17:00 Guided tour to the University of Alcalá (World Heritage) for those interested.

18:30 **Inauguration** (*Venue: Auditorium-Paraninfo, University of Alcalá*)

Welcome and opening remarks: **José Vicente Saz**, Chancellor of the University of Alcalá

The enlargement and the future of the European Union

Conversation between **Drita Abdu-Halili**, State Secretary and EU Negotiator of the Government of North Macedonia and **Pascual Ignacio Navarro Ríos**, State Secretary for the European Union (Spain)

Moderator: **Nathalie Tocci**, Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI, Italy)

20:00 *Cocktail (Parador de Alcalá de Henares)*

THURSDAY, 8 JUNE

Venue: Sala Internacional - International Hall (University of Alcalá)

10:00-11:30 **Panel I: The geopolitics of Enlargement**

Chair: Áurea Moltó, Director of Política Exterior

Speakers:

Gert Jan Koopman, Director General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Serhii Pohoreltsev, Ambassador of Ukraine to Spain

Nikola Dimitrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia (2017-20) and Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs (until 2022)

Salvador Rueda Rabanal, Director General for Integration and Coordination of General Affairs (Spain)

11:30-12:00 *Coffee break (University cloister)*

12:00-13:30 **Panel II: Pathways for EU enlargement**

Chair: **Ruth Ferrero Turrión**, Professor of Political Science, Complutense University of Madrid (Spain)

Speakers:

Oana Popescu-Zamfir, Director of the GlobalFocus Center (Romania)

Henning Hoff, Director of *Internationale Politik Quarterly* (DGAP, Germany)

Hedvig Morvai, Director for Strategy and Europe (ERSTE Foundation, Austria)

Miguel García-Herráiz Roobaert, Deputy Director General for European Union Institutional Affairs (Spain)

13:45-15:30 *Lunch (Hostería del Estudiante-Parador de Alcalá de Henares)*

15:30-17:00 **Panel III: Challenges of an enlarged European Union**

Chair: **Belén Becerril**, Professor of European Union Law at San Pablo-CEU University (Spain)

Speakers:

Ioannis Armakolas, Associate Professor, University of Macedonia. Senior Research Fellow and Head of the South East Europe Programme, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP, Greece)

Ignacio Molina, Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute (Spain)

Zoran Nechev, Director of the Centre for EU Integration at the Institute for Democracy (North Macedonia) and associate member of DGAP (Germany)

Wouter Zweers, Research fellow at the European Union and Global Affairs Unit (Clingendael, The Netherlands)

17:00-17:30 **Concluding remarks**

Carlos Jiménez Piernas, Professor of International Public Law and International Relations (University of Alcalá)

Pascual Ignacio Navarro Ríos, State Secretary for the European Union (Spain)