



ROUNDTABLE

THE MOST CONTESTED EUROPEAN ELECTIONS EVER? A READ-OUT OF THE 2019 VOTE FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Sala Europa

Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

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■ INTRODUCTION

European Parliament (EP) elections in May 2019 come at a critical time in the evolution of the EU. They were supposed to be the first elections after the anticipated departure of the UK, before the failed ratification of a withdrawal agreement imposed that the UK, too, must hold European elections. They also come at a time when divergence on many issues characterise member state relations, and wider global developments weigh heavily on Europe with the return of hard geopolitics and efforts to undermine the global multilateral order. The election results are expected to produce a highly fragmented Parliament, with the long-dominant centre-left and centre-right blocs unable to form a coalition by themselves, therefore assigning greater influence to smaller players such as the Liberals, Greens and populists. Eurosceptics are expected to win a third of the Parliament's seats, reflecting the global rise in nationalism. As an international hub of high quality research and reflection on the European Union, the [European Governance and Politics Programme](#) has contributed to the build-up to the European elections with a two-pillar project: [euandi2019](#), an online Voting Advice Application allowing citizens to match their policy preferences with the positions of the political parties running for EP elections in all 28 Member States, and [spaceu2019](#), an interactive database informing users on their electoral rights and to allowing them to compare the conditions and requirements for voting in their country of residence and citizenship.



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■ PROGRAMME

- 11.45 - 12.00 Welcome coffee (Sala Bandiere)
- 12.00 - 13.00 Roundtable
Moderator:
Brigid Laffan | European University Institute
Speakers:
Hanspeter Kriesi | European University Institute
“An electoral result to be afraid of? The expected rise of populism from left and right”
Elias Dinas | European University Institute
“The spillover effect of European elections on national elections and the (sub)-national vote performances of the radical right”
Giorgia Bulli | University of Florence
“Does ‘European campaigning’ matter? Political communication and EU elections in times of Euroscepticism”
Liesbet Hooghe | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
“News from the GAL-TAN dimension? The expected strengthening of the Eurosceptic bloc in the context of a transnational divide”
- 13.00 - 13.45 Discussion and Q&A session

■ PARTICIPANTS

Giorgia Bulli	University of Florence
Elias Dinas	European University Institute
Liesbet Hooghe	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Hanspeter Kriesi	European University Institute
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