



CHANGING EUROPE

Young people shaping Europe



**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**

Regionalbüro
Rheinland-Pfalz/Saarland

Europe in stormy weather: The EU as guardian of the democratic rule of law?!

26. November 2020, 14.00h, Online Workshop

2020 has seen deep changes in the way people live, work and meet. Covid-19 and its pandemic spread have led to massive interventions by governments on various levels. In the EU for instance most member states installed regulations in spring that inhibited

- freedom of movement, as Schengen states reinstated their borders for a period of time;
- cross-border trade, leading to shortages of vital goods elsewhere in the world.

The consequences followed suit:

- shut down and break down of many companies led to job losses;
- the young generation lost out as schools and universities shut down and online tutoring did not match quality and inclusive standards;
- migrants and refugees stranded in the EU were forgotten in the public eye.

At the same time EU's institutions had to put on track their plans for the challenges of climate change and the imminent Brexit.

The biggest challenge however for the EU will be to win back and re-inforce trust in its ability to guard the democratic rights of its people, i.e. freedom of opinion, free media and protection of an independent judiciary, all of which are under threat already in some EU member states.

You are cordially invited to discuss these critical points and develop solutions to reinforce the democratic principles of the EU. Following the workshop you will have the opportunity to directly present your demands and proposals in an open dialogue with Katarina Barley, Vice President of the European Parliament and other MoEP.

We are looking forward to meet you online!

14.00h Welcome and introduction of topic
Brigitte Juchems, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung,
Regional office Rhineland-Palatinate/Saarland

14.15h Workshop-Round I:
What does rule of law mean to me as individual

15.00h Workshop-Round II:
Which democratic norms and rules are vital for the EU to be a guardian of core human and democratic rights

15.45h Workshop-Round III:
Concrete ways and demands to reinforce EU's institutional setup to stop democratic rights violations

16.45h Tea Break

17.00h Open Dialogue with
Katarina Barley
and other Members of the European Parliament

Welcome Remarks
Kurt Beck, President of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Presentation of your demands and proposed solutions

Debate

ca. 18.45h End of the event

Moderation: **Charlotte Wiesenthal** and
Alexander Kuschel, planpolitik, Berlin

(Conference Language: English)

Please register until November 22, 2020 via:

<https://www.fes.de/lnk/3y7> or via email: mainz@fes.de

If you register by email, we ask you to add your postal address.

Notes on data protection:

The event will take place as an online video conference using a service from US-based ZOOM Video Communications, Inc..

For more information, see <https://www.fes.de/digital/datenschutz-und-zoom>.

The access data will be sent to all those who have registered by email shortly before the event. This data may not be passed on.

Further information on data protection can be found at www.fes.de/datenschutzhinweise.

An event by
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