

EUROPE'S MOMENT FOR COURAGE



Putting the Question of Power Back at the Heart of the European Project with leaders, civil society and citizens



A strategic, transpartisan, multidisciplinary and intergenerational initiative on European power

Europe is entering a decisive period of emerging threats for its values, citizens, institutions and businesses. The return of power politics, technological acceleration, global competition and strategic dependencies compel a question that can no longer be avoided: what kind of power does Europe want to become, and for what purpose?

The Europa Power Initiative is being launched out of this conviction by more than 300 high-level figures and is still gathering new co-founders from across Europe and beyond: political leaders including former European Commissioners, Nobel laureates, business executives, scientists, intellectuals, artists, civil-society figures and emerging young leaders.

It is transpartisan by design and brings together personalities from across the political spectrum, including Mariya Gabriel, Margrethe Vestager and Nicolas Schmit, alongside figures such as Paolo Gentiloni, Jean-Marie Lehn, Sabine Verheyen and Yury Revich — from politics, science, business, culture, territories and civil society.

Europe must recover the capacity to act, protect, invest, innovate, and shape its future — faithful to the rule of law, cooperation, democracy and human dignity. Power, here, is not domination, it means collective capacity: the capacity to decide, anticipate, protect citizens, and contribute to a world order based on cooperation.

A constituent assembly and a founding declaration

The Initiative was founded in Strasbourg on 26–27 November 2025, at the first Europa Power Conference. This constituent assembly of co-founders concluded with the adoption of the Declaration of Strasbourg in European Parliament, affirming that Europe must strengthen its capacity to act and root its strategic ambition in law, cooperation, and democratic legitimacy.

21-23 OCTOBER 2026 STRASBOURG

DRAFT PROGRAMME

21 OCTOBER 2026 - NETWORK DAY
AFTERNOON // 15.00 - 18.00

WHY IS A POWERFUL EUROPE ESSENTIAL?

Think tanks international network, *Hôtel de Région*

BY INVITATION GROUPS

Chair: Bahadır KALEAĞASI President of the Bosphorus Institute, former Director General of TÜSİAD

Introduction by Benjamin Haddad

Minister delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign affairs, responsible for Europe, France

Meetings of the Europa Power Initiative networks

BY INVITATION GROUPS

Reflection within each network to identify key messages in the importance of a powerful Europe

1. European youth network, *INSP - Jean Zay Amphitheatre (TBC) (Pax: 80/100)*

Chair: Nicolas Schmit, President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (2019–2024), Minister for Labour, Employment and Immigration of Luxembourg (2009–2018) (TBC)

Organisation(s): Collectif pour un service civique européen

2. European women network, *City Hall (Pax: 40/50)*

Chair: Meglena Kuneva, EU Ambassador to the Council of Europe (2018-2022), Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria (2014-2017), EU Commissioner for Consumer Protection (2007-2009) (TBC)

Organisation(s): Women for European Citizenship, European Women in VC

3. European investors network, *City Hall (Pax: 15/20)*

Chair: Jean-François Van Boxmeer, Chairman of Vodafone, Chairman of the European Round Table for Industry (2022-2026) (TBC)

Organisation(s): Eurazeo (TBC), DEIK (TBC)

4. European tech ecosystem network, *City Hall (Pax: 15/20)*

Chair:

Maria João Rodrigues, Chair of the Board of Re-Imagine Europa, President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) (2017-2026), Vice-President of the S&D Group at the European Parliament (2014-2019), Minister for Employment of Portugal (1995 - 1997) (TBC)

Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age (2019–2024), European Commissioner for Competition (2014-2024), Deputy Prime Minister of Denmark (2011–2014) (TBC)

Organisations: Scale-Up Europe, Numberly, AdaptiveAI, AI Safety Connect, Helsing (TBC), Mistral AI (TBC), Flytxt (TBC), ASML (TBC), Eurostack (TBC), Neuroelectrics (TBC)

5. European academics network, *Strasbourg University (Pax: 15/20)*

Chair:

Frédérique Berrod, Professeure, Sciences Po Strasbourg, Présidente de l'Université de Strasbourg (TBC)

Hervé Moritz, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of EU and International Relations, President of France - European Movement (TBC)

6. European impact organisations network, *Cresus Headquarters (Pax: 15/20)*

Chair: Wietke Dupain, Social entrepreneur, CEO of Euclid Network (European Social Enterprise Network)

Organisation: Cresus

21 OCTOBER 2026 - NETWORK DAY

DINNER // 19.00 - 21.00

CITY HALL (PAX: 200-300)

BY INVITATION

22 OCTOBER 2026 - CONFERENCE

MORNING // 9.30 - 12.30

FACILITATOR

Cathie Burton, International communication expert, Former OSCE Director of Communication

EUROPE'S MOMENT FOR COURAGE

Palais des Congrès, René Cassin Auditorium

Presentation of the opinion survey results

BY REGISTRATION PLENARY

Opening by co-Presidents

BY REGISTRATION PLENARY

Christophe Bavière, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Eurazeo, founder and former Chief Executive Officer of Idinvest Partners (1997–2021) (TBC)

Mariya Gabriel, Assistant Director-general for communication at UNESCO, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria (2023–2024), European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (2019–2023) (TBC)

William Kadouch-Chassaing, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Eurazeo, former Deputy General Manager and Chief Financial Officer of Société Générale (2018–2022), Managing Director at JPMorgan Chase & Co. (2007–2013) (TBC)

Marinella Litani, Director - Italy Collectif pour un Service Civique Européen (CSCE), Public relations consultant

Guillaume Klossa, President and Founder of EuropaNova, former Special Adviser on artificial intelligence and platforms to the VP of the European Commission (2018–2019), writer and tech and civic entrepreneur, former EBU director

Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age (2019–2024), European Commissioner for Competition (2014–2024), Deputy Prime Minister of Denmark (2011–2014) (TBC)

Nicolas Schmit, President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (2019–2024), Minister for Labour, Employment and Immigration of Luxembourg (2009–2018) (TBC)

Jean-François Van Boxmeer, Chairman of Vodafone, Chairman of the European Round Table for Industry (2022–2026) (TBC)

22 OCTOBER 2026 - CONFERENCE

MORNING // 9.30 - 12.30
PALAIS DES CONGRÈS, RENÉ CASSIN AUDITORIUM

The leading voices of Europe

BY REGISTRATION PLENARY

Introduction by **Slavoj ŽIŽEK**, Philosopher and author, International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London, Global Distinguished Professor of German at New York University

Chair: Paolo Gentiloni, EU Commissioner for Economy (2019-2024), Prime Minister of Italy (2016-2018)

François Villeroy de Galhau, Governor of Bank of France (2015-2026)

Maciej Witucki, President of BusinessEurope, President of Lewiatan (2019-2025)

Mark Carney, Prime Minister, Canada (TBC)

Emmanuel Macron, President, France (TBC)

Sergio Mattarella, President, Italy (TBC)

Claudia Sheinbaum, President, Mexico (TBC)

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President, Germany (TBC)

Volodymyr Zelensky, President, Ukraine (TBC)

Catherine Trautmann, Mayor of Strasbourg, President of Eurométropole de Strasbourg (TBC)

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission (TBC)

Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament (TBC)

Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (TBC)

Gao Xingjian, French-chinese novelist, 2000 Nobel Prize in Literature (TBC)

Léa Ypi, Author of Global Justice and Avant-Garde Political Agency, Member of the British Academy and the European Academy, Professor at the London School of Economics, Honorary Professor at the Australian National University, and a permanent member of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (TB)

The dimensions of power

How can Europe advance towards becoming a democratic superpower?

BY REGISTRATION PLENARY

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Mathematician, President of the European Research Council (2014-2019), Director of IHES (1994-2013) (TBC)

Cynthia Fleury, Philosopher and Psychoanalyst, Lecturer of the Humanities and Health Chair at CNAM and at Mines-ParisTech (TBC)

Bruno Fuchs, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, French National Assembly

Hajdu Gábor, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Romanian Parliament (TBC)

Márton HAJDU, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Hungarian National Assembly (TBC)

Cédric Villani, Mathematician, 2010 Fields Medal, Professor at ENS Rennes, Member of the Council of Paris, Member of the French National Assembly (2017-2022) (TBC)

Europe and its Partners: towards a shift in the balance of power at the international level

How can Europe position itself among global powers and allies?

BY REGISTRATION PLENARY

Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada (TBC)

Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France (TBC)

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, India (TBC)

Anita Orbán, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hungary (TBC)

Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Brazil (TBC)

Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Chair of the Austrian National Council's Committee on Foreign Affairs (TBC)

22 OCTOBER 2026 - CONFERENCE

LUNCH // 12.30 - 14.00

PALAIS DES CONGRÈS - GALERIE SCHWEITZER (PAX: 250)

BY INVITATION

AFTERNOON // 14H30 - 17H00

Joint thematic groups with the Europa Power Initiative networks

Palais des Congrès

BY INVITATION GROUPS

For each group:

Chair: one Europa Power initiative Co-Founder

Co-rapporteurs: an expert and a youth representative

1. Sustainable, Shared and Autonomous Prosperity

How can European power deliver growth, competitiveness, prosperity and economic sovereignty?

2. Scientific and Technological Leadership

How can Europe master innovation and AI while preserving its democratic model?

3. Defence, Security and Resilience

How can Europe defend democracy, and how can it ensure a democratic defence?

4. Democracy, Media and Culture

How can media, culture and heritage become drivers of European power, cohesion and influence?

Strasbourg, a laboratory for a citizen-driven European power

Palais des Congrès, René Cassin Auditorium

BY INVITATION GROUPS

Panel with the City of Strasbourg, the Grand Est Region, the European Collectivity of Alsace, Kehl municipality, Baden-Württemberg, President of Cercle de l'III, as well as testimonial from Young people working in Strasbourg

Strasbourg, a laboratory for a citizen-driven European power

Palais des Congrès, René Cassin Auditorium

DINNER // 20.00 - 22.00

HÔTEL DE RÉGION - HALL (PAX: 100-120)

BY INVITATION

23 OCTOBER 2026 - CLOSING

MORNING // 10H - 12H30

CLOSING

European Parliament - S1.4 (Pax: 350)

BY REGISTRATION PLENARY

Introduction by **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament

Panel with joint thematic groups' rapporteurs

Official presentation of the 10 priorities

Co-Presidents



Initiator & Co-President:

Guillaume KLOSSA

President and Founder of EuropaNova; former Special Adviser on artificial intelligence and platforms to the VP of the European Commission (2018–2019), writer and tech and civic entrepreneur, former EBU director



Christophe BAVIERE

Co-Chief Executive Officer of Eurazeo, founder and former Chief Executive Officer of Idinvest Partners (1997–2021)

Mariya GABRIEL

Assistant Director-general for communication at UNESCO, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria (2023–2024), European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (2019–2023)



Marinella LINATI

Director - Italy Collectif pour un Service Civique Européen (CSCE), Public relations consultant

William

KADOUCH-CHASSAING

Co-Chief Executive Officer of Eurazeo, former Deputy General Manager and Chief Financial Officer of Société Générale (2018–2022), Managing Director at JPMorgan Chase & Co. (2007–2013)



Nicolas SCHMIT

President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (2019–2024), Minister for Labour, Employment and Immigration of Luxembourg (2009–2018)

Margrethe VESTAGER

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age (2019–2024), European Commissioner for Competition (2014–2024), Deputy Prime Minister of Denmark (2011–2014)



Jean-François Van BOXMEER

Chairman of Vodafone, Chairman of the European Round Table for Industry (2022–2026)

Dr. Slavoj ŽIŽEK

Philosopher and author, International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London, Global Distinguished Professor of German at New York University.



In the press





EUROPA
POWER
INITIATIVE

Operated by **EUROPANova**

***A European think tank for power, democracy
and strategic foresight***

EuropaNova has built one of Europe's most connected ecosystems for strategic reflection and influence, through the Conclave, the Europa Power Initiative, publications, leadership forums and media engagement. Since 2003, EuropaNova has helped shape Europe's strategic debate at the intersection of geopolitics, democracy, technology, economic transformation and global power. It connects political leaders, CEOs, investors, scientists, academics, media voices, cultural figures and civil society through high-level strategic dialogue, foresight and agenda-setting initiatives.