

THE UNIVERSITY OF SIENA, THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE AND VISION THINK TANK ARE LAUNCHING THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE SIENA CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE.

Where are the ideas that can make Europe land in the 21st century? And, not less importantly, where are the generations of new leaders able to complete a project that is still incomplete?



The **Conference on the Future of Europe** that will be held at the **Certosa of Pontignano (Siena) the 8th, 9th and 10th June 2023**, now at its fourth edition, is a unique project, “a true problem-solving platform, where – unlike in other typical conferences – participants will look for concrete solutions, establishing a common ground between participants with very different professional backgrounds”, as **Francesco Grillo** (director of Vision Think Tank and Visiting Fellow at the EUI) underlined at the **press conference** that was held at **Associazione della Stampa Estera in Italia (Rome)**, on **29th May 2023**.

The Siena Conference – promoted by the University of Siena, the European University Institute and Vision Think Tank – is, thus, a unique experiment in a debate on Europe that often goes from celebrating the dream of a past generation to listing unresolved problems. The Conference acts as a platform for the main European political parties; for companies willing to provide inputs that goes beyond their pre-defined agendas; for international media that want to go beyond the current news; for students and academics with very different backgrounds but all engaged in the construction of Europe.

In a time in which the **digital revolution, bank crises, climate change, as well as the threats to democracy and security**, Europe needs to come up with new, visionary and pragmatic proposals to ensure unity, prosperity and well-being in the continent and beyond.

Europe, as the rest of the world, faces societal and global puzzles challenging our own tools to read reality, and cannot afford to navigate “uncharted waters” without a strong uniting vision.

“Time to Land in the 21st Century” is the title of the conference, which saw the cooperation of the major European political foundations: the **Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)** affiliated to the S&D Group; **European Liberal Forum (ELF)** for the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats Europe Party (ALDE); **New Direction (ND)** for the European Conservatives and Reformists Party (ECR); **Green European Foundation (GEF)** for the European Green Party (EGP). There will also be Members of the European Parliament from all the main political groups, from the European People’s Party to the Green.

More than **80 internationally renowned speakers** including policy makers, scholars, entrepreneurs, manager, journalists, economists and students will engage a discussion on the major challenges that the European Union is facing. Experts will engage in talks and discussions during the three-days event, divided into six plenary sessions and four problem-solving groups. The objective is to design common solutions on contemporary European issues, to be then presented to EU and national institutions. Each political foundation, during a specific session, will present a project

or a report on topics as [the Future of Europe](#), European security, the [energy transition](#), the reform of COP, the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) and a [more democratic Europe](#).

A significant element will be the presence of **12 students** from the **University of Siena** and the **European University Institute**, who will join the discussion of the four problem-solving groups, actively contributing to find middle grounds or innovative solutions.

The students will be able to engage with the representatives of the European parties' foundations and to present their very own ideas and proposals on the future of Europe.

During the roundtable that will be held on the last day of the Conference, a member of the European Parliament per each political group will draw the conclusions of the three-days Conference and they will then be conveyed in the Pontignano Paper, the final manifesto of the Conference.

Among the participants, there will be **Romano Prodi** (President of the European Commission (1999-2004) and Italian Prime Minister twice), **Sandro Gozi** (European MEP for Renew Europe, former Italian Secretary of State for European Affairs), **Bill Emmott** (Trustee of the Institute of Strategic Studies and former editor of The Economist), **John Hooper** (Italy and Vatican correspondent, The Economist), **Maria Joao Rodrigues** (President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and former Portuguese Minister of Employment), **Barbara Kolm** (Vice President of the Austrian Central Bank), **Kalypso Nicolaidis** (Professor at St Antony's College, University of Oxford and Professor at the School of Transnational Governance – EUI), **Enrico Giovannini** (Former Italy Minister of Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility) e **Fabrizia Lapecorella** (Deputy Secretary-General, OECD).

Among the media partners there will be **Rai Radio 1**. **Intesa Sanpaolo** will be Main Sponsor of the conference again, while **Monte dei Paschi di Siena** will be the corporate partner of the 2023 edition.

For more information, please contact giorgia.caianiello@visionandvalue.com and [visit our website](#).

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