

# THE FOURTH VISION SIENA CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



**ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT EU ELECTIONS: HOW DID EUROPE  
CHANGE IN THE LAST FOUR HYPER FAST YEARS AND WHAT  
WILL IT LOOK LIKE IN 2029**

**8th, 9th, 10th June 2023  
Siena – Certosa Di Pontignano**

**AGENDA 2023**

We are navigating into “*unchartered waters.*”

Europe is facing geopolitical and environmental discontinuities that challenge not only a world order shaped by another century but also the intellectual underpinnings of our economic and political systems. These shifts put in question the democratic foundations of our policy making. The driving force of the changes is a technology-triggered disruption: technologies do not just transform radically the nature of industries; they even produce a complexity that risks paralyzing action.

The European Union faces this upheaval as much as any other large country or regional blocks. And yet Europe could turn its vulnerabilities into a flexibility that will help it adapt more quickly to the challenges of the 21st century.

The Siena conference is an attempt to reach beyond ideological stereotypes, academic siloes, and individual national agendas so that few, visionary, pragmatic ideas can emerge and become common ground.

The next pages define the objectives of the fourth Siena conference and of each of the problem-solving groups/ plenaries; the key participants; the structure of the agenda; the scientific and media partners of the project; the method through which the participants will draft the final PONTIGNANO paper.

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As for the title of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Siena Conference, “**TIME TO LAND IN THE 21ST CENTURY**” the starting points of the conversations are that:

1. The last three years have witnessed a further acceleration of multiple crises: the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing disruptions of globalisation as we knew it, including inflation; the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the energy crisis; more recently a new banking crisis which brought about the fall of both the bank of the most dynamic ecosystem of the world – SVB – and of one of the oldest western financial institutions – Credit Suisse.  
More frequent and intense crises seem to be the defining feature of the 21st century.
2. Such frequent and violent shocks are exposing the inadequacy of the institutions (from the UN Security Council to the climate COP; from the World Bank to even the central banks) on which we have relied for the governance of global/complex problems since the Second World War
3. The last year saw the European Union achieves the extraordinary result of designing and executing a plan to jointly detach from the dependency on Russia’s gas and to stand united in defence of common values. And yet even the EU, which is still the most advanced experiment of supranational governance, is not alien to such an obsolescence of instruments designed to govern an old-world order, and still suffers from ambiguities and sub-optimal half integrations. The name of the game of the next months before the 2024 European elections, is to turn several simultaneous challenges into an opportunity for leadership.

The conference’s objective is thus to act as a catalyst of new ideas which can offer “solutions” to specific problems identified by the concept paper, and as a promoter of a different approach to the

project. The conference will follow a format successfully experimented at the previous three Vision Conferences on the Future of Europe and of the Vision Dolomite Conference on Climate Change.

Exactly one year before the next European Parliament elections (June 2024), Vision and its partners are convening a three-day meeting from the 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023, where over fifty visionary intellectuals, policy makers, entrepreneurs, managers, journalists, economists, political scientists, activists and students will gather to discuss possible future European scenarios.

## **KEY PEOPLE - SCIENTIFIC, CORPORATE AND MEDIA PARTNERS**

The chairs of the conference will be **Sandro Gozi** (European MEP for Renew Europe, former Italian Secretary of State for European Affairs), **Maria Joao Rodrigues** (President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and former Portuguese Minister of Employment), **John Hooper** (Italy and Vatican correspondent, The Economist), **Kalypto Nicolaidis** (Professor at St Antony's College, University of Oxford and Professor at the School of Transnational Governance – EUI).

Other **key participants** of the Conference will be **Romano Prodi** (Former Prime Minister of Italy and Former President of the European Commission), **Fabrizia Lapecorella** (Deputy Secretary-General OECD), **Marco Buti** (Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Chair in European Economic and Monetary Integration at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI) and many more.

Vision's **scientific partners** will be the **University of Siena** and the **European University Institute** which is the European Union's body meant to promote academic debate on questions relevant to European Institutions. The Universities of the Coimbra group (which brings together the ancient European universities) will also be involved.

One of the most distinctive features of the conference is the presence of **the political foundations/think tanks of some of the biggest EU political groups** (Foundation of European Progressive Studies for Party of European Socialists (PES); European Liberal Forum for Alliance of Liberals and Democrats Europe Party (ALDE); New Direction for the European Conservatives and Reformists Party (ECR); Green European Foundation for the European Green Party (EGP) ). **We envisage that each of the four foundations will oversee one of the plenary sessions around one of their recent papers and to have one MEP for each of them at the last plenary commenting on the Pontignano Paper**, which will be the output of the conference.

We expect to have **60 participants in person** and **10/15 joining remotely**. Participants are selected so to have **gender** (50 % at least women), **generational** (with a possible focus on the very young and the inspirational generation of the «grandfathers»), **national** (not more than one third Italian, some British, some not European), **professional** (policy maker, but also managers and entrepreneurs, journalists, economists and political scientists, activists, intellectuals) **balance**. Each of the participants will join the public plenary sessions and will also hold the role of introducer / chair / rapporteur of one of the 4 problem-solving groups or the 7 plenaries.

**A major role will be played by our corporate partners**. They are expected to participate in the full program and put forward their points of view, a be prepared for a problem-solving exercise which is going to be under Chatham House rules in the *problem-solving groups*. We therefore trust participant managers and entrepreneurs to provide the pragmatism and sense of urgency that business should foster. And yet we also selected corporate partners that seem to understand how the role of companies is changing and becoming more “social”. In 2022 the Vision conference's corporate

partners were Intesa Sanpaolo. This year we will also have Banca Monte dei Paschi Siena and we envisage adding Morgan Stanley and Leonardo.

## **THE PROCESS AND CONFERENCE STRUCTURE**

**A key characteristic** of the conference is that the preparation of problem-solving groups (PSG) and plenaries will be designed by **University of Siena's and EUI's master's and doctorate students**. They will interact with Vision, a tutor from either the University of Siena or the EUI and the Introducer (who will open the discussion in Siena), the PSG Chair (normally a journalist who will steer the discussion) and the Rapporteur who will report back to the plenary and feed the Pontignano paper with the ideas produced by the PSG. The PSG will be under **Chatham House rule**.

In addition to the PSG, we will have plenaries: **four of them will be organised by each of the four foundations/think tanks** which the conference will host and start from one of their policy papers; we will also have an opening plenary with the Conferences Chairs and a closing one with MEPs from each of the five major European political groups.

The plenary sessions will be broadcast thanks to the media partnership with **RAI RADIO 1**. We expect major European and Italian newspapers to cover the event.

The Siena conference is becoming the multi-partisan platform for generating the concrete ideas that Europe needs to update its institutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is a follow-up of the EUI's State of the Union and has the objective of positioning Siena and Florence at the forefront of European discourse and making the Siena conference a progressively bigger annual event.

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**AGENDA**  
(TO BE CONFIRMED\* - CONFIRMED IN VCR)

**THURSDAY 8th JUNE**

8.30 – 9.30            **Welcome Breakfast**

9.30 - 10.15        **GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

**Roberto Di Pietra** (Magnifico Rettore University of Siena), **Alexandra Borchardt** (Reuters Institute and Vision), **Francesco Grillo** (Director at Vision Think Tank and Visiting Fellow at the EU) and **Clara Donati** (Vision Think Tank).

**FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

10.15 – 11.30        **ICE BREAKING SESSIONS: WHAT ARE THE IDEAS TO FILL THE HALF-FULL GLASS OF EU INTEGRATION? (Starting from conference's Concept Paper)**

**Introduction by: Francesco Grillo** (Director at Vision Think Tank and Visiting Fellow at the EU).

**Discussant (Chairs of the conferences and corporate partners): Maria Joao Rodrigues** (President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and former Portuguese Minister of Employment), **Romano Prodi** (Former Italian Prime Minister and President of the European Commission), **Barbara Kolm** (Vice President of the Austrian Central Bank).

**Chair: Bill Emmott** (Trustee of the Institute of Strategic Studies and former editor of The Economist)

11.30 – 12.10        **Introduction of the 4 PSGs from each introducer (7 minutes each)**

12.00 – 13.15        **Lunch**

**PROBLEM SOLVING GROUP SESSIONS**

13.30 – 15.00        **Group 1. THE EU AS THE LAB FOR EXPERIMENTING INNOVATIONS TO SAVE LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES FROM DECLINE. CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES, TOOLS TO ENCOURAGE EU-WIDE POLITICAL DEBATE AND ELECTRONIC VOTING**

**Introducer: Luca Verzichelli** (Professor at University of Siena and President of the Italian Political Science Association)

**Rapporteur: Laila Abd El Gawed, Elena Di Mita, Eleonora Pizzeghella,** With **Jamie Mackay** (Research Associate, European University Institute) and **Ophélie Masson** (Programme Coordinator – European Alternatives).

**Discussants: Viktorya Muradyan** (Communication Officer, European Liberal Forum), **Thibault Muzergues** (International Republican Institute, Head of

Rome Office), **Catherine E. de Vries** (Dean of Diversity & Inclusion and Professor of Political Science at Bocconi University), **Jan Kickert** (Austrian Ambassador in Italy) **and other participants.**

**Chair: Koert Debeuf** (Author and Senior Political Consultant - Adjunct Prof. at Brussels School and Fellow at CRIC Oxford).

## **Group 2. THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF BEING THE FORERUNNERS IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE: HOW CAN ESG AND CARBON MITIGATION BE MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE?**

**Introducer: Simone Borghesi** (Vice Rector University of Siena for International Relationships and President of European Association Environmental and Resource Economics)

**Rapporteur: Iaria Dibattista, Mira Manini Tiwari.**

**Discussants: Andrea Maffezzoni** (CFO Banca Monte Paschi di Siena), **Anastasios Xepapadeas** (Department of Economics University of Bologna and Athens University of Economics and Business), **Alessio D'Amato** (Department of Economics and Finance, Tor Vergata University of Rome, and SEEDS), **Phoebe Koundouri** (Athens University of Economics and Business & Technical University of Denmark, President European Association of Environmental Resource Economists, Chair UN SDSN Global Climate Hub), **Peter Vis** (Senior Advisor at Rud Pedersen Public Affairs and European University Institute), **Thomas Sterner** (Professor of Environmental Economics, University of Gothenburg), **and other participants..**

**Chair: Victor Mallet** (Financial Times)

## **Group 3. A NEW FINANCIAL CRISIS? AFTER CREDIT SUISSE - A BETTER PORTFOLIO OF POLICIES TO MAXIMISE BOTH FINANCIAL STABILITY AND LONG-TERM GROWTH: REDESIGNING THE TRIANGLE BETWEEN SG PACT, THE ECB'S MANDATE AND COMMON FISCAL CAPACITY.**

**Introducer: Georgios Papakonstantinou** (Chair of International Political economy at the School of Transnational Governance)

**Rapporteur: Lisa Michelutto, Rossella Citro, Matteo Mazzarano, Qinci Li** With **Barbara Kolm** (Vice President of the Austrian Central Bank)

**Discussants: David Rinaldi** (Director of Studies and Policy at FEPS), **Marco Buti** (Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Chair in European Economic and Monetary Integration at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI), **Luca Mezzomo** (Head of Macroeconomic Analysis, Intesa Sanpaolo), **Carlo Altomonte** (SDA Professor of Macroeconomics and International Business Environment at Bocconi), **Alessandro Tentori** (Chief Investment Officer Southern Europe, AXA Investment Manager Italia) **and other participants...**

**Chair: John Hooper** (Italy and Vatican correspondent, The Economist)

**Group 4. WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF THE LEARNING ROBOTS  
- WHAT IS THE RIGHT LEVEL OF REGULATIONS/INVESTMENTS  
SO THAT EUROPE CAN BOTH BE SUFFICIENTLY “SOVEREIGN”  
AND YET HAVE A ROLE IN THE BATTLE FOR GLOBAL DIGITAL  
LEADERSHIP BETWEEN USA, CHINA AND INDIA?**

**Introducer:** Paul Twomey (Initiative Director, Digital Governance at the New Institute)

**Rapporteur:** Alessia Ballacchino, Alessia Amore, Sandra Rossi.

With Chiara Carrozza (Programme Coordinator CDS; EUI)

**Discussants:** Danielle Borges (Researcher CDS, EUI), Marta Cantero (Researcher STG, EUI), Francesco Cappelletti (Senior Policy and Research Officer, European Liberal Forum), Francesco Lapenta (Founding Director of the John Cabot University Institute of Future and Innovation Studies), Francesco Bonfiglio (CEO GAIA – X), Clara Neppel (Senior Director – European Business Operations IEEE Technology Centre GmbH) **and other participants...**

**Chair:** Roberta Carlini (Part-time Professor CDS, EUI and Journalist)

15.00 – 15.15

**Coffee break**

15.30 – 16.30

**PROPOSAL TIME – THE UNIVERSITY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
AS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EU AND ITS CLOSEST  
NEIGHBORHOOD AND A LEVER FOR PEACE** *by* Romano Prodi  
(Former Prime Minister of Italy and Former President of the European Commission).

**With** Catherine E. de Vries (Dean of Diversity & Inclusion and Professor of Political Science at Bocconi University), Roberto Di Pietra (Magnifico Rettore University of Siena).

**Chaired by:** Annalisa Piras (Filmmaker, Director and founder of the Wake Europe Project)

18.00

**TRANSFER TO SIENA**

18.30

**“CULTURAL ACTIVITY IN SIENA WITH APERITIVO IN  
COLLABORATION WITH EUROPE DIRECT SIENA – GUIDED TOUR  
OF BANCA MONTE DEI PASCHI DI SIENA ART COLLECTION”**



## FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE

9.30 – 10.00 **Breakfast**

10.00 – 10.15 **INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND DAY** with **Francesco Grillo** (Director at Vision Think Tank and Visiting Fellow at EUI) and **Alexandra Borchardt** (Reuters Institute and Vision).

### PLENARY SESSIONS

10.15 – 11.30 **Plenary 1. COP15 VERSUS COP27: LESSONS FROM INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ROLE OF THE EU**

**Introducer:** **Simone Borghesi** (Vice Rector University of Siena for International Relationships and President of European Association Environmental and Resource Economics)

**Discussants:** **Thomas Sterner** (Professor of Environmental Economics, University of Gothenburg), **Valeria Costantini** (Professor of Economic Policy at the Department of Economics, Roma Tre University), **Peter Vis** (Senior Advisor at Rud Pedersen Public Affairs and European University Institute), **Anastasios Xepapadeas** (Department of Economics University of Bologna and Athens University of Economics and Business), **Enrico Giovannini** (Former Italy Minister of Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility).

**Chair:** **Alexandra Borchardt** (Reuters Institute).

11.30 – 12.45 **BACK TO PROBLEM-SOLVING GROUPS TO FINALISE DRAFT REPORT**

12.45 – 13.45 **Lunch**

13.45 – 15.05 **Plenary 2. EUROPEAN WESTERN: THE GOOD (NATO SECURITY UMBRELLA), THE BAD (IRON CURTAIN) AND THE UGLY (EUROPEAN ARMY). ORGANISED BY ELF WITH VISION SUPPORT**

**Introduction by:** **Francesco Cappelletti** (Senior Policy and Research Officer, European Liberal Forum)

**Discussants:** **Dr. Gerlinde Niehus** (Deputy Director, Defence and Security Cooperation Directorate, NATO Operations Division), **Hilde Vautmans** (MEP, Renew Europe Group), **Dr. Jelena Dzankic** (Director of GGP South-eastern Europe, Robert Schuman Center and Co-Director of the Global Citizenship Observatory), **Dragos Tudorache** (MEP, Renew Europe) and **Sandro Gozi** (European MEP for Renew Europe, former Italian Secretary of State for European Affairs).

**Chair:** **Aurélie Pugnet** (Global Europe and Defence reporter, EURACTIV)

- 15.05 – 15.45 **PROPOSAL TIME - EMPOWERING DIGITAL CITIZENS - MAKING HUMANE MARKETS WORK IN THE DIGITAL AGE** by Paul Twomey (Initiative Director, Digital Governance at the New Institute).  
**With** Francesco Bonfiglio (CEO GAIA-X), **Dragos Tudorache** (Chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in the Digital Age - AIDA), **Francesco Grillo** (Director at Vision Think Tank and Visiting Fellow at EUI), **Danielle Borges** (Researcher CDS, EUI), **Clara Neppel** (Senior Director – European Business Operations IEEE Technology Centre GmbH).  
**Chair:** Jan Piotrowski (Business Editor of The Economist).
- 15.45 – 16.45 **Plenary 3. RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY: CAN MILESTONE-BASED INVESTMENT AND REFORMS WORK FOR A STRONGER EUROPE? (ORGANISED BY FEPS WITH VISION SUPPORT)**  
**Introduction and moderation by:** David Rinaldi (Director of Studies and Policy at FEPS)  
**Discussants:** Jonathan Zeitlin (Amsterdam Centre for European Studies, University of Amsterdam and fellow at the EUI), Jerome Creel (Director of Studies OFCE Sciences Po), Marco Buti (Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Chair in European Economic and Monetary Integration at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI), Luca Mezzomo (Head of Macroeconomic Analysis, Intesa Sanpaolo), **Mario Nava** (Directorate - General for Structural Reform Support), **Barbara Kolm** (Vice President of the Austrian Central Bank).
- 16.45 – 17.45 **Plenary 4. TOMORROW'S EUROPE – REPLACING ENERGY AT THE CENTRE OF THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL, SECURITY AND DEMOCRATIC PROJECT (ORGANISED BY THE GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION WITH VISION SUPPORT)**  
**Introduction by:** Laurent Standaert (Political Director at GEF)  
**Discussants:** Jesse Scott (Visiting Research Fellow, German Institute for Economic Research), Rosa Martinez (Green European Journal – editorial board and former Spanish MEP), Shahin Vallée (German Council on Foreign Relations, France-Germany), Stéphane Bourgeois (leader of the Collaborative Low Energy Vision for the European Region (CLEVER) research project and European relations and policy manager at NEGAWATT, France), **Fabrizia Lapecorella** (Deputy Secretary-General OECD).  
**Chair:** Seden Anlar (Communication Coordinator at Climate Action Network Europe).
- 18.00 – 19.00 **PROPOSAL TIME – POST-WAR UKRAINE - HOW TO TURN A TRAGEDY INTO AN OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD?**  
**Introduced by** Dr. Maria Alesina (Policy and Research Officer, European Liberal Forum).  
**Discussants:** Robert Tyler (Senior Policy Advisor at New Direction), Kira Rudik (Member of Ukrainian Parliament, Leader of Political party Golos, Vice

President of ALDE), **Dr. Gerlinde Niehus** (Deputy Director, Defence and Security Cooperation Directorate, NATO Operations Division).

**Chaired by: Anne-Elisabeth Moutet** (Journalist - The Telegraph).

19.45 – 21.00

**DINNER AT CERTOSA DI PONTIGNANO**

21.00

**EUROPE AT SEA - FILM / DOCUMENTARY BY ANNALISA PIRAS**

(Filmmaker, Director and founder of the Wake Europe Project)

*The first documentary ever made on the EU foreign security policy.*

## SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE

8.30 – 9.00

**Breakfast**

9.00 – 10.30

**PROBLEM-SOLVING GROUP PROPOSALS PRESENTATION** by each group's Chair and Rapporteur and University of Siena and EUI students. (*20 minutes each group*) with **Alexandra Borchardt** (Reuters Institute).

## PLENARY SESSIONS

10.30 – 11.30

**Plenary 5. A EUROPE THAT DOES LESS BUT BETTER. BUILDING A MORE DEMOCRATIC AND TRANSPARENT EU (ORGANISED BY NEW DIRECTION WITH VISION SUPPORT)**

**Introduction by: Robert Tyler** (Senior Policy Advisor at New Direction)

**Discussants: Anne-Elisabeth Moutet** (Journalist - The Telegraph), **Rob Roos** (MEP – Vice-Chair European Conservatives and Reformists Group), **Antonio Parenti** (Head of the European Commission Representation in Italy).

**Chair: Iain Martin** (Journalist - The Times)

## CLOSING SESSIONS

11.30 – 13.00

**Plenary 6. PONTIGNANO PAPER - PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS AND FINAL REMARKS – ON THE ROAD TO THE 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTION.**

**Introduction by: Alexandra Borchardt** (Reuters Institute) and **Francesco Grillo** (Director at Vision Think Tank and Visiting Fellow at EUI)

**Discussants – (MEPs from the five biggest EU political groups): Erik Jones** (Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute), **Rob Roos** (MEP – Vice-Chair European Conservatives and Reformists Group), **Kalypso Nicolaidis** (Professor at St Antony's College, University of Oxford and Professor at the School of Transnational Governance – EUI), **Rosa Martinez** (Green European Journal – editorial board and former Spanish MEP), **Raffaele Fitto** (Italy's minister for Europe).

**Chair: John Hooper** (Italy and Vatican correspondent, The Economist)

13.00 – 14.00

**Closing lunch**