

## Expert Forum *on the Priorities for the EU Budget*

The event is organised by ELF and in partnership with *Haya van Someren Stichting* and in cooperation with the ALDE Party. This event is part of a series of Expert Forums organised around Europe on topical matters and challenges facing the European Union, and will be conducted as the ALDE Party considers its manifesto for the 2019 elections to the European Parliament. This forum will be particularly focus on *the Priorities of the EU Budget*. The aim of the discussion is to understand if Liberals can credibly defend to spend most of the EU's budget on agricultural subsidies.

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

**DATE:** 21 April 2018  
**TIME:** 12.30 – 18.30  
**PLACE:** Museum of Communications, Zeestraat 82, The Hague

12:30 – 13:00 ARRIVALS

13:00 – 13:15 WELCOME SPEECH & INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME  
**Jock Geselschap**, *VVD International Secretary*

13:15 – 14:00 SESSION 1: *Priorities for the EU budget – themes*

*In January 2018, the College of Commissioners held a first orientation debate on the next Multiannual Financial Framework ahead of the presentation of the Commission's proposals in May 2018. In a context of stretched resources and big challenges, which area(s) the EU should prioritise?*

### DISCUSSION WITH:

**Harald Benink**, *Professor Banking and Finance at Tilburg University*  
**Pieter Cleppe**, *Head of Brussels Office at Open Europe*

14:00 – 14:45 SESSION 2: *Priorities for the EU budget – keeping the budget lean and mean*

*The EU budget is expected to continue investing for growth, jobs and innovation while addressing the major challenges of the decade to come – the digital revolution, globalisation, climate change, as well as migration, defence and security. In a context of stretched resources, how can the EU set up a budget that matches its ambitions and meets future challenges?*

### DISCUSSION WITH:

**Adriaan Schout**, *Coordinator Europe/Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael*  
**Alex Brenninkmeijer**, *European Court of Auditors*

14:45 – 15:15 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 – 16:15 SESSION 3: *The CAP, Innovation in agriculture*

*The future of European food and farming is changing direction, heading towards more sustainability, simplicity and flexibility. The CAP needs to adapt to the global pressures the agri-food sector is facing such as climate change, biodiversity loss or higher risks of price volatility. Impact assessments of a wide range of possible policy options are already underway, but talks on the other main issue for the future CAP – the EU budget and how much of it will be available for farmers – are still ongoing. How much the EU should spend for fostering innovation under the revised CAP?*

#### DISCUSSION WITH:

**Krijn Poppe**, *Research Manager and Senior Economist at Wageningen Economic Research*  
**Dirk Strijker**, *Professor Cultural Geography, at the University of Groningen*  
**Volker Koch-Achelpöhler**, *Head of the EU Liaison Office, Bayer*

16:15 – 16:20 SUMMARY OF THE EVENT AND CLOSING SESSION  
**Hans van Baalen**, *ALDE Party President / VVD MEP*

16:20 – 17:30 RECEPTION

#### WORKING LANGUAGE

English

*With the support of:*



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