



# RALF DAHRENDORF **ROUNDTABLES**

## PROTECTING DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

The attacks on democratic processes using tools from the online world as a tool should concern all Europeans. The propagation of illiberal messages, and attacks on institutions with the purpose to steal personal data and information, with a subsequent weaponization of that info to cause maximal disruption in European democracies, is a “clear and present danger”. This Roundtable discussion aims to better understand these processes and how to fight them.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**  
**29 MAY 2019 | 9:00H**

**AUDITÓRIO AGOSTINHO DA SILVA AT UNIVERSIDADE LUSÓFONA**

09:30h Reception open

10:00h **Welcome by Luís Menezes** | President of the Movimento Liberal Social (Portugal)

10:15h **Welcome by João Almeida Santos**, Director of the Faculdade de Ciências Sociais, Educação e Administração at Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias and Director of the Centro de Investigação em Política, Economia e Sociedade (Portugal)

10:35h **Session 1: Democracy in the Digital Era**

Elisa Lironi, European Citizen Action Service (Belgium)

Tyson Barker, Aspen Institute (Germany)

Moderated by Miguel Duarte, Movimento Liberal Social (Portugal)

11:20h

Coffee Break



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## 11:45h **Session 2: Digital Threats to Democracy**

Nad'a Kovalcikova, Alliance for Securing Democracy (Belgium)

Ricardo Silvestre, Movimento Liberal Social (Portugal)

Moderated by Vasco Rato, Universidade Lusófona (Portugal)

## 12:30h **Session 3: Advancing Democracy: The Way Forward**

Raquel Patrício Gomes, European Commission Representation in Portugal

Milosz Hodum, Projectk: Polska (Poland)

Moderated by Andrea Virag, Republikon Institute (Hungary)

13:15h

Final considerations and acknowledgments.

Luís Menezes | President of the Movimento Liberal Social (Portugal)

Working language

English

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## **ABOUT THE RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES**

By connecting the roundtable series with the name of Lord Dahrendorf, ELF wishes to underline his achievements. In his many functions he championed liberal democracy and European integration. He consistently promoted the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty. His wide experience combining science and politics provided an excellent background to his activity in the German Parliament for the liberal Free Democratic Party, as European Commissioner, as member of the British House of Lords and as Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (1982-1987).

During his four years in Brussels (1970 – 1974), Lord Dahrendorf was responsible for the European Community's Foreign Relations and Trade, and later for Research, Science and Education. He actively supported a stronger Europe. As Commissioner he was a sharp critic of European Union bureaucracy while he was passionately in favour of a European Parliament exercising greater power.