



## On the Agenda

### EU-Russia relations

*In a renewed era of clashes between the two blocs, how will EU-Russia relations change in the short- and long-term?*



Zoom Webinar

29 October 2020, 09h30 – 10h30 (CET)

### ABOUT THE EVENT

EU-Russia relations have never been an easy affair, especially following years of conflict in their common zone of influence – the Eastern Partnership countries. Inside the Russian Federation, some trends that have characterised the country since the end of the Cold War seem to remain unchanged: the fear of an external threat, the discontent of the population, the suitability of economic and political structures. The external repercussions of these internal contradictions have led to increasingly provocative behaviour. Information warfare, Nord Stream 2, authoritarian trends in domestic politics, and accusations of interference in foreign elections are just some of the reasons of concern for the European Union. The negotiations for a Free Trade Area from Lisbon to Vladivostok with the EU's fifth largest trading partner seem to be a distant memory.

On top of these tensions, recent events have shown potential to ignite new clashes between the two neighbours. Vladimir Putin's support for Alexander Lukashenko in Belarus, and the

poisoning of Putin's opponent Alexei Navalny, have raised the question of Russia once again within the circles of power in Brussels and in some Member States. These events are now reigniting the debate over new sanctions towards Russia, and tension is clearly on the rise in all corners of Europe – from Lisbon to Vladivostok.

As Europe's biggest and most populous neighbour, good relations with Russia are crucial for our security and prosperity, and it is in the interest of all involved parties to improve the relations between the two blocs.

*On the Agenda* is a series of webinars organised by the European Liberal Forum where renowned speakers are debating the hottest topics on - and off - the leaders' agenda, always with a liberal take.

**Register now and save the date in your calendar**

## ABOUT THE SERIES

*On the Agenda* is the latest online webinar series created by the European Liberal Forum. It aims to build on the success of the *Liberties in Lockdown* series, which looked at what liberties/freedoms were put under lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic. While the world is trying to recover in the aftermath of this health crisis, this is the moment to shape what the EU and its member states are putting on their agendas in the short, medium and long-term.

From European industrial policy, the Future of Work, the European Green Deal, digitalisation, negotiations on the future relationship with the UK, to trade and development policy – how public institutions deal with current and future questions will have a major impact on how our societies will look tomorrow. ELF believes that what gets put *on the agenda* is as important as what gets left out, and with this new series of webinars, we aim to tackle head-on the most pressing issues of today.

Join us online, every second Thursday, to understand, discuss and challenge the most important topics that were or were not put *On the Agenda*.

## SPEAKERS

**Bernard Guetta**, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

**Daniel Mitov**, Consultant, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Bulgaria

## **EVENT SCHEDULE**

**09h25** Participants connect to the Zoom event

**09h30** Opening Remarks

**09h32** Introduction by the Moderator

**09h35** First intervention

**09h42** Second intervention

**09h49** Third intervention

**09h56** Moderated debate

**10h27** Closing remarks

**10h30** End of event

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