

Vienna Debate on European Integration

EU FOREIGN POLICY IN TIMES OF POPULISM

Foreign policy-making is frequently considered to be a policy domain guided by well-established foreign policy traditions, identities and interests. However, with the European Union (EU) facing the rise of populist, illiberal and national tendencies in several member states, important questions arise about the impact of domestic political change on EU Foreign Policy. Conceiving itself as a normative actor that is committed to foundational norms like democracy, liberty, the supranational rule of law and human rights, populist and illiberal tendencies challenge the very core of the EU's international identity. This Round Table outlines the populist challenge to EU Foreign Policy from different angles. It first discusses the rise of populist and illiberal tendencies in the EU and the conditions that contribute to their success. It then explores the way populist right wing parties in EU member states position themselves on key foreign policy issues and the challenges that may result from that for EU foreign policy. Finally, it looks at the role of populism for Brexit and the implications of the UK's departure from the EU for the Union's foreign policy.

Panelists:

Gerda Falkner

Director, Center for European Integration Research-IPW, University of Vienna

Ivan Krastev

Chair of the Center for Liberal Strategies in Sofia; Permanent Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna

Richard Whitman

Professor of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent, Associate Fellow, Chatham House

Moderation:

Michèle Knodt

Professor, Technical University of Darmstadt; Chair of COST Action ENTER

Patrick Müller

Professor, Vienna School of International Studies and Vienna University; Vice-Chair COST Action ENTER

Thursday, 27 February 2020, 6.00 pm

Festsaal of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien
Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Wien
Underground station: U1 Taubstummengasse

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