

: Programme

sef: Policy Lunch **The UN at 75:** **Europe's vision for the world organisation**

03 March 2020, 12.00-13.45 hrs

Brussels

Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU
Rue Montoyer 47, Brussels

Conference language: English

Cooperating partner


FOGGS

Foundation for Global
Governance and Sustainability

Supported by

Minister for Federal, European
and International Affairs
of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia



#sefLunch

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the United Nations is celebrating its 75th anniversary. At a time when many of its achievements feel like things of the distant past, and multilateralism is retreating in the face of resurgent nationalism, Europe's continued support for the UN seems to be more crucial than ever. Note for example the fact that collectively the EU provides some 35% of the funding for the UN system, while others are reducing or withholding their contributions.

At the same time, the European Union finds itself in a state of fragmentation; it often speaks with different voices and its ability to act decisively is questioned in practice. On paper, the EU remains a staunch supporter of a multilateral order with the UN at its core. In a recent statement, the representative of the EU at the UN confirmed that: "the EU is, and will continue to be, a guardian of multilateralism". But the EU also recognizes that new challenges require new solutions, and that the multilateral system needs reform.

To mark its 75th anniversary, the UN is launching "the biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want". With this Policy Lunch, we would like to join the conversation from Brussels, the "capital" of the EU, and address the following questions:

- How would a European vision for a multilateral system of the future look like? What would be the key differences to the multilateral system of the past decades? And what would the UN's role be in such a vision?
- What are the actual interests of the EU in the UN context, in terms of peace and security, and development and human rights? What do European citizens, not only EU institutions and governments, expect from the UN?
- How is the EU's role in the multilateral system perceived by other actors and what is expected from the EU by the UN itself?
- What can the EU do, in practice, to support a revival of multilateralism? How can it contribute to making the UN fit for purpose in the next decades? How far is its own ability/credibility to act hindered by its inner fragmentation?

12.00 HRS

REGISTRATION AND LIGHT LUNCH

12.30 HRS

WELCOME

Hans H. Stein

Director

Representation of the State of

North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU, Brussels

Dr Gerd Harms

Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

12.40 HRS

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Anna-Luise Chané

Research Fellow at the

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven

Dr Jibecke Joensson

Policy officer on multilateral relations focusing on the

EU-UN partnership on peace and security

European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Hilde F. Johnson

Former Special Representative of the

UN Secretary General for UNMISS South Sudan

Senior Advisor, European Institute of Peace, Brussels

Dr Georgios Kostakos

Executive Director of the Foundation for Global

Governance and Sustainability (FOGGS), Brussels

Chair

Dr Silke Weinlich

Senior Researcher

DIE - German Development Institute, Bonn

Followed by discussion with the audience

13.45 HRS

END OF EVENT