CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

ROTES RATHAUS BERLIN - 21 & 22 MARCH 2019

ORGANISED BY

European Civic Forum

BBE

Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement
On 21 and 22 March 2019, the #MEGA campaign will stop in Berlin for the European conference “Not without Us! – Civil Society Conference on the Future of Europe” organised by the National Network for Civil Society (Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement – BBE) in partnership with the European Civic Forum.

Prior to the conference, Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier is inviting pro-European civil society initiatives and conference participants to a Dinner reception in Schloss Bellevue on Wednesday, 20 March 2019.

The first conference day (21 March) is dedicated to foster exchange and cooperation among numerous pro-European civil society initiatives and campaigns in view of the European elections in May. A market place will bring together around 30 such campaigns from all over Europe. Taking stock of the current state of democracy and civic space in Europe, this will spot positive examples of civic engagement through different initiatives and campaigns, that manage to synthesise citizens’ aspirations for the future of Europe.

The second day (22 March) will take a closer look at the political proposals and demands of these campaigns and other civil society networks. The objective is to present an all-European anthology of civil society visions and concrete approaches for the future of the European project, e.g. on the basic understanding and implementation of European values and democratic procedures, the future of civil dialogue in Europe, the role of socio-economic and political citizenship rights in the context of growing social inequality and the questioning of our current democratic frameworks in providing access to fundamental rights for all.

In the frame of the 2019 European election campaign, the recommendations adopted by the Berlin Conference will be presented to (and discussed with) the candidates to the future European Parliament, the lead candidates for the EU Commission Presidency, the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council, as well as civil society actors across future events of the #Make Europe Great for All campaign, notably in Lecce in May and Bucharest in June.
The first conference day is dedicated to foster exchange and cooperation among numerous pro-European civil society initiatives and campaigns in view of the European elections in May around a market place and presentations on stage.

13.00 OPENING OF THE MARKET PLACE

13.30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
FRANK HEUBERGER, National Network for Civil Society
MODERATION: ALEXANDER THAMM

13.40 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019: WHAT IS AT STAKE?
ALEXANDER GRAF LAMBSDORFF, Vice-President of the European Parliament 2014-2017

14:00 CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION I: GO VOTING!
THIS TIME I’M VOTING: ASTRID MEESTERS, Representation of the European Parliament
Y VOTE: PHILIPP BLUM, AEGEE-Europe
U18 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: ANNE BERGFELD, National Youth Council of Germany
YOUVOTEEU: FLAVIO GRAZIAN, European Citizen Action Service

14.30 CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION II: ENGAGED FOR EUROPE
EUROPA MACHEN: SILVIA BEHRENS, Young European Federalists
NATÜRLICH EUROPA: NINA SLATTERY, Deutscher Naturschutzzring
DEMOCRATIC EUROPE NOW: DANIELA VANCIC, Democracy International
VOTE4FRIENDSHIP: SONJA STUCHTEY, Alliance4Europe

15.00 INTERVENTION I: SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY
GORAN BULDIOSKI, Open Society Foundations

15.15 BREAK
15.45  CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION III: EUROPE OF CAUSE

MAKE EUROPE YOUREUPE: KAROLINE MÜNZ, European Movement Germany
VOTE VOLUNTEER VISION: GABRIELLA CIVICO, European Volunteer Centre
50:50 WOMEN FOR EUROPE: ANJA NORDMANN, Deutscher Frauenrat
SAVE THE EUROPEAN PEACE PROJECT: OLIVER KNABE, Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst

16.15  CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION IV: OUT ON THE STREETS!

TRANSEUROPA CARAVAN: GOSIA WOCHOWSKA, European Alternatives
PULSE OF EUROPE: URSZULA BERTIN
EUROPEAN MAY: MARIUS SCHLAGETER, The European Moment
EIN EUROPÄ FÜR ALLE! VICTORIA GULDE, Campact

16.45  EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019: GIVING VOICE TO ENGAGED CITIZENS

FRANZISKA GIFFEY, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women und Youth

GALLERY WALK

17.30  INTERVENTION II: SPACE IS SHRINKING

MARTA LEMPART, Polish Women’s Strike
VERONIKA MORA, Ökotars Hungary
STEFAN DIFENBACH-TROMMER, Allianz „Rechtssicherheit für politische Willensbildung“

17.45  DISCUSSION: SHAPE EUROPE!

GERRY WOOP, State Secretary for Europe of Berlin

POSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY CAMPAIGNS TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019 AND BEYOND

A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE FOR ITS CITIZENS, PAUL DE CLERCK, Friends of the Earth Europe
EUROPEAN BALCONY PROJECT, ULRIKE GUÉROT, European Democracy Lab
A SOUL FOR EUROPE, NELE HERTLING
EU-SINGLE MARKET FOR PHILANTHROPY, FELIX OLDENBURG, DAFNE
LINN SELLE, European Movement Germany
ROGER CASALE, New Europeans

MODERATION: JAN ROBERT SUESSER, European Civic Forum

19.15  CONCLUDING DAY 1
DAY 2: WHAT KIND OF EUROPE WE WANT –
CIVIL SOCIETY PROPOSALS FOR THE EUROPEAN FUTURE
FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2019

The second day will take a closer look at the political proposals and positions of civil society campaigns and networks. Participants will elaborate a policy paper in form of the „Berlin Agenda“ within three thematic forums: European Democracy, Shrinking Space, Sustainability/Social Equality.

09.30  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
SAWSAN CHEBLI, State Secretary for Civic Engagement of Berlin
JEAN-MARC ROIRANT, European Civic Forum

09.45  RECOMMENDATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY: PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT “BERLIN AGENDA OF EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY”

09:50  IMPULSES: TOWARDS A MORE DEMOCRATIC, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE
DAPHNE BÜLLESBACH, European Alternatives
VEDRAN DZIHIC, Austrian Institute for International Affairs
MAARTEN DE GROOT, Democracy International

MODERATION: ALMUT MÖLLER, European Council on Foreign Relations

11.00  FORUM 1: FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY
Presentation and Discussion of the Berlin Agenda: Participation, Civil Dialogue, Civic Education

PRESENTATION: FRANK HEUBERGER, National Network for Civil Society

KOMMENTAR: CHRISTOPH MÜLLER-HOFSTEDE, NECE
KAROLINA DRESZER-SMALEC, National Polish Federation of NGOs
BALAZS DENES, Civil Liberties Union

12.30  LUNCH BREAK

13.30  PARALLEL FORUM SESSION
FORUM 2: CIVIC SPACE
Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Agenda: shifting civil society space; limitations of civil, socio-economic and political rights

PRESENTATION: FILIP PAZDERSKI, Institute of Public Affairs

COMMENTARY: ELLEN UEBERSCHÄR, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation
 FORUM 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL EQUALITY

Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Agenda: Implementation of SDGs in Europe, Solidarity in practice

PRESENTATION: FLORIAN SCHÖNE, Deutscher Naturschutzring
COMMENTARY: ELISABETH HEGE, IDDRI Institute

15.15 FINAL DISCUSSION: BERLIN AGENDA OF EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019 AND BEYOND

15.45 PERSPECTIVES
IONUT SIBIAN, Civil Society Development Foundation Romania, member of the EESC
ANSGAR KLEIN, National Network for Civil Society Germany (B.B.E)
ALEXANDRINA NAJMOWICZ, European Civic Forum

16.00 END OF THE PROGRAMME