



#DIGITOCRACY2016
Smart Mobility Forum



RESEARCH PAPERS:
Brexit



NEXT IED EVENTS:
Autumn 2016

GETTING TO KNOW OUR WORK



EDITORIAL

The European Union is continuing to experience the most turbulent phase in its history. The ongoing massive migration wave to Europe, the British vote for Brexit, rising support for anti-European nationalistic parties and the very recent migrant quota referendum in Hungary all represent very serious challenges to the EU. Viktor Orbán used the democratic means of referendum only to divert attention from Hungarian domestic problems and government corruption cases. And this is not the only case – many populist parties in Europe abuse the sensitive issue of migrants in order to get the political capital. Nevertheless, the outcome of the Hungarian referendum is a clear evidence that despite a Eurosceptic and nationalist government there still is a large share of the Hungarian population in favour of the EU and European founding principles and values. And even though the British decision to leave the EU raises questions and doubts in the minds of European citizens, there are more and more evidences that many of those who had supported Brexit suddenly realised its negative

implications for the future of Britain. As *Antonios A.Nestoras* accurately underlined in the research paper 'The EU beyond Brexit: towards a New Democratic Foundation' which is presented in this newsletter, at the moment *“we do not need more Europe, nor less Europe – we need better Europe”*. Only a better, efficient and more democratic Europe can resolve the serious crises the EU is facing now. Only such Europe can return and even strengthen the trust of the majority of European citizens in the EU. The Institute of European Democrats will try more than ever to serve this goal and play an active role in strengthening the importance and significance of the European project. The EU is simply not only the best but also the only option for the future of our continent and therefore we have to promote and defend it.

Luca BADER
CEO of IED

The Third Smart Mobility Forum: #DIGITOCRACY2016 - Smart Mobility Forum

The IED in collaboration with the *Repubblica Futura* of San Marino organized the third conference dedicated to Smart City titled “[#DIGITOCRACY2016 - Smart Mobility Forum](#)” which took place on Friday **16 September 2016** in **San Marino**, Republic of San Marino. The event was the part of the [European Mobility Week 2016](#).

Following successful forums about [SMART CITY – a new model of democratic life](#) – held in San Marino in 2014 and 2015 – this year’s forum focused on the **sustainable mobility**. The conference aspired to be a support to the evolution process of this topic, hoping to achieve a better **environmental, economic and social sustainability by implementing a series of virtuous practices which involve political, infrastructure and technology choices**.

The aim was to improve the urban mobility also in a characteristic territory like the **Republic of San Marino** which is – due to its territorial and demographic characteristics – an extraordinary testing model. The event was attended by several political figures and experts in the field who presented their experience, launched projects and new ideas and visions considering the issue of the sustainable mobility.



The official poster of the event



Organisers and speakers of the event

The conference was opened by Mrs **Antonella Mularoni**, the former Minister of Territory and Environment, Agriculture, Telecommunications and International Economic Cooperation of the Republic of San Marino and the member of the IED’s Scientific Committee. In her welcome speech, Mrs Mularoni emphasized **the goal to make “smart republic” from San Marino** by promotion and implementation of the sustainable technologies into practice. She revealed her intention to put forward political incentives for the use of electric vehicles in San Marino. She praised the organisers of the



conference for bringing together the experts from various industries and giving San Marino the opportunity to learn and understand what are the options in the field of sustainable mobility. Mrs **Flaminia Baffigo**, as the Coordinator of the IED, highlighted **the interest of IED to continue contributing to the debate on smart mobility and promoting a better understanding of opportunities which EU platforms offer to the citizens of Europe**. She mentioned the past activities and research initiatives of the Institute and outlined the intention to

continue further in strengthening the confidence of European citizens and furthering their direct participation on formulations of European policies.

In the first political panel, Mr **Fabio Toccaceli** from the *Repubblica Futura* presented this Sammarinese new political proposal which tries to develop ideas and projects pursuing the path of renewal, transparency, meritocracy, mature social sensitivity and overall betterment of the society. The members of the platform aspire to transform these initiatives into concrete political measures in San Marino. Mr Toccaceli emphasized the **need for the reorganization of mobility and public transport in the European towns and cities by investing into more sustainable infrastructure** and the incentives which



promote the use of alternative means of transport. Mr Toccaceli concluded that **active involvement of governments and state authorities is absolutely necessary** in order to reach these goals.



The second, technical-scientific panel was dedicated to the presentations of leading industrial experts. Mr **Maurizio Melzi**, the Director of Marketing and Communications for Koelliker Group and the responsible for the development of Electric Vehicles Market and Mobility for Mitsubishi Motors in Italy talked about the state of **electric and hybrid vehicles**. He presented the ways how to travel smarter and save kilometers in order to be economically and environmentally beneficial. **Alongside air pollution and global warning, oil dependency is the major issue to which the car industry has to respond**

nowadays. As a consequence, several automobile companies including Mitsubishi have launched manufacture of **special cars running on re-chargeable batteries which are economically beneficial and produce zero emissions**. However, first of all the efficiency of electric mobility has to be proved

to drivers by industries as well as governments so drivers will be encouraged to use electric cars, Mr Melzi underlined.

Mr *Alessio Cogliati*, the industry expert and the responsible for technology and industrial services division in the LindeGas Group in Italy, focused his presentation on **hydrogen energy**. He talked about the importance to introduce the alternative fuels which can gradually replace the fossil fuels. In the LindeGas Group, they chose hydrogen energy as the ideal solution because it creates zero emission in environment. There are already hydrogen vehicles and stations used in many parts of the world such as in Italy, Germany or the UK; there are also the art festivals which run on the hydrogen energy. However, in order to proceed further, **it is necessary to transform hydrogen to something which will be politically feasible to implement in reality** – in the view of Mr Cogliati this is a big challenge for the years ahead.



Mr *Omar Vittone*, President of SITRASB and Vice President of SISEX, the Italian-Swiss tunnel management company, highlighted **the importance of interaction between public and governmental bodies towards implementation of sustainable transport in practice**. He admitted that governments are very important here because they have to implement electric mobility into concrete policy proposals. The governments should take initiatives and invest into electric transport. Mr Vittone also emphasized that despite there is a long journey ahead in the implementation of smart mobility solutions, electric mobility is not only the future but it is already here now. Much thus depends on people and their **mind-setting and willingness to adjust to these new things**. In Vittone's words, *"car can be like iPhone, you just need to charge it instead of refuelling it."*



The speakers in the third session presented three interesting international practices. Firstly Mr *Asier Abaunza Robles*, Councillor of the governing Basque National Party for Urban Planning at Bilbao City Council, presented the smart mobility projects implemented in Bilbao, the major city of the Basque country. According to Mr Abaunza, European cities have two main challenges when designing urban planning and urban renewal and rehabilitation processes: on one hand there is an obligation to move towards an **inclusive city that guarantees the autonomy of movement of all people**, without any difference on the physical

limitations that they have; on the other hand the aging problem of European population increases **mobility necessities and dependence**. To meet these two challenges, Bilbao has adopted a strategy with three main areas: **guaranteeing accessibility to public services, eliminating architectural barriers in public spaces and encouraging the installation of mechanical elements to ensure universal access**. Accordingly, they removed the architectural barriers to bring more greenery to the city, installed free public elevators across the city, installed external mechanical structures which improve the accessibility and movement of people across roads and rivers and constructed several mechanical innovations for culture, sport and leisure.

The Director of NAMOREG in Baden-Württemberg's Ministry of Transport in Germany and the Second Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors at Kreissparkasse Ludwigsburg Mr **Rainer Gessler** introduced the current initiatives and selected projects from Baden-Württemberg. On the basis of the fact that Stuttgart is one of the most polluted cities in Germany, the local authorities have a big motivation to come with new projects targeted to make the city cleaner and "smarter". **Electric mobility, pedelec rental services and real time traffic management are the elements of a systemic approach of sustainable mobility.** Mr Gessler also introduced the pilot projects from the "Sustainable Mobile Stuttgart Region" programme which demonstrates how Baden-Württemberg imagines its trajectory towards a leading provider of sustainable mobility. He also explained how the NAMOREG project, the digital platform accessible from smart phones and bike/car sharing services, has made the mobility less pollutant and more interconnected in Baden-Württemberg.



Finally, Mr **Jordan Kupelian**, the member of the youth organization Young Democrats for Europe (YDE) and the Transport Planner for Transdev TRA in Paris, talked about **the importance of smart mobility for public interest.** In his view, smart mobility projects represent the **economy which functions in favour of citizens in terms of environment, economy, stability, effectiveness, transferability and quality of life.** Mr Kupelian presented the SPLIT Company which has developed the application that connects people travelling to the same destination – they book the trip by their smart phones and the system will match them with other people travelling to the same destination immediately. This is efficient, sustainable and affordable way of travelling which **saves money and environment.** Mr Kupelian also talked about the ways how local authorities can be part of the optimization transports and about the OPTICITIES platform which associates major cities, groups and SMEs in Europe to develop interoperable intelligent transport system solutions.



Main speakers of the event

The event took place in the scenic environment of Podere Lesignano and was attended by more than one hundred people. Demo area within which the newest technological innovations in the field of sustainable mobility and electric cars were presented in collaboration with ASI (Associazione Sammarinese per l'Informatica), Techno Science Park San Marino-Italia., Concessionaria VW Reggini, Mitsubishi Motors Italia, UMPI Elettronica.

[Check the Video from the Smart Mobility Forum!](#)

[Click here to access the Full Presentation of Speakers!](#)

Research Papers – Brexit Series:

Die Another Day. Brexit and its impact upon the European Union.

A view from Romania.

The research paper written by *Mihai Sebe, an expert in European Affairs and Romanian Politics at the European Institute of Romania*, tries to briefly explain what Brexit is and its main impact on the Member States and the European Union as a whole. Using open sources, Mr Sebe presents a brief overview of the current European landscape.



Mr Sebe examines that at the EU level **we are currently dealing not only with the crisis generated by the United Kingdom withdraw from the European Union but also with a series of other concurrent crisis** (economic, political, refugees, etc.) that tend to be mixed together by an overly passionate public opinion and political class. For

the first time after the end of Second World War, **we are assisting to a huge existential crisis of the European Union which affects in mere existence**. Taking into account the fact that the Brexit problems seem to be yet ever more present in contemporary European states, this phenomenon is likely to draw further scientific attention, and an increased need for nationally localized studies. Although it is still early in the game to have a series of practical evaluations of what that means **we can already envisage a series of outcomes for the United Kingdom, European Union, Romania, NATO and the rest of the world**, that are presented in the research paper.

The author foresees four possible scenarios of future of the EU-UK relationship. The first is **“Hostile Divorce”** which would take place in case talks collapse and Britain exits the EU with minimal transitional arrangements, losing most if not all preferential access to the EU single market. Then there is the scenario the author calls the **“Clean Break”** which means that relations between the UK and the EU will be strained but solid enough to arrange a tariff transition, agree trade terms and ratify the deal in the European Parliament and 38 national and regional assemblies. Thirdly, **“Amicable Transition”** means that Britain will remain part of the EU single market, but on adjusted terms. Finally, **“The Change of Heart”** scenario indicates that Britain will invoke Article 50 of the EU treaties but it will pull out of the formal process before it is complete, remaining a full member of the EU.

According to the author, **Europe must try to find a common narrative that would counteract the already strong anti-European propaganda**. Encouraged by Brexit the nationalist parties would probably try to push for better election results in order to try to obtain a greater “autonomy” toward Brussels, thus hampering with any reform vitally needed for the European Union future. Nationalism and populism are on the rise and they will most likely continue to attract more and more votes as crises succeed in Europe. Without a good story that has so many arguments there is a real risk of losing the battle for hearts and minds of the European in the context in which already many national politicians blame the Union for everything that is wrong. In the view of Mr Sebe, **we must emphasize in any occasion the “costs of non-Europe”** and give Europe a chance to recover.

[Read the full Research Paper!](#)

Research Papers – Brexit Series:

The EU beyond Brexit: towards a New Democratic Foundation.

The research paper written by *Antonios Nestoras, an adjunct professor of international affairs at the Vesalius College of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and a researcher at the Institute of European Studies of the VUB*, examines the political landscape in Europe after 23rd June 2016. He provides a review of publications dealing with the impact of Brexit on the EU, explores the state of play in EU politics and offers a set of political recommendations for European democratic platform for the months and years ahead.

In the author's view, **Brexit represents a historic event for the EU** which will change the face of Europe profoundly. This is the first time that a member-state is leaving the Union and the consequences of this decision will be far-reaching on the economy, politics and security situation of both the UK and the EU. Consequently, Mr Nestoras argues that rest of the 27 capitals need to consider carefully their next steps because **the UK's decision to leave the Union**



can either be a breaking point or a wake-up call for the rest of the bloc. Europe cannot afford to become discontent or resentful over Brexit, as this would only pour oil to the fire of centrifugal forces that are testing the limits of European integration. The issue is that Eurosceptic populists are making a lot of noise because Brexit has wet their appetites, either for the breakup of the European project altogether or for an overhaul of the EU according to their own alternative vision, which is very different from the liberal democratic vision that has been underlining EU integration since the formation of the European Communities. As Mr Nestoras explains, with the rise of populism as a clear electoral trend in Europe, **the domino effect of Brexit on other EU countries should not be underestimated**. The most dangerous impact of Brexit is precisely that it opens up lots of opportunity for dissent and opposition and thus it is **a big win for populists everywhere in Europe**, which could boost their popularity ahead of several national elections in the EU in the next years. **The only way forward for the EU is thus to take the unfortunate result of the UK referendum as a last chance for a democratic refoundation that will rejuvenate the European project.**

The paper outlines and briefly evaluates the pros and cons of **the most plausible five scenarios or models for Europe's relationship with the UK after Brexit**, from the WTO model, Swiss-style bilateral accords, Norwegian style European Economic Area agreement, customs union (based on current EU-Turkey relationship) to an FTA-based approach. The paper also examines the state of play in EU politics after the 23rd of June. This includes the outline the emerging attitude of major political actors towards the separation procedure and an analysis of public statements and declarations as well as a more theoretical analysis of EU interests and aims in the negotiations with the UK. Already, **one can discern a disagreement between two camps – one group advocating “Soft Brexit”, an amicable separation based on common economic interest which will maintain the UK access to the single market; the second camp is in favour of “Hard Brexit”, a strict, unforgiving approach in order to avoid political contagion in the EU in the form of successive ‘exit’ referenda**

Despite the possible negative impact that the Brexit will have on the EU and UK economies as well as on the politics of the continent, it seems like **a consensus is emerging that favours a Hard Brexit**. This will mean that **the UK will probably have no special status vis-à-vis the EU and that trade**

will continue under WTO rules. London is determined to use Brexit in order to gain political independence, while Brussels is looking to shield itself from populists and other centrifugal political forces. The interests of the member-states vary, but they converge when it comes to upholding the four fundamental EU freedoms. **The Brexit has shown that change is urgently needed. The EU will need to reform in a meaningful way.** The question is *when* and *how*.

FTA	The UK could conclude its own FTA with the EU as a third country. This would give the UK access to the single market but at a considerable loss of independence in terms of market and common standards regulation.
Customs Union	The Customs Union ensures that there are no tariff barriers in EU-UK trade. The UK needs to adopt EU market regulations. Also, the UK has to conform with the Free Trade Agreements the EU is making without being able to influence these agreements.
European Economic Area	The UK has access to the single market but absolutely no control over EU legislation, which, nonetheless, must be incorporated in UK law. The UK still needs to contribute to the EU budget.
Bilateral Accords	The UK and the EU sign a set of bilateral accords that give the UK access to the common market in selected sectors. This is not a comprehensive agreement, but tailor-made to the circumstances.
WTO	The UK and the EU do not sign any agreement and decide to deal according to current WTO rules. The UK does not have to make political concessions in exchange for access in the single market, but will face EU external tariff barriers.

Source: Antonios A. Nestoras, “The EU beyond Brexit: towards a New Democratic Foundation.” (2016), page 12.

If something is clear from the Brexit event, is that there is a serious problem with the loss of EU legitimacy across Europe. According to the author, it is not only the electoral wins that populists are achieving in the member-states – **the public’s disenchantment with the EU** is clearly suggested in opinion polls across Europe. According to the latest statistics from the European Commission, **trust in the EU has plunged in the past decade from a high 57% in 2007 to 33% in 2016.**

Accordingly, Mr Nestoras offers a **set of political recommendations for European democratic parties advocating for a ‘democratic refoundation’ of Europe, as expressed by *François Bayrou* and *Marielle de Sarnez* from the European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP), member of ALDE Group.** In the author’s view, the **EU will have to become more *effective* in solving problems, more *democratic* when taking decisions and more *resolute* in becoming a force for good around the globe.** This is the only possible solution to the dramatic decline of support for the EU. **Democrats all over Europe need to convince the citizens that the EU is a democratic project and that it is not only necessary but also vital for Europe’s prosperity.** What is at stake is nothing less than the survival of the European project – this year and the next major EU countries will go through critical democratic elections. Italy will hold a constitutional referendum this autumn; French presidential elections are coming up next in April/May 2017; German federal elections later the same year.

As the author underlines at the very end, we do not need more Europe, nor less Europe – **we need *better* Europe.** In his view, **the EU is obligated to use Brexit’s aftershock as an opportunity to move towards more efficient, legitimate, transparent, resolute and – most of all – more democratic European integration.** The author’s ambition is to develop this argument and to foster discussion among European democrats.

[Read the full Research Paper!](#)

What's next?

OUR NEXT EVENTS

The Rise of Nationalisms in Europe – Causes and Concerns.

IED Conference in collaboration with *Fundacja Samorządność i Demokracja*
Warsaw – Poland, 20th – 21st October 2016

Brexit, Scotland and the Constitutional Future of Europe.

IED Conference in collaboration with *Sabino Arana Foundation*
Bilbao – Basque Country, 9th November 2016

Moldova in the European Union: Distant Dream or Possible Reality? Perspectives of Eastern Partnership.

IED Conference in collaboration with *Young Europeans (Mladí Európania, ME)*
Chisinau – Moldova, 28th November 2016



Institute of European Democrats

Rue de l'Industrie, 4
1000 Brussels – Belgium
Office: 0032.2.2130010
Mobile phone: 0032.485.936514
info@iedonline.eu
www.iedonline.eu

This Newsletter received financial support from the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with the authors of the texts and the European Parliament or the Institute of European Democrats are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.