



International Conference of the Institute of European Democrats, political foundation of the European Parliament

# EU AT THE CROSSROADS: HOW WILL 2017 NATIONAL ELECTIONS CHANGE THE FACE OF EUROPE?

Friday 5 May 2017

Hotel Tatra, Namestie 1.maja 5, 811 06 Bratislava, Slovakia

Facing a number of crucially important elections taking place in several EU Member States in the course of the year 2017, the political foundation of the European Parliament Institute of European Democrats ([www.iedonline.eu](http://www.iedonline.eu)) is organising the International Conference titled “EU at the Crossroads: How will 2017 national elections change the face of Europe?”.

The event will take place in the Tatra Hotel in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 5th May 2017 (Friday) from 9:00 (registration starts at 8:45) to 14:00.

The Conference is organized with the financial support of the European Parliament.

With regards to an unprecedented rise of populism, nationalism and euroscepticism in the European Union, the Conference aspires to discuss four most important elections in Europe this year: the Dutch parliamentary elections that took place in March, the French presidential elections – that will be just before its second round at the time of the conference – June’s parliamentary elections in the Great Britain and the German federal elections scheduled for September.

A number of distinguished speakers coming from several EU Member States will debate whether the victory of pro-European VVD in the March’s parliamentary elections in the Netherlands will serve as a hope for similar defeat of the populist parties in France and Germany, whether the unexpected British parliamentary elections will influence the Brexit negotiations and to what extent the national elections in 2017 will decide about the future of the EU and democracy in Europe in general. The speakers will also explain why we have come to the situation when we have to seriously fear of the victory of anti-European, populist and often openly extremist political parties in the national elections, what is behind the unprecedented growth of their popularity and what should democratic and pro-European political parties do in order to defeat populist parties in the elections.

The results of the 2017 national elections will have a tremendous impact on the direction and very face of European project – whether the EU will finally rejuvenate or whether its crisis will dangerously deepen.

The conference is free and open to general public which has the chance to be informed about the current situation in Europe from senior officials, politicians, Members of Parliament, journalists and university professors from Europe.

Simultaneous English-Slovak translation will be provided.

For more information, please visit our website [www.iedonline.eu](http://www.iedonline.eu) and the Facebook page of the Conference: <https://www.facebook.com/events/198030367380031/>

