

# Europe on the Move? – Stimulating New Ideas for Promoting Liberty and Prosperity in a Changing World Order

## **XI International Congress**

15/16 December 2021

Munich

*Request for the nomination of a young  
researcher to contribute to the Congress*

In cooperation  
with:

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## The Congress - The Topics - The Procedures

Europe is in upheaval. The Corona crisis, digitalisation, climate change, Brexit and the global players USA and China are presenting Europe with new challenges. The XI International Congress "Europe on the Move? – Stimulating New Ideas for Promoting Liberty and Prosperity in a Changing World Order" aims to provide a forum for young social scientists to discuss their research findings and experiences with leading decision-makers from the worlds of business and research, with journalists and politicians. With around 300 participants, the Congress offers young researchers nominated by their university teachers the opportunity to present their research to working groups. There they can discuss their ideas and proposed solutions with an audience consisting of experienced practitioners from business, civil society and academia. Beyond the working groups, the Congress offers ample opportunity to network and exchange ideas in individual conversations.

The organisers are looking forward to receiving nominations from university teaching staff of research students working on any of the Congress's main topics who would be interested in giving a short talk on their work. These topics are:

- 1. Europe's role in the digital economy: between self-determination and dependence**
- 2. Europe after the Corona crisis and its economic consequences: lessons for the future?**
- 3. The EU and the Green New Deal: a way forward or a dead end?**
- 4. Europe's finances: between public debt and fear of inflation**
- 5. Europe's changing institutions: more or less centralism?**

## The Working Groups

In each of the five working groups, some 20 young, high-achieving academics, all engaged in a search for solutions, will present their ideas and theses for discussion with the other 40 or so more experienced participants from academia, business, politics and journalism.

From the thesis papers submitted, the leaders of the working groups will select a limited number to be presented in 10-15-minute talks. The criterion will be the suitability of their content for discussion with practitioners on the topic of the working group. The speakers chosen will be invited to a preparatory meeting, where they will be informed in more detail about the themes of the working groups and the procedure.

Those young researchers not selected to give talks will be assigned to the working groups according to their topic proposal and are invited to enrich the debate in their group by referring to their research findings and experience in their contributions.

The academic directors of the Congress are Prof. Clemens Fuest, President of the ifo Institute - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich, and Barbara Frenz, General Manager of the Hanns Martin Schleyer Foundation.

More information on the topics, the working groups and the event itself can be found on the following pages.

## The Topics of the Working Groups

Below, we suggest questions in each of the individual disciplines to which the young researchers nominated by their institutes might offer an answer in their chosen theses / topic proposals. However, these issues are to be regarded only as examples for guidance, with many more options possible. The working group topics have been chosen in such a way as to offer a starting point for young economists which will also be relevant for young researchers in law, politics, sociology and the humanities:

### 1. Europe's role in the digital economy: between self-determination and dependence

**Possible issues:** How can the economy, working life and Society 4.0 best be organised so as to promote freedom and prosperity? • Structural change through digitalisation: poverty trap or growth engine? • Digital Europe in international competition: permanent dependence on internet giants or a spur for new prosperity? IT security as a location advantage? • Changing demands on the legal framework? • How can European competition policy curb abuse of market power with digital business models? • Big Data, artificial intelligence, data sharing and the Internet of Things: new opportunities, new risks? • New demands on a digital code of ethics? • Obstacles and new approaches to co-determination in the digital age?

## 2. Europe after the Corona crisis and its economic consequences: lessons for the future?

**Possible issues:** Accelerated structural change, zombie companies and geopolitical consequences: where does Europe stand after the crisis? What are the ramifications of the crisis for the population, the economy and public finances? What are the most urgent needs? • Europe's response to a changing world order: deglobalisation or a new globalisation strategy? • How much competition, how much convergence in Europe? • Have European states' health and economies been differently affected? What do we learn from this? • New demands on Europe's resilience? • How can the EU help countries to emerge from the crisis stronger? Can Europe provide added value to be better prepared for pandemics in the future? • Is the crisis fuelling inequalities (countries, regions, income, wealth, gender)? What needs to be done to address the divergences and be better prepared in the future? • Protecting our health, our privacy and economic activity: what lessons can we learn about managing trade-offs more effectively in crises?

## 3. The EU and the Green New Deal: a way forward or a dead end?

**Possible issues:** The path to climate neutrality in 2050: an ambitious or an utopian goal? • What regulatory framework is necessary for sustainable and inclusive growth? Does the Green New Deal endanger prosperity and social balance? • Green competition policy: who will applaud in the end? • New paths, new ideas: how can the interests of economic and climate policy be harmonised? • The role of the consumer: a tight-rope act between freedom and regulation? • Reorientation of EU agricultural policy? • Energy policies between climate protection and competitiveness? • What are the key European industries of tomorrow? How can we ensure a successful transformation? • Sustainable finance and the new EU taxonomy: hedging against climate risks or actively managing a green transformation? How far should fiscal and monetary policy be allowed to go?

#### 4. Europe's finances: between public debt and fear of inflation

**Possible issues:** The limits to public debt: are fiscal rules a guarantor of, or an obstacle to, sustainable development? • Does the EU need the right to incur debt and levy its own taxes? • The spectre of fiscal and transfer union: inevitable? Curse or blessing? • Unavoidable austerity policies or new approaches to a flexible Union with room for all to breathe? • The distributional effects of ECB policy and ways out of the Target Trap? • The conflict between the German Constitutional Court and the EU Court of Justice and the financing of states by the ECB - what's next? Reorientation of the EU Treaties or proposals to discipline the ECB mandate? • After the crisis: are hyperinflation or stagflation now looming? • The digitalisation of money: bitcoins and the abolition of cash?

#### 5. Europe's changing institutions: more or less centralism?

**Possible issues:** What functions should the EU fulfil? • Can new European values give new impetus to the "old" continent? • New institutions for a new European identity? • Does the growing mobility of capital and people necessitate central fiscal and social policies? • Competition between national policies: a driver of innovation or a race to the bottom? • Cross-border economic areas: new strength of the regions? • How can Europe's ability to act in a new world order be ensured? • Lessons from Brexit? European versus nation-state identity: what is the right balance? • Between stalemate and compromise: unanimity vs. majority voting? • Legal cultures in Europe: solid foundations or root of political crises? • Democracy and science in the age of populism, fake news and social bots: new challenges, new European solutions? • New participatory forms of government in a liberal society?

## Procedures

### 1) Nomination of young researchers

In order to ensure the academic credentials of the young researchers contributing to the Congress, the Hanns Martin Schleyer Foundation asks university teaching staff and research supervisors to nominate candidates (doctoral and post-doctoral researchers and research assistants) who have demonstrated outstanding scientific achievement in the fields covered by the Congress and who are preferably not older than 32 years of age. Please send your recommendation by email **by 5 March 2021 at the latest** to: [kongress@schleyer-stiftung.de](mailto:kongress@schleyer-stiftung.de).

### 2) Documents required in preparation for the Congress

All research students nominated will receive a questionnaire from the Foundation to be completed and returned promptly by e-mail to: [kongress@schleyer-stiftung.de](mailto:kongress@schleyer-stiftung.de).

In addition, they are requested to attach the following documents in PDF format:

- a short curriculum vitae
- an overview of their publications to date

and, **by 30 April 2021, a short (one A4 page) but clearly formulated outline** of their thoughts on the proposed topic. This text will serve as an initial guide for the leader of the relevant working group.

### 3) Assumption of expenses

Both the research students invited to attend the congress and the professors and associate professors who nominate them are the guests of the Hanns Martin Schleyer Foundation (travel and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed).

Equally, no congress fee (for meals, transfer, etc.) is payable.

The official invitations will be sent out in October 2021.

### Publication

It is again planned to follow up the Congress with both digital and printed publication of the proceedings.

For further information please contact:

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