Changes and Challenges in the European Union: TEPSA & IWE HUN-REN CERS hold Hungarian Pre-Presidency Conference

The 13-14 June conference will bring experts, policy-makers, civil society and the wider public together to discuss the priorities of the upcoming Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

BUDAPEST, 05/06/2024: On 1 July, Hungary will take over the Rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union from Belgium. To discuss the aims and priorities of the incoming Hungarian Presidency, TEPSA and the Institute of World Economics, HUN-REN CERS will host policy-makers to meet with key stakeholders and the wider public in a Pre-Presidency Conference (PPC) taking place on 13-14 June.

To scrutinise the Presidency's programme and exchange on the challenges and opportunities facing it, several key figures from the Hungarian authorities will be speaking to leading experts, including **Balázs Molnár**, State Secretary Responsible for the Presidency and **Zsolt Becsey**, former Member of the European Parliament and State Secretary in the Ministry for National Economy; among others.

Before every Council Presidency, the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) joins with its Member Institute in the relevant country to organise the Pre-Presidency Conference. PPCs have become a staple of the European political year ever since the first one, hosted to preview the Irish presidency of January-June 1975. Ahead of the conference, TEPSA will also present its recommendations for the Hungarian Presidency, which have been drafted by TEPSA researchers.

TEPSA Secretary-General **Jim Cloos** describes the value of Pre-Presidency Conferences as ***"a perfect opportunity to bring together representatives of the TEPSA network and political decision-makers. This cross-fertilization is essential for a vibrant debate about Europe in the run-up to each Presidency. It allows our TEPSA members to make a difference".***

For her part, **Magdolna Sass**, Director of the Institute of World Economics, HUN-REN CERS, points out that ***"the timing of this conference could never be more actual. Instability and changes in the geopolitical setups, decreased levels of competitiveness, increased role of the states, fragmentation processes in the world economy pose new and sustained tensions, challenges and problems for the European integration".***

The discussions in Budapest will concern key policy issues of our times, including inter alia the state of play of the EU enlargement file, the results of the European elections and their impact on the next legislative cycle, and the impact of EU membership on Member States which joined during the so-called 'big bang' enlargement twenty years ago in 2004.

The event will take place in **Budapest** on **13-14 June**.

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