INVIGORATEU FINAL CONFERENCE

INVIGORATING EU ENLARGEMENT

AGENDA

5 NOVEMBER 2026

BIP MEETING CENTER RUE ROYALE 2/4, 1000 BRUSSELS

TEPSA trans-european policy studies association

InvigoratEU

Funded by the European Union

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9:00 - 9:30 **Arrivals & registration**

9:30 - 9:40 **Welcoming remarks**

Michael Kaeding, Professor and InvigoratEU Coordinator, University of Duisburg-Essen

9:40 - 10:55 **Invigorating EU Enlargement: Policy Recommendations for a Resilient Europe**

- **Rimgailė Jankauskienė**, Minister Counsellor (COELA), Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU
- **Funda Tekin**, Director and InvigoratEU Scientific Lead, Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP)
- **Richard Youngs**, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe

Moderated by **Shona Murray**, Europe Correspondent, Euronews

10:55 - 11:20 **Coffee Break**

11:20 - 11:50 **Interactive Session: The InvigoratEU External Influence Index**

- **Marko Todorović**, Senior Researcher, European Policy Centre (CEP)
- **Matteo Bonomi**, Head of Europe Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

11:50 - 13:00 **Modernisation or Geopolitics in EU Enlargement Policy?**

- **Giselle Bosse**, Professor, Maastricht University
- **Tyyne Karjalainen**, Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)
- **Eduard Auer**, Head of Division, Enlargement and Regional Cooperation, European External Action Service

Moderated by **Sabina Lange**, Senior Lecturer and InvigoratEU Advisory Board Member, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)

13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 - 14:30 **Keynote speech, Gert Jan Koopman, Director-General, DG ENEST**

14:30 - 15:45 **Towards a Revised EU Enlargement Methodology**

- **Helene Holm Pedersen**, Director for Enlargement and Europe (RELEX.4), Council of the European Union
- **Thomas Hagleitner**, Deputy Director and Head of Unit, Enlargement Strategy and Coordination, DG ENEST A1
- **Zoran Nechev**, Policy Fellow and InvigoratEU Advisory Board Member, Think Europe
- **Frank Schimmelfennig**, Professor, ETH Zurich

Moderated by **Mariam Khotenashvili**, Executive Director, Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA)

15:45 - 16:15 **Coffee Break**

16:15 - 17:15

Critical Infrastructure and Developing Connectivity

- **Peter Polanjar**, Head of Unit, Regional Strategies & Investments Unit, DG ENEST C1
- **Mark Rhinard**, Professor at Stockholm University, Senior Research Fellow at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, and InvigoratEU Advisory Board Member
- **Ramūnas Vilpišauskas**, Director, Vilnius University
- **Sara Elizabete Vinberga**, Head of EU Programme, Latvian Institute of International Affairs (LIIA)

Moderated by **Danijela Jaćimović**, Professor of Economics, University of Montenegro

17:15 - 18:15

FIMI and the Impact on Democracy and Social Cohesion

- **Giulio Venneri**, Deputy Head of Unit, Enlargement Strategy and Coordination, DG ENEST A1
- **Levan Kakhishvili**, Postdoctoral Researcher, ETH Zurich
- **Ambassador Daniela Morari**, Head of Mission of Moldova to the EU

Moderated by **Nino Abzianidze**, Senior Researcher/Associate Professor, PMCG Research

18:15 - 18:30

Concluding Remarks

Funda Tekin, Director and InvigoratEU Scientific Lead, Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP)

18:30

Cocktail Reception

ABOUT

THE INVIGORATEU PROJECT

#InvigoratEU

InvigoratEU investigates how to reform the EU's enlargement strategy in a new geopolitical phase, how to respond to other actors' geopolitical ambitions in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans, and how to rebuild the EU's foreign policy arsenal in view of a new era of military threats. It seeks to elaborate an evidence-based, forward looking vision for the EU's political agenda and institutional frameworks for co-designing a multidimensional toolbox, and has been presenting policy recommendations from day one. Learn more on the project's website.

MORE ABOUT TEPSA

The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) was established in 1974 as the first transnational research network in the field of EU affairs. Our network comprises 51 leading research institutes in 37 European countries, with an office in Brussels.

Our aim is to provide high-quality research on a number of European themes to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe. This is achieved by the interaction between the European and national institutions as well as the academic and research community, and citizens.

TEPSA is active on a wide range of topics, focusing on differentiated integration, the EU's external relations, democratic participation and citizens' engagement.

More information on our activities can be found at www.tepsa.eu.

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