



# A wind of change?

## Role of Central Europe and the next EU political cycle

### Time and Venue:

Thursday 17 October, 14:00 – 16:30

Polish National Center for Research and Development, Rue Belliard 40

## Agenda

Opening of the debate by representatives of Polish Academy of Science and Polish National Center for Research and Development

### Keynote speech

**Laszlo Andor**, *Secretary General, FEPS (tbc)*

### Panel debate

**Andrzej Sadecki**, *Head of Central European Department, OSW*

**Žiga Faktor**, *Deputy Director & Head of Brussels Office, EUROPEUM*

**Jolanta Szymanska**, *Coordinator of European Union Programme, PISM*

**Eric Maurice**, *Policy Analyst, EPC*

### Moderator:

**Silke Maes**, *Research Fellow, EUROPEUM*

### Closing remarks:

**Konrad Poplawski**, *Project Coordinator, OSW*

### Coctail networking

### About:

As the dust settles after a hectic period of post-election negotiations, Von der Leyen's second Commission is faced with serious economic challenges. Recent reports of Draghi and Letta have clearly indicated that the EU is lagging behind other global powers in the areas of

growth and competitiveness and this is reflected in the composition of the College as well as within strategic priorities for the next political cycle. On the table are proposals of coining more powerful industrial policy, deeper single market and advancements in technological research. The concerns over a lack of connectivity across all the regions of the EU has not been resolved, which should be further addressed as the pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia proved. And lastly, process of Ukraine's accession to the EU will enforce not only reforms of this country, but also changes in the EU itself. The debate about all these challenges and solutions could bring significant changes in the functioning of the EU.

As the countries of Central Europe play crucial role in many of the above-mentioned aspects, the debate about the future direction of the EU should not proceed without strong voice of this region, which so far is significantly underrepresented in the European debates. Taking stocks of the it the aim of the panel discussion is to identify the most important EU areas, on which the region could cooperate to present common position and to reflect upon how to use existing resources better to shape the ongoing changes. It's worth also to analyse how the Central European could influence the areas such as Multiannual Financial Framework, EU enlargement or global partnerships.

