

THE EUROPEAN UNION AT A CROSSROADS

Conference-debate

Neimënster, 16 May 2024



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Programme

6:00 pm – Opening remarks

- **Prof. Marie-Hélène Jobin**, Vice Rector for Partnerships and International Relations, University of Luxembourg
- **Dr. Elena Danescu**, Researcher Coordinator of the project Europe Direct at the University of Luxembourg (2021-2025)

6:15 pm – The growing external and internal complexity of EU decision-making

- **Mr. Pat Cox**, Former President of the European Parliament, President of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe

6:45 pm – Intervention

- **Mr. Robert Goebbels**, Former Member of the Chamber of Deputies and of the European Parliament, former Minister

7:00 pm – Q&A session and debate with the audience

7:40 pm – Closing remarks

- **Mrs. Anne Calteux**, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg

8:00 pm – End of the conference



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Prof. Marie-Hélène Jobin, Vice Rector for Partnerships and International Relations, University of Luxembourg

Dr. Elena Danescu, Researcher Coordinator of the project Europe Direct at the University of Luxembourg (2021-2025)

Prof. Marie-Hélène Jobin is the Vice Rector for Partnerships and International Relations at the University of Luxembourg. She is a Canadian national and was previously Vice-Rector (Director) for International Relations and Partnerships at HEC Montréal, a French-speaking academic institution with internationally renowned teaching programmes and research in management. Her area of expertise is operations management and logistics and her research includes activities in the optimisation of public health sector operations. (Source: <https://www.uni.lu/fdef-en/people/marie-helene-jobin/>)

Dr Elena Danescu is a Research Scientist in the Contemporary History of Europe Department at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH) and a PhD supervisor at the Doctoral School in Humanities and Social Sciences. She is in charge of the Master's courses "*Histoire de la construction européenne*" and "*Histoire économique et sociale de l'Europ*" and the Bachelor's course "*Transitions démocratiques en Europe centrale et orientale*". Since April 2019 she has been the coordinator of the Europe Direct Centre at the University of Luxembourg.

(Source: <https://www.uni.lu/c2dh-en/people/elena-danescu/>)



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Une Europe graphique

En 2022, la Fondation Jean Monnet pour l'Europe, située à Lausanne en Suisse, a été contactée par un collectionneur privé. Ce dernier voulait une véritable passion aux affiches en tout genre et avait passé sa vie à les collectionner, parcourant le monde pour en récolter sur les thèmes les plus divers, dont... l'Europe! De la Grèce à l'Espagne, de la Finlande à Malte, il avait traversé le continent à la recherche d'affiches qui pourraient se rattacher de près ou de loin au thème européen. Quelques mois plus tard, la Fondation acquiert ce trésor: 5000 affiches allant de l'immédiat après-guerre à nos jours. Certaines font la promotion de l'Europe, d'autres prônent la souveraineté nationale, mais toutes témoignent de leur temps, des enjeux du moment et transmettent une histoire iconographique, sociale et politique inestimable.

Au travers des documents de cette exposition, c'est une Europe très graphique qui se dessine. Provocantes, amusantes ou tout simplement belles, ces affiches sont conçues pour capter l'attention avec un message fort, immédiatement compréhensible. Entre solidarité et repli sur soi, moquerie et message positif, marketing et propagande, ces documents nous rappellent la complexité des questions européennes. Mais, comme le dit l'adage: « Un bon dessin vaut mieux qu'un long discours »!

A graphic Impression of Europe

In 2022, the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe, based in Lausanne, Switzerland, was contacted by a private collector who was passionate about posters. He had spent his life collecting them, travelling the world to hunt down poster art in a huge variety of topics - including Europe. From Greece to Spain, Finland to Malta, he had criss-crossed the continent looking for posters that had some link with the theme of Europe. A few months later, the Foundation acquired a veritable treasure trove: 5,000 posters from the immediate post-war period to the present day. Some promote Europe, others advocate for national sovereignty, but all bear witness to their era, to the most sensitive issues of the day, and they provide us with an invaluable social and political history in images.

Europa in Bildern

2022 wurde sich ein privater Sammler mit der Jean-Monnet-Stiftung für Europa in Lausanne in Verbindung. Dieser hatte eine große Leidenschaft für Plakate. Er hatte sein Leben lang Plakate aller Art gesammelt und war um die ganze Welt gereist, um an Europas in den verschiedensten Themen zu gelangen... darunter auch Europa! Von Griechenland bis Spanien, von Finnland bis Malta - er besuchte den gesamten Kontinent auf der Suche nach Plakaten, die mehr oder weniger mit dem europäischen Thema in Verbindung standen. Einige Monate später erwarb die Stiftung diesen Schatz: 5.000 Plakate, die von der unmittelbaren Nachkriegszeit bis heute reichen. Einige werben für Europa, andere plädieren für die nationale Souveränität, alle aber zeigen von ihrer Zeit, den Herausforderungen des Augenblicks und geben Einblick in eine ikonographische, soziale und politische Geschichte von unschätzbarem Wert.

Amend: diese Ausstellungsgalerie zeichnet sich an sehr vielfältigen Plakate als Prozess, spannend oder einfach nur schön - diese Plakate können geschaffen, um mit einer starken, sofort verständlichen Botschaft Aufmerksamkeit zu erregen. Zwischen Solidarität und Selbstbehauptung, Spitz und positiver Botschaft, Marketing und Propaganda erinnern uns diese Dokumente an die Komplexität der europäischen Fragen. Aber wie heißt es so schön: „Ein Bild sagt mehr als tausend Worte“!



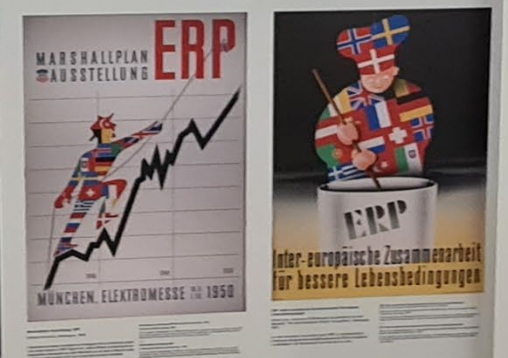
Reconstruire l'Europe avec le plan Marshall

Rebuilding Europe with the Marshall Plan

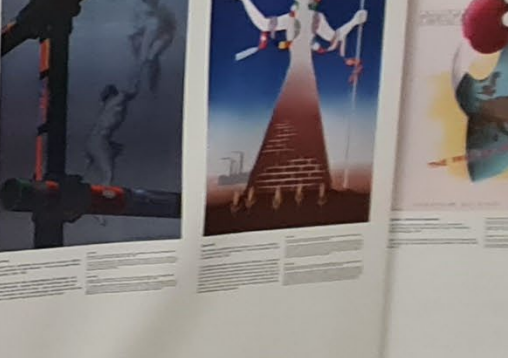
Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale et à l'instar l'Europe, un plan a été mis en place: le plan Marshall, officiellement nommé la mise par les Etats-Unis. Ce projet soutient la reconstruction des pays d'Europe occidentale: Allemagne de l'Ouest, Autriche, Belgique, Danemark, France, Grèce, Irlande, Islande, Italie, Luxembourg, Norvège, Pays-Bas, Portugal, Royaume-Uni, Suède, Suisse, Turquie et Turquie.



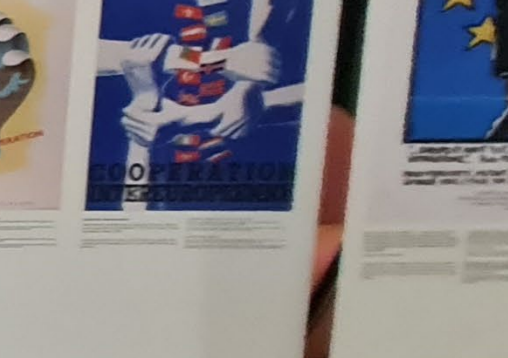
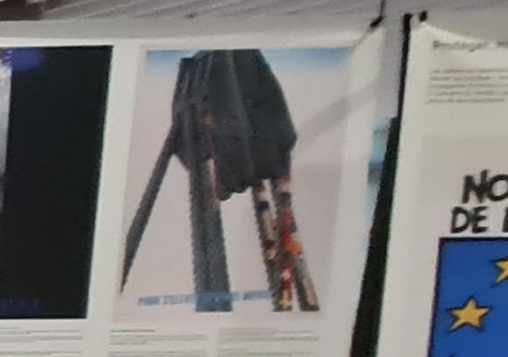
Logo of the Fondation Jean Monnet pour l'Europe and other partner organizations.



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6:15 pm – The growing external and internal complexity of EU decision-making

Mr. Pat Cox, Former President of the European Parliament, President of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe

Mr. Pat Cox was born in Dublin in 1952 and grew up in Limerick, the capital of the Mid West region. He was a member of the Dáil Éireann, the Irish Parliament, in the early 1990s (1992-1994), but it is as a member of the European Parliament that he is best known. He was elected in 1989 in the Munster constituency, and then re-elected as an independent parliamentarian in 1994 and 1999. He chaired the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) of the European Parliament (1998-2002). Mr Cox was elected President of the European Parliament in January 2002 for a two-and-a-half year term. At that time, he was resolutely committed to the enlargement of the European Union. He has carried out internal reforms in the European Parliament and has enabled it to carry out the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe. He finally represented the European Parliament at the Intergovernmental Conference on the draft Constitutional Treaty of the European Union. He has been a member of several advisory committees at the European level, notably at Microsoft and Pfizer. He is currently a member of the Supervisory Board of Michelin, as well as the European Advisory Board of Liberty Global and Chairman of the Public Interest Committee of KPMG in Ireland. Pat Cox holds several Honorary Doctorates, including from Trinity College Dublin, the National University of Ireland, the University of Limerick, the American University of Ireland and the Open University. He was the winner of the 2004 Aachen International Charlemagne Prize for his parliamentary commitment to the enlargement of the European Union. He is Commander of the Legion of Honour and has received several high national awards in Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy and Romania. Pat Cox became President of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe in 2015. (Source: <https://jean-monnet.ch/en/fondation/le-president-2/>)



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6:45 pm – Intervention

Mr. Robert Goebbels, Former Member of the Chamber of Deputies and of the European Parliament, former Minister

Mr. Robert Goebbels is a journalist, a former politician in Luxembourg and a former Member of the European Parliament for the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP). Over the course of his career he has held senior positions including General Secretary of the LSAP (1971–1985), President of the Luxembourg Association of Journalists (1972–1974), Councillor for Luxembourg City (1976–2005), State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Cooperation and State Secretary for Small Businesses (1984–1989), Minister for the Economy, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Transport (1989–1994), and Minister for the Economy, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Energy (1994–1999). In 1999 he was elected as a Member of the European Parliament (1999–2014), Vice-President of the Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists (1999–2004) and Vice-President of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament (2004–2009). In March 2016 the Luxembourg Government appointed him as the Luxembourg representative on the Board of Governors of the Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF). Robert Goebbels is the negotiator and signatory of the Schengen Agreement for Luxembourg.



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7:00 pm – Q&A session and debate with the audience

- The conference-debate “**The European Union at a Crossroads**” is part of the current edition of the public event series “*Les mois de l’Europe à Esch-sur-Alzette*”, organized in Luxembourg - from March to July 2024 - by the **Center Europe Direct at the University of Luxembourg**, the **City of Esch-sur-Alzette** and their numerous partners.
- This event also features the opening of the multilingual documentary exhibition “**Shaping Europe: the story of European elections**” created by the **Historical Archives of the European Parliament**.



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7:40 pm – Closing remarks

Mrs. Anne Calteux, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg

Mrs. Anne Calteux is Head of the European Commission Representation in Luxembourg since September 2021. She strives to bring Europe closer to local stakeholders and citizens by communicating via different channels on EU priorities and new initiatives. Previously, she was head of EU and international affairs in the Luxembourgish Ministry of Health and main advisor to several Health Ministers. During the COVID pandemic, she was in charge of the coordination of the COVID Crisis Cell. From 2004 until 2013, she has been affected to the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU with a focus on public health and social security. A lawyer by training, she was a member of the Luxembourg bar between 1999 and 2003 with a specialisation in litigation law.



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