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EVROPAEVM

A European Election Day Exploratory Workshop



24th-26th September, Geneva

In partnership with the European University Institute and the Hirschman Centre on Democracy



European politics are in depression right now, and everywhere Euroscepticism and even anti-European populism is to be seen on the rise. This workshop will set out to explore if the apparent "democratic deficit" might be compensated with a synchronised political day of Europe-wide voting. The concept of what some call a European Election Day may seem an ideal, but with so many pressures besetting the European Project, it is timely to bring experts and young scholars, including those already engaged in European politics and already voting in European elections to consider the pros and cons of a unified day of voting, which might help foster greater awareness of issues, greater discussion and debate, more cross border allegiances and greater sense of voting for potential presidents of the European Parliament according to ideology. The workshop will explore the development of a "wholly European agenda", the potential impact on the European ideological landscape, and the impact of the rise of populist movements and new ways of democratic engagement.

On September 24th-26th in Geneva, Europaeum students are invited, in partnership with the European University Institute and the Hirschman Centre on Democracy, to attend three days of talks, panels, and debates.

Questions will include: *Can democracy survive in a federal union without uniting around the one-time expression of the popular will? What would be the expected effects of a European Election Day (or European Election Month) on European institutions? How could political parties benefit from the synchronization of national legislative or presidential elections? Is the existence of parliamentary and presidential regimes in Europe a threat to such synchronization?*

Speakers will include: Gregoire Mallard (Graduate Institute), Danuta Hubner (MEP), Fabian Breuer (European Investment Bank), Annabelle Littoz-Monnet (Graduate Institute), Monica Frassoni (European Green Party), Gilles Grin (Lausanne), Martin Koopmann (European Dialogue), and Mercedes Bresso (MEP).

Applicants should send a short CV, letter of motivation, with at least one letter of recommendation from a professor to euoinfo@europaeum.ox.ac.uk. Local costs are covered by the Europaeum and the Graduate Institute, but participants are expected to cover the costs of their travel to and from the location.