

NEW PATHS TOWARDS PROSPERITY IN
THE EUROPEAN UNION - RETHINKING
GOVERNANCE, INTEGRATION AND
COLLECTIVE WELL-BEING

IDEAS

*Institut d'études européennes,
Université libre de Bruxelles*

May 27-29, 2026

Brussels, Belgium



PROSPER

Jean Monnet Network



BRUSSELS
SCHOOL OF
GOVERNANCE



UNIVERSITÉ
LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES



27-29 may 2026

**Institut d'études européennes
de l'Université libre de
Bruxelles**

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About the conference

The biennial Interdisciplinary conference on **European Advanced Studies (IDEAS)** is a three-day scientific event organized by the Institut d'études européennes of the Université libre de Bruxelles (IEE-ULB) in collaboration with the Brussels School of Governance of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (BSoG-VUB) and the Politics and International Studies Department at the University of Warwick (PaIS-UoW).

The IDEAS26 edition is co-organised with the Jean Monnet Network PROSPER. The conference will take place in Brussels, on May 27-29, 2026. The conference will focus on **New paths towards prosperity in the European Union – Rethinking Governance, Integration and Collective Well-Being**.

Providing prosperity, alongside democracy, to European citizens has been a foundational aspiration underpinning the rise of the European Union. In the second half of the 20th century, the integration of a Single Market, guided by the principles of regulated capitalism and multilateralism, was seen as the strong cement that would ensure Europe's prosperity. Since the turn of the century, however, the picture has become increasingly complex.

The Eurocrisis and the ensuing aggravation of imbalances among territories across Europe, persisting social inequality, climate change, the contestation of liberal democracy, and the resurgence of war in its direct surroundings have all called into question the intellectual matrix and policy beliefs which had shaped the EU for decades.

On both sides of the Atlantic, reactionary political forces have gained traction by exploiting fears of decline, calling for a return to exclusionary and aggressive nationalism. The mainstream governing parties in the EU have seemed to converge on an external policy

reinforcing collective security and securitizing migrations, but remain divided on an internal policy for an ambitious sustainable socio-economic strategy.

This raises the question as to how Europeans can collectively find new paths towards prosperity. Beyond economic growth and competitiveness, prosperity is best understood as an overall state of economic, social and environmental well-being that ensures every private and public actor the opportunity to thrive. It requires peace and security, widespread welfare and justice, the sustainability of the environment and livelihoods, and democratic governance. To what extent can the EU, as a multi-level polity, provide these collective goods? What are the key institutional challenges and obstacles standing in the way of renewed prosperity in Europe? What practical arrangements and governance mechanisms can be activated to achieve these goals? And how would integration methods, Europeanisation modes and the relationship between the EU and its Member States be reshaped along the way? How would the various political actors and social groups in national arenas be affected by these changes, and are they committed to build new paths to prosperity in Europe?

Amandine Crespy and Paul Dermine



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



#IDEAS26

Wednesday, 27 May, 2026

12:30-1:00 p.m.

Registrations & Informal Light lunch
(IEE Foyer)

1:00-2:30 p.m. - Panels

- *Governing social rights* (Room Kant)
- *The evolving accountability and governance structures of the EU* (Room Geremek)
- *The EU budget : challenges and prospects* (Room Spaak)

2:30-3:00 p.m.

Coffee Break (IEE Foyer)

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. - Panels

- *Greening the EU's economic constitution & finance* (Room Geremek)
- *The EU toolbox for sustainable prosperity : innovative or toothless?* (PROSPER Panel -Room Spaak)

4:30-5:00 p.m.

Coffee Break (IEE Foyer)

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. - PROSPER

Keynote by Prof. Mark Dawson
"Europe's expanding coordination space"
(ULB, Solbosch Campus, Building R42, Room Drion, R42.5.503)

6:30 - 08:00 p.m.

Walking Dinner (ULB, Solbosch Campus, Building R42, Atrium)

Thursday, 28 May, 2026

09:00-9:30 a.m.

Registrations & Welcome coffee
(IEE Foyer)

9:30-11:00 p.m. - Panels

- *Economic and energy security as vectors of the EU's industrial agenda* (Room Geremek)
- *The future of fiscal and budgetary integration in Europe* (PROSPER Panel, Room Spaak)

11:00-11:30 a.m.

Coffee Break (IEE Foyer)

11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. - Panels

- *Conditionality, Coordination and Surveillance* (Room Geremek)
- *Governing Prosperity in the EU: Theoretical Perspectives and Institutional Challenges* (PROSPER Panel, Room Spaak)

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Lunch (IEE Foyer)

2:00-3:30 p.m. - Panels

- *Fiscal and budgetary integration in the EU* (Room Geremek)
- *Reconsidering the role of Growth in the European socio-economic governance* (Room Spaak)

3:30-4:00 p.m.

Coffee Break (IEE Foyer)

4:00-6:00 p.m. - PROSPER Policy Panel

The future of EU public finances: negotiating the 2028-2034 MFF (ULB, Solbosch Campus, Building R42, Room Drion, R42.5.503)

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Cocktail Dinner (Atrium R42, Solvay)

Friday, 29 May, 2026

08:30-9:00 a.m.

Registrations & Welcome coffee
(IEE Foyer)

9:00-10:30 p.m. - Panels

- *Decommodifying social life* (Room Kant)
- *Reassessing the EU's legal instruments for sustainable prosperity* (Room Geremek)
- *European Governance towards Shared Prosperity?* (Room Spaak)

10:30-11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break (IEE Foyer)

11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. - Panels

- *Conditionality, Coordination and Surveillance* (Room Geremek)
- *Governing Prosperity in the EU: Theoretical Perspectives and Institutional Challenges* (Room Spaak)

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Lunch (IEE Foyer)

1:30-3:00 p.m - Panels

- *Labour and skills in the EU Market and Polity* (Room Kant)
- *The European Union and today's democratic challenges* (Room Geremek)
- *New pathways for EU industrial policy* (Room Spaak)

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY, 2026

3:00 -4:30 p.m. (Room Spaak)

THE EU TOOLBOX FOR SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY : INNOVATIVE OR TOOTHLESS?

Chair: Amandine Crespy, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Markus Haverland, Erasmus University Rotterdam ; Stéphane de la Rosa, Université Paris-Est Créteil ; Miriam Hartlapp, Freie Universität Berlin ; Paolo Graziano, Università di Padova

5:00 -6:30 p.m. (Room Drion, R42.5.503)

PROSPER KEYNOTE EUROPE'S EXPANDING COORDINATION SPACE

Chair: Paul Dermine, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speaker: Mark Dawson, Hertie School of Governance

Word of Welcome by Prof. Federico Fabbrini (Dublin City University, Ireland), PI of the PROSPER Network

DAY 2 - THURSDAY, 28 MAY, 2026

9:30 -11:00 a.m. (Room Spaak)

THE FUTURE OF FISCAL AND BUDGETARY INTEGRATION IN EUROPE

Chair : Paul Dermine, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Fabian Amtenbrink, Erasmus University Rotterdam ; Päivi Leino-Sandberg, University of Helsinki ; Howarth, Université du Luxembourg ; Lukas Spielberger, Université du Luxembourg ; Maria Antonia Panasci, Mercatorum University and Bocconi University

11:30 -1:00 p.m. (Room Spaak)

GOVERNING PROSPERITY IN THE EU: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

Chair : Ramona Coman, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Federico Fabbrini, Dublin City University ; Larissa Willamowski, Universität Bremen ; Philipp Genschel, Universität Bremen ; Markus Jachtenfuchs, Hertie School

4:00 -6:00 p.m. (Room Drion, R42.5.503)

PROSPER POLICY PANEL THE FUTURE OF EU PUBLIC FINANCES: NEGOTIATING THE 2028-2034 MFF

Chair : Amandine Crespy, Université libre de Bruxelles ; Paul Dermine, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Gaetano D'Adamo, Deputy Head of Unit, DG BUDG, European Commission ; Guillaume Rey, Head of Unit BUDG Committee and European Parliament ; Pierluigi Boda, Strategic Advisor to the President of the European Committee of Regions ; Isabelle Buscke, Secretary General of Finance Watch



12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Registration

WELCOME LUNCH

Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Panel 1 - Salle Kant

GOVERNING SOCIAL RIGHTS

Chair: Paolo Graziano, Università di Padova

Speakers: Fabian Lütz, University of Ottawa
Caroline de la Porte, Copenhagen Business School
Viola Shahini, Université libre de Bruxelles



Panel 2 - Room Spaak

THE EU BUDGET: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Chair: Paul Dermine, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Tiziano Zgaga, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Jakob Pegels, Freie Universität Berlin
Julien Debande, Université libre de Bruxelles
Johannes Müller, European University Institute



Panel 3 - Room Geremek

THE EVOLVING ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF THE EU

Chair: Ramona Coman, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Paul Weismann, University of Salzburg
Dilara Aydogus, SciencesPo Paris
Valeria Zambianchi, Antoine Thill, Université Catholique de Louvain
Simon Otto, Vrije Universiteit Brussel



2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK

Location: Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Panel 4 - Room Geremek

GREENING THE EU'S ECONOMIC CONSTITUTION & FINANCE

Chair: David Howarth, Université du Luxembourg

Speakers: Gianluca Berardi, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Max Nagel, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Lukas Spielberg, University of Luxembourg and VUB
Aldo de Cesare, SciencesPo Paris



Panel 5 - Salle Spaak - PROSPER Panel

THE EU TOOLBOX FOR SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY: INNOVATIVE OR TOOTHLESS?

Chair : Amandine Crespy, Université libre de Bruxelles
Speakers : Markus Haverland, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Stéphane de la Rosa, Université Paris-Est Créteil
Miriam Hartlapp, Freie Universität Berlin
Paolo Graziano, Università di Padova



4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK

Location: Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

PROSPER Keynote - ULB, Solbosch, Room Drion, R42.5.503

EUROPE'S EXPANDING COORDINATION SPACE

Chair : Paul Dermine, Université libre de Bruxelles
Speakers : Mark Dawson, Hertie School of Governance
Word of Welcome by Prof. Federico Fabbrini (Dublin City University, Ireland),
PI of the PROSPER Network



6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

WALKING DINNER

Location: ULB, Solbosch Campus, Building R42, Atrium



9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Registration

WELCOME COFFEE

Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Panel 6 - Room Geremek

ECONOMIC AND ENERGY SECURITY AS VECTORS OF THE EU'S INDUSTRIAL AGENDA

Chair: Areg Navasartian, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Oriana Balsamo, Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali

Mathias Perl, Université libre de Bruxelles

Fernanda Schininà, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano



Panel 7 - Room Spaak - PROSPER Panel

THE FUTURE OF FISCAL AND BUDGETARY INTEGRATION IN EUROPE

Chair: Paul Dermine, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Fabian Amttenbrink, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Päivi Leino-Sandberg, University of Helsinki

David Howarth, Université du Luxembourg

Lukas Spielberger, Université du Luxembourg

Maria Antonia Panasci, Mercatorum University and Bocconi University



11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

COFFEE BREAK

Location: Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Panel 8 - Room Geremek

CONDITIONALITY, COORDINATION AND SURVEILLANCE

Chair: Louise Fromont, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Ilaria Gambardella, Université libre de Bruxelles, KU Leuven

Martha Caziero, Tillburg University

Sabrina Napolitano, Université catholique de Louvain

Marijn van der Sluis, Universiteit Maastricht



Panel 9 - Room Spaak - PROSPER Panel

GOVERNING PROSPERITY IN THE EU: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

Chair: Ramona Coman, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Federico Fabbrini, Dublin city University

Larissa Willamowski, Universität Bremen

Philipp Genschel, Universität Bremen

Markus Jachtenfuchs, Hertie School



1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH

Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Panel 10 - Room Geremek

FISCAL AND BUDGETARY INTEGRATION IN THE EU

Chair : Rosalba Famà, Bocconi University

Speakers : Yaning Zhang, Hertie School

Tom Massart, Finance Watch

Martina Minardi, University of Bologna, Université Paris II Panthéon Assas



Panel 11 - Room Spaak

RECONSIDERING THE ROLE OF GROWTH IN THE EUROPEAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Chair : Tiago Moreira Ramalho, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Louise Fromont, Université libre de Bruxelles

Martin Seeleib-Kaiser, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Giulio D'Arrigo, European University Institute

Fabio Battaglia, University of Birmingham



3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK

Location: Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

PROSPER Policy Panel - ULB, Solbosch, Room Drion, R42.5.503

THE FUTURE OF EU PUBLIC FINANCES : NEGOTIATING THE 2028-2034 MFF

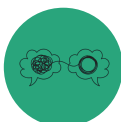
Chair : Amandine Crespy, Université libre de Bruxelles and Paul Dermine, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Gaetano D'Adamo, Deputy Head of Unit, DG BUDG, European Commission

Guillaume Rey, Head of Unit BUDG Committee and European Parliament

Pierluigi Boda, Strategic Advisor to the President of the European Committee of Regions

Isabelle Buscke, Secretary General of Finance Watch



6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

COCKTAIL DINNER

Location: ULB, Solbosch Campus, Building R42, Atrium



8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Registration

WELCOME COFFEE

Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Panel 12 - Room Kant

DECOMMODIFYING SOCIAL LIFE

Chair: Viola Shahini, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Paul Copeland, Queen Mary University of London

Pietro Valetto, Antwerp University

Jozsef Slezak, Central European University-Democracy Institute



Panel 13 - Room Spaak

EUROPEAN GOVERNANCE TOWARDS SHARED PROSPERITY ?

Chair: Amandine Crespy, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Philipp Stutz, Vrije Universiteit of Brussel

Florian Trauner, Vrije Universiteit of Brussel

Marko Vidakusic, University of Rijeka

Stefano Turrini, Wuppertal Institut, Università di Firenze

Peter Kerckhofs, Eurofound Ireland



Panel 14 - Room Geremek

REASSESSING THE EU'S LEGAL INSTRUMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY

Chair: Chiara Armeni, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers: Myele Rouxel, University of Eastern Finland

Leila Kentache, Università degli Studi di Torino

Frederic Allemand, Université du Luxembourg



10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

COFFEE BREAK

Location: Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer



11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Panel 15 - Room Geremek

THE EU AS GREEN REGULATORY STATE IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Chair: Jane Arroyo, European University Institute

Speakers: Katarzyna Aleksandra Jancewicz, Université de Liège

Marta Paricio Montesinos, Vrije Universiteit Brussel-University of Helsinki

Pauline Phoa, Utrecht University

Paco Jimenez, Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour



Panel 16 - Room Spaak

TOWARDS A GENUINE EU DEFENCE POLICY

Chair : Chloé Brière, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Scott Hamilton, Antwerp University
Federica Fazio, Dublin City University
Christakis Georgiou, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle
Rosalba Famà, Bocconi University
Salma Rhilane, Youth policy center, Morocco

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.



LUNCH

Location: Institut d'études européennes (ULB) - Foyer

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.



Panel 17 - Room Geremek

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND TODAY'S DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGES

Chair : Alvaro Oleart, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Régis Dandoy, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
Gianluca Sgueo, Brussels School of Governance
Hugo Alexandre
Shana Suzanne Adriana Atangana Bekono, The Hague University of Applied Sciences

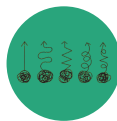


Panel 18 - Room Spaak

NEW PATHWAYS FOR EU INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Chair : Emmanuel Slautsky, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Jane Arroyo, European University Institute
Paolo Recaldini, Université libre de Bruxelles
Jule Meyer, Universität Bremen
Saverio Della Corte, European University Institute



Panel 19 - Room Kant

LABOUR AND SKILLS IN THE EU MARKET AND POLITY

Chair : Bastian Kenn, Université libre de Bruxelles

Speakers : Alina Jasmin Felder-Stindt, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Cecilia Ivardi Ganapini, University of St. Gallen
Stephen Gaffney, Université libre de Bruxelles
Sven Schreurs, University of Amsterdam

ALEXANDRE Hugo	11
ALLEMAND Frederic	10
AMTENBRINK Fabian	5, 8
ARMENI Chiara	10
ARROYO Jane	10, 11
ATANGANA BEKONO Shana Suzanne Adriana	11
AYDOGUS Dilara	6
BALSAMO Oriana	8
BATTAGLIA Fabio	9
BERARDI Gianluca	6
BOANINI Sara	10
BODA Pierluigi	5, 9
BRIÈRE Chloé	11
CAZIERO Martha	8
COMAN Ramona	5, 6, 8
COPELAND Paul	10
CRESPY Amandine	5, 7, 10
D'ADAMO Gaetano	5, 9
D'ARRIGO Giulio.....	9
DANDOY Régis	11
DAWSON Mark	4, 5, 7
DE CESARE Aldo	6
DE LA PORTE Caroline	6
DE LA ROSA Stéphane	5, 7
DEBANDE Julien	6
DELLA CORTE Saverio	11
DERMINE Paul	5, 6, 7, 8, 9
FABBRINI Federico	5, 7, 8
FAMÀ Rosalba	9, 11
FAZIO Federica	11
FELDER-STINDT Alina Jasmin	11
FROMONT Louise.....	8, 9
GAFFNEY Stephen	11
GAMBARDELLA Ilaria	8
GENINI David.....	9
GENSCHEL Philipp.....	5, 8

GENTIMIR Alina	10
GEORGIU Christakis	11
GRAZIANO Paolo	5, 6, 7
HAMILTON Scott	11
HARTLAPP Miriam	5, 7
HAVERLAND Markus	5, 7
HOWARTH David	5, 6, 8
JACHTENFUCHS Markus	5, 8
JANCEWICZ Katarzyna Aleksandra	10
JIMENEZ Paco	10
KENN Bastian	11
KENTACHE Leila	10
KERCKHOFS Peter	10
LEINO-SANDBERG Päivi	5, 8
LÜTZ Fabian	6
MASSART Tom	9
MEYER Jule	11
MINARDI Martina	9
MOREIRA RAMALHO Tiago	9
MÜLLER Johannes	6
NAGEL Max	6
NAPOLITANO Sabrina	8
NAVASARTIAN Areg	8
OLEART Alvaro	11
OTTO Simon	6
PANASCI Maria Antonia	5, 8
PARICIO MONTESINOS Marta	10
PEGELS Jakob	6
PERL Mathias	8
PHOA Pauline	10
RECALDINI Paolo	11
REY Guillaume	5, 9
RHILANE Salma	10
ROUXEL Myele	10
RUBIO Eulalia	5, 9
SCHININÀ Fernanda	8

SCHREURS Sven	11
SEELEIB-KAISER Martin	9
SGUEO Gianluca	11
SHAHINI Viola	6, 10
SLAUTSKY Emmanuel	11
SLEZAK Jozsef	10
SPIELBERGER Lukas	5, 6, 8
STUTZ Philipp	10
THILL Antoine	6
TURRINI Stefano	10
VALETTO Pietro	10
VAN DER SLUIS Marijn	8
VIDAKUSIC Marko	10
WEISMANN Paul	6
WILLAMOWSKI Larissa	5, 8
ZAMBIANCHI Valeria	6
ZGAGA Tiziano	6
ZHANG Yaning	9