



Brussels, 27 January 2016

INVITATION - Speaker
Financing the EU primary elections 2019
Tuesday, 15th of March 2016, from 12:00 to 14:00

L42, Rue de la Loi, 42 - 1000 Brussels

At a recent EurActiv roundtable debate (28th of May 2015) senior representatives of political parties and political foundations indicated - in large majority - that they wanted to see the new system of the EU primary elections go forward, while pointing to a number of shortcomings that would need to be addressed.

Establishing a framework in which transnational political parties can attract funding to allow them to run pan-European campaigns is one of the key elements of a successful connection with the citizens. Some national parties have funds up to 100 times higher than their European party equivalents. Direct membership to the European parties or lump sum campaign budgets from the Community budget are two possible, non-exclusive ways.

EurActiv now plans a follow up debate entitled: "Financing the EU primary elections 2019". On Tuesday, 15th of March 2016, leading EU think tanks will come together to present their ideas regarding the financing of the European primary elections ahead of the next round in 2019. In the second part of the event, seven European Political Parties (European People's Party, Party of European Socialists, Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party, Party of the European Left, European Green Party and European Free Alliance) are invited to present their reactions on the proposals presented and what is possible to achieve ahead of 2019.

Moderator: Dan LUCA, Senior Director EurActiv

Presentations from leading think tanks:

Jacques Delors Institute: Yves Bertoncini

CEPS: Marco Incerti

EPC: Janis Emmanouilidis*

Center for EU Communication Studies: Alina Bârgăoanu

Statement reactions from the European Political Parties:

MEP Antonio López-Istúriz, Secretary General of EPP

Achim Post*, Secretary General of PES

Richard Milsom, Chief Executive Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists

Jacob Maroza-Rasmunssen*, Secretary General of ALDE

MEP Marisa Matias*, Vice-president of Party of the European Left

Mar Garcia Sanz, Secretary General of European Green Party

Gunther Dauwen, Director of European Free Alliance

Debates

EurActiv will be filming video interviews before and after the debate, which will be posted online.