

CYCLE OF CONFERENCES ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPACE

"Heading towards the European Elections"

2013-2014

As the continent heads towards the European elections of 2014, *EuroCité*, *Europartenaïres* and *Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute* organise a **cycle of conferences on the general theme of the European public space**.

Our aim with this series of regular conferences is to explore various different aspects of the European public space, which everyone agrees is the crucial missing factor in a deep-rooted and permanent European democracy.

Is it an abstract, theoretical concept or a little-known concrete reality? The democratisation of Europe demands that the notion of "public space" be clarified through a debate on the practical purposes to which it is put and the theoretical debates revolving around it.

Addressing specific themes, the conferences will be exploring both:

- **the "structural" dimension** of the European public space: on what foundation should that space be built (political parties, media etc.);
- **the political and electoral dimension** - in other words, the salient issues in the eyes of the European people and the campaign issues for the upcoming elections.

The main themes addressed will be:

- The European party system (1st conference of 22 February 2013; [synthesis](#) by Yves Bertoncini and Valentin Kreiling)
- The media and Europe (2nd conference of 25 April 2013)
- Europe's symbolic policy: what symbols for what kind of European identity? (3rd conference in June 2013 - date to be determined)
- The primary concern of the European citizens
- The European elections in 2014: what are the main campaign issues?
- Multilingualism in the EU
- The feeling of belonging to Europe
- The communication of the EU with the citizens
- European cultural issues
- The distance between Europe and the citizens: how can we take Europe into the high street?
- Other themes to be determined.

The conferences will be held on a bimonthly basis at the Representation of the European Commission in France, 288 boulevard Saint-Germain, 75007 Paris. They will be run along the lines of a working seminar, with three speakers and an audience of 40 to 50 people. The co-organisers will be publishing syntheses of all conferences. This cycle of conferences will also comprise one or more large public events, one of which will be held in spring 2014, ahead of the European elections.

Contacts

Frédéric Ménager (frederic.menager@eurocite.eu)

Eszter Patay (eszter.patay@europartenaïres.net)

Valentin Kreiling (vkreiling@notre-europe.eu)

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