

COOPERATION WITH THE EUI

THE MFF AND EU POLICIES 2021-2027

The EU towards 2030

Once again, the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), at the European University Institute in Florence has confirmed its capacity to be well connected with the political reality and at the same time offering high level reflections on various concrete themes, all on top of the political agenda of the European Institutions.

Participants invited by the seminar's scientific coordinators - the Director of RSCAS Brigid Laffan and the Professor Alfredo De Feo - were a perfect match between academics and institutional professionals, including a former Finance Minister, together with representatives of the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank. The RSCAS, with particular attention to the FMA, invited five former members to contribute to the reflections: Monica Baldi, Reimer Böge, Elmar Brok, Ivailo Kalfin and Alain Lamassoure.

It is important to note that this workshop was scheduled at the right time, in this crucial period of



A moment of the seminar ©EUI

the future of the European project; after the new Commission and the new Parliament have taken office; considering that the definition of financial and political priorities after 2020 will be one of the major challenges of the EU institutions and Member State Governments.

The Multiannual Financial Framework is not a financial document but is the box in which all the EU Policies, with financial impact, are grouped. The outgoing Commission left its legacy of legislative proposals for the period after 2021. During the discussions, ideas were presented about how the legislative proposals could have been more ambitious while others defended the Commission's continuity approach.

The decisions will be taken by the Council and the new European Parliament, with the Von der Leyen Commission acting as honest mediator, but at the same time promoting its political agenda. The last stage of the MFF negotiations and legislative proposals represents a unique opportunity for the new Commission to mark its own imprint in the next five years of its mandate. During the two days of intense debates, suggestions were proposed

to strengthen the integration process without necessarily increasing the burden on public finances by strengthening financial instruments and increasing private / public partnerships. Before the final round table - where the lessons learned and expectations were detected - several topics were discussed such as: Ambition or Continuity; Migration, Security Defence and Neighbourhood Policy; Cohesion, Values and Natural Resources; Resources and Economic and Monetary Union; Innovation and Investments. The organizers announced the publication of an edited volume that summarizes the seminar debates. I believe that this far-sighted initiative can help reflect on the challenges we will have to face; certainly, it is a source of inspiration for all those interested in renewing EU policies as part of the relaunch of the European project.



Alain Lamassoure during his intervention ©EUI

Monica Baldi
EPP-ED, Italy (1994-1999)
baldi.monica@email.it