



CONFERENCE

**Electing the European Parliament: The way ahead?**

**26 November 2008**

Fondation Universitaire  
Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels

Provisional programme:

10:00 h Welcome coffee

10:30 h Opening address: Richard Corbett (PES), MEP

**11:00-13:00 h Second-order or second-class: Which role for the European Political Parties?**

**Chair:** Jürgen Mittag, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

**Speakers:** *"The European Political Parties on the eve of the elections: sleeping beauties or emerging actors?"*  
Sara Hagemann, European Policy Centre

*"Another side of the story: a qualitative case study of the voting behaviour in the European Parliament"*

Maja Kluger-Rasmussen, Copenhagen University

*"Challenges and chances for the rise of European Political Parties"*

Joan Marc Simon, Secretary General of the Union of European Federalists

13:00-14:00 h Lunch

**14:00-15:30 h A common Electoral System: Challenges ahead**

**Chair:** Yvonne Nasshoven, Assistant Secretary General, Trans European Policy Studies Association

**Speakers:** *"The Duff Report on electoral reform of the European Parliament"*  
Guillaume McLaughlin, ALDE policy advisor to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

*"A view from the New Member States"*

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski (EPP-ED), MEP

15:30-16:00 h Coffee Break

**16:00-18:00 h Towards an EU Public Sphere? The role of Media and Campaign**

**Chair:** Graham Avery, Secretary General of TEPSA, Honorary Director General of the European Commission

**Speakers:** *"What is at stake: conditions and possibilities for an EU public sphere"*  
Marianne van de Steeg, Universiteit Utrecht

*"Journalism and the EU's public sphere: what role for the media?"*

John Wyles, Gplus Europe

*"Putting theory into practice: lessons from the election campaign of the Greens 2004"*

Arnold Cassola, former Secretary General of the European Green Party