



FONDATION ROBERT
SCHUMAN

INVITATION

The Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Robert Schuman Foundation have the pleasure of inviting you to a conference on:

Elections in Spain and the Consequences for Europe

Wednesday, 13 January 2016

7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

Registration from 6.30 pm

Venue:

Renaissance Hotel
Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels

PROGRAMME

- 6.30 pm REGISTRATION
- 7.00 pm WELCOMING AND INTRODUCTION
Christian FORSTNER
Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation Brussels
- 7.05 pm FACTS AND FIGURES
Pascale JOANNIN
Director General
Robert Schuman Foundation
- 7.15 pm KEY NOTE SPEECH:
*POLITICAL IMPACT FOR SPAIN
AND EUROPE*
Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ WHITE, MEP
Secretary-General, European People's Party
- 7.30 pm PANEL DEBATE
Cayetana ÁLVAREZ de TOLEDO, PhD
Director International Relations, Fundación
FAES, Foundation for Social Studies and
Analysis, Madrid
Angel SANCHEZ NAVARRO
Professor of Constitutional Law, University
Complutense Madrid; Scientific Committee
Member, Robert Schuman Foundation
Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ WHITE, MEP
Secretary-General, European People's Party
- MODERATION
Charles DE MARCILLY
Director Brussels Office,
Robert Schuman Foundation
- 8.30 pm RECEPTION

Conference language: English

BACKGROUND

The government ouster in Portugal which seems at odds with the perception who won the election raised the stakes ahead of the elections in Spain. With leftist governments now ruling in Greece and Portugal, the reform drive in Europe's southern periphery is at stake and Europe's financial architecture displays again clear signs of vulnerability.

Spain's economic recovery course has not yet led to benefits for all citizens, unemployment rates especially among the younger generation remain at a far too high level. The upcoming elections in Spain reveal again the rising challenge of regionalism, separatism and populism. With *Podemos* and *Ciudadanos* challenging the traditional 2-party system on the one hand and regional movements endangering the unity of the state on the other, the ruling party *Partido Popular* has to withstand fierce competition.

Europe closely watched the elections in Spain which have an impact on EU policy. The EU had a difficult year 2015 and is facing simultaneous internal and external challenges.

We cordially invite you to our policy briefing on the elections in Spain and their impact on Europe.

Organisation and Contact:

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