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EIN-A4

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EIN Seminar on: "The future of Europe"

Rome, Italy

Co-Chairs:

- **Paulo Rangel MEP**, *EIN Chairman, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament responsible for Political Strategy and the European Ideas Network*
- **Antonio TAJANI MEP**, *Vice-President of the European Parliament, former Commissioner*

Speakers:

- **Francesco TUFARELLI**, *General Secretary, Automobile Club d'Italia and former Head of Staff of the Minister for EU Affairs (Letta Government)*
- **Allan S. JANIK**, *Professor in Philosophy, University of Innsbruck*
- **Branislav STANICEK**, *Member, Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London*
- Hillary's victory is arguably seen as better for Europe, on account of the predictability of her actions, while Trump's victory might distort the international commercial context. Regardless of whether the victory falls to Trump or Clinton, the result was said to be a "dysfunctional coalition" concerning the relationship with the US Congress;
- To tackle the migration crisis and the terrorism related to it, the EU must settle a coherent strategy for Africa and the Middle East, as well as to the Balkans, a European region marked by its strong Muslim roots; Furthermore, the EU must define its approach for those countries; Additionally, the investment in the promotion of stability was said to be urgent both in sub Saharan and Maghreb countries;
- This month's Tory party conference was said to be decisive for the outcome of BREXIT's negotiations. After Theresa May's speech the 27 remaining Member States became increasingly united against the idea of giving Britain an easy way out, something seen as unlikely only two months ago. A "hard BREXIT" on the other hand might create the opportunity the EU needs to begin the construction of a new Europe, more focused on the integration of its Member States;
- Vladimir Putin's interference with EU's Member States domestic policies is seen to be of the utmost importance. Russian financing of extremist political parties throughout Europe thwarts the European political scenario, while masking Russia's own problems through its external policy;
- Europe lacks a true strategy for the future and a few potential paths were presented: a stronger promotion of the SME; the need for reindustrialization, according to the new environmental patterns; the promotion of new competition rules that might strengthen the world's trade at a level playing field;
- Finally, the importance of reinforcing our collective identity while fighting populism was highlighted. For that, it might be necessary to rethink the way political parties developed in the recent years, becoming definitely a "secular social democracy in a combination of a liberal social order and economic efficiency. The EU needs a new dream.

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