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EIN-A4 (01-02-2017)

**EIN & Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies joint 'Food For Thought' Seminar on
'Future global trends: How can Europe progress towards a new common vision?'**

Chair:

- **Paulo RANGEL MEP**, *Vice-Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament responsible for the European Ideas Network and Future of Europe*

Guest Speaker:

- **Angela WILKINSON**, *Associate Fellow; Saïd Business School, University of Oxford*

Moderator:

- **Tomi HUHTANEN**, *Executive Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies*

Conclusions:

- **Paulo RANGEL MEP**, *Vice-Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament responsible for the European Ideas Network and Future of Europe*
- We live in an increasingly connected, complex and challenging world, facing a highly unpredictable future. The fast changing reality provides decision makers and society in general, shorter periods of time to reflect and react.
- Nowadays global future thinking tends to be done in a local effect perspective, identifying global accelerations (as markets, Mother Nature and Moore's Law) and its impact at the local level. However, in any megatrends framework, one can always question the selected framework, and if other factors should be taken into account (as migration, militarization or motivations). Looking at the global future demands taking into consideration a wide range of interacting actors.
- The challenges Europe is facing are increasingly local and globally connected. It is not possible to keep following the conventional fragmented approach on these different challenges, or we risk continuing to face unintended consequences. This means we have a problem solving challenge.
- Both in European and international level, there has been a lot of thinking about the future, but in a very fragmented foresight landscape of people with multiple different constituencies and purposes. The national and European future have to be discussed having global future into consideration.
- ESPAS has been a good Commission's initiative, coordinating and consolidating global future thinking in the form of trends and scenarios implied. However, it needs to include other European institutions too. Moreover, trends focused thinking does not allow us to anticipate and prepare for global futures different from the "business as usual" outlook.
- The answer is to promote interactive and strategic conversation by considering not only trends (past patterns), but also scenarios (multiple and alternative futures), and envisioning (the preferred future). Which should be done through an international forum of reflection and serious dialogue between the various communities of practice, mainstreaming a culture change.
- Until now, the dominant practice in futures thinking is forecasting: the future is assumed as being a continuity of the past, having "business as usual" in its basis.
- This suggested mainstream organization demands a real change in decision-making procedures, as well as in the concept of change. We should consider the advantages of a dynamic resilience instead of a static resilience concept of problem solving, promoting a more agile and adaptable way of thinking that would allow us to better deal with unpredictable crises or events.
- Democratic Institutions should use regional and global futures to create a new common future vision, avoiding ready blueprints and fomenting bottom up engagement and outside-in thinking. It is important to keep the global future opened and challenged, engaging with global futures production communities, promoting interactive global exchange of scenarios and test policies against them.

The 'EIN-A4' represents a summary of the joint 'Food for Thought' initiatives. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the EPP Group political line.