



**PROGRESSIVE
YEARBOOK 2020**



Looking back to look ahead!

The 2019 European Parliament elections have triggered a thorough reflection not only on the state of the Union and the project of European integration, but also on the state of social democracy in Europe. This reflection has been, and continues to be, a difficult process. Sometimes even uncomfortable. Yet necessary, if we want to be active players and shape the future that is unfolding. What we now see is the possible way forward.

This Progressive Yearbook is a new FEPS publication. Taking stock of last year's events and developments, it will help highlight the most important achievements, as well as the lessons, of 2019. But our Progressive Yearbook is also, and above all, about the future. It is an opportunity to stop for a moment and look forward, set priorities, and put on paper some of the expectations and plans against which future developments will have to be tested.

Through a variety of online and printed publications in 2019, including our flagship Progressive Post, FEPS has provided quality analysis and reflection for its readers. New instruments, such as the podcasts (FEPS Talks), have been successfully introduced. In 2020 we plan to keep offering our understanding of European politics, while continuing to innovate using old and new channels. The Progressive Yearbook is part of our innovating effort.

As the leading progressive think tank in Europe, FEPS wants to demonstrate that by publishing a regular yearbook it has the capacity to bring together political leaders, activists and academic experts from our political family, as well as collect critical data and deliver sharp analysis along with concrete proposals.

The FEPS Progressive Yearbook is something from which our readers can learn, while hopefully also enjoying their read.

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LOOKING BACK

2019 European Chronology

1 January	Same sex marriage becomes legal in Austria The euro celebrates its 20th birthday (the common currency is shared by 19 EU member states and over 340 million citizens)
14 January	Paweł Adamowicz, Mayor of Gdańsk, is assassinated
29 January	Solidar's Silver Rose Award event in Brussels
12 February	The Republic of Macedonia officially becomes the Republic of North Macedonia
14 February	European Parliament and Council reach a provisional agreement on the establishment of the European Labour Authority, a key deliverable of the European Pillar of Social Rights
22-23 February	PES Congress in Madrid
3 March	Estonian parliamentary elections (Jüri Ratas, liberal, forms his second government)
5 March	Maltese parliamentary elections (the Labour Party retains power)
16-30 March	Slovak presidential elections (Zuzana Čaputová is elected in the second round. She is the first female president of Slovakia, and the youngest ever)
20 March	European antitrust regulators fine Google
21 March	Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz and FEPS present in Brussels "Rewriting the Rules of the European Economy"
23 March	400,000 march in central London to protest against Brexit
26 March	The European Parliament votes in favour of the EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market
2 April	Presidential election in Malta (Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca is replaced by former cabinet minister George Vella)
10 April	Scientists announce the first ever image of a black hole located in M87 galaxy
11 April	A day-long series of events spanning four continents marks the 100th anniversary of the International Labour Organization

14 April	Finnish parliamentary elections (social democratic Antti Rinne forms four-party-coalition government)
15 April	A fire breaks out beneath the roof of Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris
26 April	Avengers: Endgame is released breaking box-office records and becoming the highest grossing movie of all time
28 April	Spanish general elections (PSOE remains the largest party, but Pedro Sanchez fails to form government)
2 May	The European Commission presents its proposal for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, the EU's long-term budget. This formally starts the MFF negotiations
12-26 May	Lithuanian presidential elections (independent economist Gitanas Nausėda is elected in the second round)
14-18 May	Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv (the Dutch contestant Duncan Laurence wins)
17 May	Breakout of the Ibiza Affair involving Austrian Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache (the unravelling of the right-wing coalition begins)
20 May	The redefinition of the International System of Units (SI) takes effect
23-26 May	European Parliament elections (the S&D as well as the EPP suffer losses, while both the greens and the liberals increase their shares)
24 May	Irish divorce referendum Theresa May announces she will resign as Prime Minister with effect from 7 June
26 May	Belgian federal and regional elections (an overall shift to the right is recorded) Spanish local and regional elections
29 May	Latvian presidential elections (the former European Court of Justice judge Egils Levits is elected by the Parliament)
2 June	Double referendum in San Marino (one on electoral system and the other to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation)
3 June	László Andor enters as FEPS Secretary General (on his 53 rd birthday)
5 June	Danish general elections (clear victory by social democratic Mette Frederiksen)
7 June-7 July	FIFA Women's World Cup in France (Megan Rapinoe emerges as progressive role model)

13 June	Adoption of the Directives on Work-Life Balance, and Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions, two key deliverables of the European Pillar of Social Rights
13-14 June	FEPS “Call to Europe VIII: Time for Progress”
1 July	Iratxe García Pérez replaces Udo Bullmann as Socialists & Democrats Group leader in the European Parliament
2 July	European Council elects Belgian liberal Charles Michel as its President, nominates German christian democrat Ursula von der Leyen for European Commission President, elects Spanish socialist Josep Borrell Fontelles to be High Representative, and considers French Christine Lagarde suitable for the presidency of the European Central Bank
7 July	Greek parliamentary elections (Alexis Tsipras steps down, a centre-right government is formed)
16 July	The European Parliament elects Ursula von der Leyen to be the next President of the European Commission
21 July	Ukrainian parliamentary elections
10-25 August	Canary Island wildfires
20 August	Giuseppe Conte offers his resignation as Prime Minister of Italy (ending the coalition between the 5 Star Movement and right-wing Lega)
1 September	Brandenburg and Saxony Land elections (SPD weakens but remains in pole position in Brandenburg. In Saxony SPD finishes in 5 th place)
5 September	Conte forms his second government; the Italian Democratic Party and the 5 Star Movement become coalition partners
10 September	UK’s Parliament is prorogued
20 September	International strike against climate change (led by young people)
20-21 September	FEPS UNited for Climate Justice Conference in New York City
29 September	Austrian parliamentary elections (centre-right Sebastian Kurz triumphant)
30 September	Ireland promises to plant 440 million trees in 20 years
6 October	Portuguese parliamentary elections (António Costa’s Socialist Party preserves strong government position)
9-11 October	FEPS Autumn Academy (with legacy speeches by Federica Mogherini and Pierre Moscovici)

- 13 October Polish parliamentary elections (Jarosław Kaczyński's PiS remains in government, while centre-left returns to parliament)
Hungarian local elections (Budapest and several other cities elect progressive leaders, thanks to cooperation within spectrum of opposition)
- 14 October Trial of Catalonia independence leaders
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decides to award Nobel Prize in Economics to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty"
- 17 October Gibraltar general elections
- 18 October France-led group (including also Denmark and the Netherlands) blocks the proposal to start accession talks with North Macedonia and Albania
- 19 October One Million People's March against Brexit
- 20 October Swiss federal elections
- 27 October Thuringian Land elections (left-wing Bodo Ramelow forms red-red-green coalition government)
- 30 October Twitter bans political advertising
- 1 November Christine Lagarde replaces Mario Draghi as President of the European Central Bank
- 10 November Spanish general elections (only a few months after previous general elections, PSOE is again the first party)
- 10-24 November Romanian presidential elections (liberal Klaus Iohannis is re-elected)
- 14 November Sardines movement starts as a flash mob, organised in Piazza Maggiore, Bologna, Italy
- 25 November On the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, thousands of women across the world replicate the Chilean feminist anthem 'A Rapist in Your Way'
- 26 November Earthquake in Albania
- 27 November The European Parliament votes in favour of the new European Commission (number of progressive commissioners increases to nine)
- 30 November German Social Democratic Party (SPD) elects Norbert Walter-Borjans and Saskia Esken as co-leaders (new leaders are known as critics of Grand Coalition with CDU-CSU and earlier welfare reforms implemented by Gerhard Schröder)
- 1 December European Commission audit confirms that Czech liberal Prime Minister Andrej Babiš is in a conflict of interest due to his former business empire
Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat announces his resignation amid crisis over murdered journalist (to become effective in 2020)

- 2-13 December COP 25 takes place in Madrid (the venue was shifted at the last minute from Santiago de Chile; no breakthrough)
- 10 December Finland's Sanna Marin, age 34, becomes the world's youngest serving Prime Minister (without new elections, following resignation of Antti Rinne)
- 12 December UK general elections (Conservatives led by Boris Johnson attain absolute majority with significant margin. Process to succeed Jeremy Corbyn begins)
- 16 December Pope Francis abolishes pontifical secrecy in sex abuse cases
- 22 December Croatian presidential elections (in the first round social democratic Zoran Milanović emerges in pole position)