

Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies, Warsaw

XIX Economic Forum



Krynica-Zdrój, Poland

10 September 2009

The European Elections of 2009

- Is European Democracy Possible?

Two interpretations of the experience gained during this year's European Elections are possible:

The first is that the whole concept of European democracy is illusory and flawed. The European Elections are, at best, surrogate of national elections. The other analysis is that the Elections of 2009 for the European Parliament prove the need for changes in the conduct of the Elections for a common Parliament of the EU-27 and that with such changes the European Elections can become an important building block of democracy in the European Union. The panel will consider and attempt to adjudicate between these two points of view.

Moderator:

Brendan Donnelly, Director, Federal Trust, London

Speakers:

Joel Hasse Ferreira, Professor, The New University, Lisbon

Ignacio Molina, Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Madrid

Grzegorz Napieralski, Chairman, Democratic Left Alliance, Warsaw

Jiri Pehe, Director, New York University, Prague,

Iveta Radicova, Vice-Chairwoman, Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party, Bratislava

Klaus-Heinrich Standke, President, Committee for the French-German-Polish Cooperation ('Weimar Triangle'), Berlin/Cabourg