

Tiit Riisalo
Minister of Economic Affairs and Information Technology
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
Tallinn 10122, Republic of Estonia

Brussels, 30 April 2024

Dear Minister Riisalo,
Your Excellency,

The Board of Trustees of Friends of Europe is delighted to invite you to play a leading role at this year's edition of the **State of Europe high-level roundtable - *Voices, choices and leadership: a tipping point for the EU?***, taking place on **Thursday 7 November 2024 in Brussels**.

The State of Europe high-level roundtable 2024 will focus on deliberating the choices Europe must make to deliver the governance its citizens need in an increasingly challenging environment that includes the Ukraine war, intensifying great-power competition, and a deteriorating climate-social crisis.

The landscape and challenges European politicians face today are incomparable with those of the 2019 European elections. As political leadership changes across the world in this 'ultimate election year' and a new European mandate begins, 2025 has the potential to kick-start a new era in which Europe delivers the governance its citizens need: one that meets geopolitical and economic objectives while keeping focus on social imperatives.

This year, we will once again bring together key actors to identify out-of-the-box ideas for solving ongoing and rising challenges. The State of Europe festival of politics and ideas annually gathers 200+ influential figures from more than 40 countries to brainstorm on the future of Europe. We involve sitting and former (prime) ministers, CEOs, NGO leaders, top European officials, members of parliaments, influencers, top journalists, and European Young Leaders, in an interactive and inclusive brainstorm – a new way of working to generate new ideas for a new era. Discussions at the roundtable will be supported and informed by citizen perspectives gathered by way of focus groups led by Debating Europe, Friends of Europe's citizen engagement unit.

On 6 November, the eve of the roundtable, you are also warmly invited to attend the President's Gala Dinner. This intimate evening offers our high-level guests an informal, yet intellectually stimulating and entertaining opportunity to connect ahead of the next day's debates.

Recent year discussants include: **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**, Nigerian novelist; **Nadia Calvino**, then-Spanish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Economy and Digitalisation; European Commissioners **Mariya Gabriel**, **Elisa Ferreira**, **Didier Reynders**, and **Nicolas Schmit**; **Petra De Sutter**, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister; **Paschal Donohoe**, President of the Eurogroup and Irish Minister for Public Expenditure; **Emmanuel Faber**, then-CEO of Danone; **Mario Draghi**, former President of the European Central Bank and former Italian Prime Minister; **Brian Eno**, artist, music producer and activist; **Mario Monti**, former Italian prime Minister and EU Commissioner; **Yulia Svyrydenko**, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister for the Economy; **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; **Ece Temelkuran**, Turkish novelist and political commentator; **Jean-François van Boxmeer**, Chairperson of Vodafone Group; and **Karien Van Gennip**, then-Dutch Minister for Social Affairs and Employment.

We would be honoured to benefit from your knowledge and for you to play a leading role during the day's discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Geert Cami
Co-Founder & Secretary General
Friends of Europe



Nathalie Furrer
Director
Friends of Europe