

# EUROPEAN PULSE FORUM

APRIL 2026 • BARCELONA



*Draft program as of Feb. 9, 2026 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

## April 9-10, 2026 | Barcelona, Spain

As political developments in the United States, China and elsewhere shift the geopolitical landscape in fundamental ways, Europe increasingly finds itself on its own — whether it wants to be or not. With so many pressing challenges on the horizon, what does this new geopolitical reality mean for Europe? And how do its citizens want to see it tackle policy on issues like energy, mobility, defense and tech? The European Pulse Forum explores these core questions about the future of Europe in Barcelona, turning to original polling data from six EU countries to better understand how Europeans feel about the path forward.

### Day 1: Welcome and Poll Presentation | El Born

**6:00 – 6:45 p.m.      Registration**

**6:45 – 6:50 p.m.      Welcome and opening remarks from Jaume Collboni, Mayor of Barcelona**

**6:50 – 7:00 p.m.      Opening remarks from POLITICO & beBartlet**

**7:00 – 7:15 p.m.      Unveiling the European Pulse Poll**

The centerpiece to the European Pulse Forum is a poll of Europeans in six different countries — Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain — to understand how they feel about the most pressing issues facing Europe today and how they believe policymakers should tackle those challenges. Is the European Union up for the challenges facing Europe today? How should the EU and member states handle rising energy prices and the transition toward electric vehicles? Should there be a European army? This session will share toplines and key takeaways from the exclusive poll, with more to come during the full-day forum on Friday.

**7:15 – 7:30 p.m.      EDITORIAL INTERVIEW**

**7:30 – 7:50 p.m.      SPOTLIGHT DISCUSSION | Spain in Europe**

Since it joined the European Union 40 years ago, Spain has become an integral part of policymaking and power dynamics in Europe. What role do Spanish officials play in Brussels, and what's the interplay like between officials in the EU capital and those making key decisions here in Spain? This discussion will bring together

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Spanish officials based in Madrid, Barcelona and Brussels to understand how Spain makes its mark on European policymaking — and the ways Brussels' decisions trickle down in domestic politics here in Spain.

**7:50 – 8:45 p.m. Networking reception**

**8:30 – 10:30 p.m. VIP dinner (nearby location)**

## Day 2: Policy Panels and Interviews | Museo de la Ciencia CosmoCaixa

**9:00 – 9:40 a.m. Registration and welcome coffee**

**9:40 – 9:45 a.m. Welcome and opening remarks from POLITICO & beBartlet**

**9:45 – 9:50 a.m. Opening remarks from our partner**

**9:50 – 10:10 a.m. EDITORIAL INTERVIEW**

**10:10 – 10:45 a.m. PRESENTATION OF POLLING RESULTS AND PANEL DISCUSSION | Energy policy**

Europe is at a crossroads on energy policy. From its efforts to move away from Russian oil and gas after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine to the EU's plans to decarbonize its grid to the soaring prices for consumers, the energy landscape in Europe has shifted momentously in recent years. This session will unveil the energy policy results center on four core themes covered in the European Pulse Poll: energy security, decarbonization efforts, energy supply and energy prices.

**10:45 – 11:20 a.m. PRESENTATION OF POLLING RESULTS AND PANEL DISCUSSION | Mobility policy**

The way Europeans get around is changing rapidly, and more change is on the horizon. The rise of electric vehicles, EU-level efforts to phase out combustion engines, the early plans to introduce self-driving taxis in some European countries and the rise of movements pushing for national or EU-wide rail tickets are just a few of the developments transforming the mobility industry today. How do Europeans feel about these shifts, and what do they hope to see from European-level policymakers and politicians in their own national governments? This session will

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explore the mobility-related results of the European Pulse Poll and dig into the policy implications with insights from high-level practitioners.

**11:20 – 11:45 a.m. Coffee / networking break**

**11:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW with our partner**

**12:00 – 12:35 p.m. PRESENTATION OF POLLING RESULTS AND PANEL**

**DISCUSSION | Affordability & inequality**

From the rising cost of housing to soaring energy prices to broad-scale inflation, Europeans are paying more for core aspects of their daily lives — and in many cases, struggling to do so. In which areas are Europeans surveyed in the European Pulse Poll feeling the squeeze, and what do they want policymakers to do about it? This session will delve into the results of the poll on affordability, inequality and opportunity, and look at where Europeans expect the EU and national governments to step in and do more.

**12:35 – 12:50 p.m. EDITORIAL INTERVIEW**

**12:50 – 1:30 p.m. Networking lunch**

**1:30 – 2:05 p.m. PRESENTATION OF POLLING RESULTS AND PANEL**

**DISCUSSION | Defense and security policy**

A new administration in Washington has hastened a development already underway: Europe is shifting away from its reliance on the United States for its security guarantees and working to build its own military capabilities and defense industry. With shifting dynamics in longtime alliances, how do Europeans see the EU's relationship with global powers like the U.S., Russia and China — and do they agree with Europe's efforts to move toward strategic autonomy? This session will share insights from the European Pulse Poll's questions on defense and security policy and provide perspectives on what those results mean for decisionmakers in Brussels and national capitals.

**2:05 – 2:40 p.m. PRESENTATION OF POLLING RESULTS AND PANEL**

**DISCUSSION | Tech policy**

Artificial intelligence's rapid expansion into all areas of society and business has prompted a frantic effort from EU policymakers and regulators to not only keep up, but get ahead of the developments. At the same time, the bloc and its member states

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are reconsidering their approach to major international tech companies, mulling limits on social media for minors and working to balance regulation with innovation. How do European voters feel about the safety of their data, the ubiquity of social media (particularly for minors) and the promise and potential dangers of AI? Taking perspectives of policymakers and industry leaders into account, this session will explore those questions and unveil the tech results from the European Pulse Poll.

**2:40 – 2:55 p.m. EDITORIAL INTERVIEW**

**2:55 – 3:00 p.m. Closing remarks from POLITICO & beBartlet**