



## **TEPSA and Centre of International Relations organise Pre-Presidency Conference before the Slovenian Presidency begins**

*The June Conference will bring experts, policy-makers, civil society and the wider public together to discuss the priorities of the upcoming Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union*

LJUBLJANA, 15/06/2021: On 17-18 June, the Centre of International Relations (CIR), part of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana, and TEPSA will host policy-makers from the upcoming Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union to meet with key stakeholders and the wider public to discuss their priorities for the Slovenian Presidency for the second half of 2021.

Before every Council Presidency, the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) joins with its Member Institute in the relevant country to organise the Pre-Presidency Conference (PPC). PPCs have become a staple of the European political year ever since the first one, hosted to preview the Irish presidency of January-June 1975. Ahead of the conference, TEPSA will also present and discuss the recommendations for the Slovenian Presidency, which have been drafted by TEPSA researchers.

**TEPSA Secretary-General Jim Cloos**, until recently a senior official at the General Secretariat of the Council and looking back on a European career of 35 years, describes the value of Pre-Presidency Conferences as **“a perfect opportunity to bring together representatives of the TEPSA network and political decision-makers. This cross-fertilization is essential for a vibrant debate about Europe in the run-up to each Presidency. It allows our TEPSA members to make a difference”**.

For the Slovenian Pre-Presidency Conference, otherwise known as PPC Ljubljana, highlighted discussions will take place on the European Green Deal, digitalisation and cyber security, post-COVID recovery and the Next Generation EU package, the EU's role in the world and the concept of Strategic Autonomy, and more. The role of differentiated integration in the future of Europe will also be discussed, in the context of the Horizon 2020 funded 'InDivEU' project in which TEPSA takes part. **The current Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Dr. Anže Logar will give the opening remarks, and the State Secretary Mag. Gašper Dovžan will discuss the priorities of the Slovenian Presidency together with TEPSA researchers.**

CIR and TEPSA will host Slovenian officials, experts in various fields, national stakeholders, and the wider public to take part in the latest Pre-Presidency Conference and shape the future of Europe together.

The event will take place **online** on **17-18 June**.

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