PUBLIC LECTURE

100 days of the new European Commission of von der Leyen

Dr. Matthias Freise

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Venue: ELTE Faculty of Law (1053 Budapest, Egyetem tér 1-3.)
Faculty Room

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Biography

Dr. Matthias Freise is a tenured research associate at the department of political science at Münster University (Germany). Previously, he was the supervisor of the research group “European Civil Society and Multilevel Governance” at Münster University. His research interests include civil society theory, third sector research, European multilevel governance, and interest representation. He is co-editor of the series “European Civil Society” at Nomos Publishers. Recent publications include Modernizing Democracy: Associations and Associating in the 21st Century (New York: Springer 2014, edited together with Thorsten Hallmann) and Challenging the Welfare System and Forcing Policy Innovation? Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children in Sweden and Germany (together with Inga Narbutaité Aflaki in the Journal of Refugee Studies 2019). Since 2018, Dr. Freise is speaker of the research group “Civil Society” at the National Network for Civil Society, Berlin.

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Abstract

The election of Ursula von der Leyen as President of the EU Commission last summer came as a surprise to many, as she had not been the top candidate of the European People’s Party. She was a stopgap solution when European Parliament and European Council could not agree on a joint staff tableau. Nevertheless, she is a widely recognized politician with long experience in the European political decision-making process.

In his lecture, Dr. Matthias Freise portrays the former German Minister of Defense, takes stock of the first 100 days of von der Leyen in office and asks what the priorities of her Commission will be in the coming years. He also discusses the role of the European Commission in the EU political system and shows that the maximum consensus orientation of the European Union is a growing problem.