



Tackling the European Council – Raising Awareness for a Key Institution SUMMIT Kick-off Conference

Brussels | 28-29 January 2016

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The European Council takes centre stage within the EU's institutional architecture concerning all major decisions on enlargement, treaty reform or foreign policy. During the on-going Eurozone crisis management, it has even extended its leading position in day-to-day policy-making. The dominant characteristic of the European Council is its de-facto influence beyond the wording of treaty articles – and that we observe an intergovernmental institution with surprisingly supranational impact. However, this key institution is still under-researched and often marginalised in teaching activities. Moreover, the general public tends to know little about the work of this EU institution and how it is embedded in the EU's institutional framework.

Against this backdrop, the SUMMIT Kick-off Conference will gather leading scholars, high-level EU practitioners and up-and-coming young academics. By defining the state of the art and highlighting the need of dedicating research to a greater extent to the European Council, this initial conference represents the starting point for SUMMIT's activities, and seeks to set the debate regarding the relevance of the European Council among scholars in motion.

Participants will also have the opportunity to profit from a PADEMIA workshop (www.pademia.eu) on “Parliamentarism and the European Council”, which will be embedded into the SUMMIT conference.





Main topics discussed at the conference will be:

- History of the European Council and Eyewitnesses' Perspectives on the European Council
- Researching and Theorizing about the European Council
- Internal Dynamics of the European Council: Leadership and Consensus-Building
- Inter-institutional Relations:
 - The European Council and the European Commission
 - The European Council and the European Parliament (PADEMIA panel)
- National Parliamentary Control of Heads of State or Governments in the European Council (PADEMIA panel)
- The European Council's Role in Economic Governance
- The European Council's Role in the EU's External Action

The deadline for expressions of interest is **December 6th, 2015**. Please send in

- an **abstract** (max. 400 words) of the **paper** you would like to present at one of our panels, **or**
- a **motivation letter and your CV** if you strive for acting as a **rapporteur** or a **commentator** to a panel.

Funding for participants' travel expenses and accommodation is available to a limited amount.

Please send the respective documents to Linda Dieke, SUMMIT project manager:
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