IDEASLAB

2-3 March 2026, The Square

Mont des Arts, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Programme day 1 (subject to change)

Time	Session
08:45-09:15	✏️ Morning coffee and registration
09:15-09:30	Plenary 🏛️ **Kick off**
09:30-10:30	Plenary 🏛️ **Freedom of expression – a modern 'leviathan'?**
10:30-10:45	☕ Coffee break and networking
10:45-12:15	Plenary 🏛️ **What future for Europe's security architecture?**
12:15-13:45	🍽️ Networking lunch

13.45 – 15.00

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
The new Apply AI Strategy – between sovereignty and competitiveness
🕐 13:45-15:00 📍 Room 204

ENERGY AND CLIMATE
How international carbon credits could help the EU to regain climate leadership
🕐 13:45-15:00 📍 Room 202

EU ENLARGEMENT
Investing in security: how to strengthen the EU's future members
🕐 13:45-15:00 📍 Room 214

HEALTH
Shaping the new Global Health Resilience Initiative
🕐 13:45-15:00 📍 Room 211

DEMOCRACY
Revamping the European Citizens' Initiative: bringing DEI in from the cold
🕐 13:45-15:00 📍 Room 201B

EU BUDGET
Lost in negotiations: a new MFF without common vision?
🕐 13:45-15:00 📍 Room 212

GLOBAL GATEWAY
Global Gateway: critical raw materials, connectivity and Europe's strategic choices
🕐 13:45-15:00 📍 Room 206

MIGRATION
Rethinking return: safe third countries, return hubs and rights-based alternatives
🕐 13:45-15:00 📍 Room 201A

15.00 – 15.15

🚶 Session transfer

15.15 – 16.30

UKRAINE
From mines to markets: pathways to Ukraine's recovery
🕐 15:15-16:30 📍 Room 202

QUANTUM
The EU transition to quantum safe: an entangled discussion
🕐 15:15-16:30 📍 Room 201B

FUTURE OF WORK
Brain capital and the future of work: rethinking labour markets for the AI age
🕐 15:15-16:30 📍 Room 206

DIGITAL REGULATION
EU digital regulation: too much of a good thing?
🕐 15:15-16:30 📍 Room 211

EU INSTITUTIONS
The second von der Leyen Commission: how is the EU executive faring?
🕐 15:15-16:30 📍 Room 201A

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
How can Europe prepare for the autonomous AI agent economy?
🕐 15:15-16:30 📍 Room 204

Time	Session
16.30 – 17.00	☕ Coffee break and networking
17.00 – 18.30	Plenary 🏛️ **Project 2028: completing the Single Market**
18.30 – 18.45	☕ Coffee break
18.45 – 19.30	🎤 **Fireside chat with US Ambassador to the EU + Q&A**
19.30 – 21.00	🍸 Cocktail Reception

Programme day 2 (subject to change)

09.00 - 09.30

✏️ Morning coffee and registration

09.30 - 10.45

Plenary 🪴 **Rewriting the future of industrial strategy**

10.45 - 11.15

☕ Coffee break and networking

11:15-12:30

FINANCE	FOREIGN POLICY	ENERGY AND CLIMATE	RULE OF LAW	DIGITAL	GOVERNANCE	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	QUANTUM	TRADE
From rules to strategy: tax in a fragmented world	The EU in Gaza: partner or bystander?	How can the EU deliver clean, reliable and affordable energy?	An EU accountability scoreboard to uphold the rule of law, political integrity and transparency	The EU International Digital Strategy: what code for tech diplomacy?	The next Horizon Europe: ideas for a more agile and effective governance	Ancient tongues, modern voices: AI for language and biocultural heritage	How to unlock European leadership in the quantum computing domain?	From signature to standstill: what future for the EU-Mercosur agreement?
🕐 11:15-12:30 📍 Room 202	🕐 11:15-12:30 📍 Room 211	🕐 11:15-12:30 📍 Room 213	🕐 11:15-12:30 📍 Room 201A	🕐 11:15-12:30 📍 Room 214	🕐 11:15-12:30 📍 Room 212	🕐 11:15-12:30 📍 Room 201B	🕐 11:15-12:30 📍 Room 204	🕐 11:15 - 12:30 📍 Room 206

12.30 - 13.30

🍽️ Networking lunch

13.30 - 14.45

Plenary 🪴 **Making Europe a leader in the next era of scientific discovery**

14.45 - 15.00

🪴 **Wrap-up**

15.00 - 17.00

BY INVITATION ONLY	BY INVITATION ONLY	BY INVITATION ONLY	BY INVITATION ONLY	BY INVITATION ONLY	BY INVITATION ONLY	BY INVITATION ONLY	OPEN SESSION
CEPS advisory forum on the EU's role in global health	Competition or competitiveness? The future of antitrust in an increasingly complex economy	Between two giants: Europe's strategy for double de-risking	Breaking bottlenecks in the Digital Single Market	The EU Return Regulation reform and international human rights obligations	The European network for Technology Resilience and Sovereignty: tackling Europe's digital dependencies	From frontlines to forums – amplifying climate voices that matter	The future of Europe in the making: Young European Ambassadors on EU enlargement
🕐 15:00-17:00 📍 Room 212	🕐 15:00-17:00 📍 Room 202	🕐 15:00-17:00 📍 Room 211	🕐 15:00-17:00 📍 Room 201A	🕐 15:00-17:00 📍 Room 204	🕐 15:00-17:00 📍 Room 206	🕐 15:00-17:00 📍 Room 214	🕐 15:00 - 17:00 📍 Room 213