

FEPS celebrates its annual General Assembly and welcomes new members



The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) held its annual General Assembly on 20 June. A central debate took place to assess the outcome of the European elections and to define the FEPS strategy to be translated into the next Annual Framework Programme.

In the aftermath of the European Elections where the Progressive Camp has suffered a relative set-back in the polls against the conservative Europe and the extreme right politics, it was inevitable that the central question of the debate was "WHY?" Why did the Progressives fail to rally enough grass-roots turnout to come out winning in the polls? Why do the progressives suffer a steady decline in getting the youth to support a more progressive Europe in the polls?

It was important that President Rodrigues pointed at the next Annual Framework Programme works to define the FEPS strategy to address these fundamental issues along with several others. It was even more, if not equally important that the President carefully underlined that FEPS is not "merely" a discussion and research platform but a "platform of action" in support for peace, equality, freedoms, solidarity, prosperity and justice in a Europe that is confident and strong.

Progressive Thought Institute (TDE) is an observer member in FEPS and participated in the General Assembly at the Board level as represented by Nebil İLSEVEN and İskender ÖZTURANLI. It was especially encouraging and refreshing to hear President Maria Joao RODRIGUES and Vice President Uwe OPTENHOGEL, along with some other members of the GA, come out clearly

and loudly and state a) that the Foundation must adopt more assertive action programmes to resist the shift to the Right; and b) bring forth a "change of heart" in the European political landscape; c) that common people feel neglected and desperate in the face of rising threats of war, flux of irregular migration, inflation, unemployment, climate issues; and, d) that the Progressives in Europe must consider seriously changes their policy stands on some issues; and, last but not the least, be more forthcoming to form new political alliances with other social groups in the society.

Progressive Thought Institute understands and supports these statements at the GA and would be following closely the initiatives that would be taken by the Foundation and its members along these line and see how we, as PTI, would contribute these efforts and action programmes to be developed along the way.

The Foundation announced the inclusion of two new observer members:

- **Fondazione Demo:** This Italian foundation aims to steer innovation towards a fairer future for both people and the planet.
- **Eteron—Institute for Research and Social Change:** A non-profit Greek organisation dedicated to generating knowledge, empowering citizens, and fostering partnerships. Eteron works to strengthen arguments, ideas, individuals, and organisations to ensure that people's actual needs are prioritised in public discourse.

Additionally, it was announced that **Fundação Mário Soares e Maria Barroso** has transitioned from Observer to Full Member.

Finally, in accordance with the rotation principle outlined in FEPS internal regulations, there was a change in the Bureau members. Following a vote by the General Assembly, the Greek foundation DIKTIO replaces the Dutch foundation Max van der Stoel (FMS) in the Bureau.