

## PromethEUs Conference

### Making the EU's 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework Work for Southern Europe

Madrid, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025, 12:00 – 13:30 CET  
Real Instituto Elcano (Príncipe de Vergara 51)

#### EVENT DESCRIPTION

The PromethEUs network organises a private event to discuss the European Commission's proposal for the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and its implications for Southern Europe. The meeting will bring together representatives from the public administration, academia, industry associations, and think tanks from Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Greece.

The event takes place in the context of the joint PromethEUs position paper on the MFF, with a particular focus on how the proposal affects Southern European countries. Discussions will address key components such as budget simplification, the European Competitiveness Fund, digital leadership, and the Horizon Europe programme.

The meeting aims to exchange findings, gather feedback from Spanish stakeholders, and identify early signals that may inform the final report to be presented in Brussels in November. Inputs shared by participants will be listened to carefully and, on an anonymous basis, may be used to support the analysis of the PromethEUs paper. The goal is to provide a comprehensive view of how the MFF affects the region, reflecting both research and stakeholder perspectives.

PromethEUs brings together the Institute for Competitiveness, I-Com (Italy), Elcano Royal Institute (Spain), the Institute of Public Policy, IPP (Portugal), and the Laboratory of Industrial and Energy Economics, LIEE (Greece). This private event is specifically led by the Elcano Royal Institute.

#### PROSPECTIVE SPEAKERS AND ATTENDEES

Elcano Royal Institute organises the private event and will send invitations. Each think tank will propose potential speakers and attendees.

The first session will feature the presentation of the PromethEUs joint position paper chapters by the network members. The second session will open the floor for a discussion with academics, government officials, and representatives from industry associations from the four Southern European countries.

Participation is limited to just over 30 attendees to ensure a participatory discussion. The meeting will be held under Chatham House rules.

In partnership with:

## AGENDA

### 12:00 OPENING REMARKS

- **José Juan RUIZ**, President, Elcano Royal Institute

### 12:10 PROMETHEUS POSITION PAPER PRESENTATION

- **Steffen HOERNIG**, Professor, Nova School of Business and Economics, IPP-Lisbon
- **Stefano DA EMPOLI**, President, I-Com Institute for Competitiveness
- **Raquel JORGE**, Non-Resident Fellow, Elcano Royal Institute
- **Aggelos TSAKANIKAS**, Professor, Director of LIEE, National Technical University of Athens

#### Key issues to be discussed

**IPP, Institute of Public Policy** - Implementation lessons from MFF 2021–2027 and recommendations for 2028–2034

**Elcano Royal Institute** - The European Competitiveness Fund: rationale, scope, and adequacy of resources

**I-Com, Institute for Competitiveness** - Europe seeking Digital Leadership

**The Laboratory of Industrial and Energy Economics (LIEE)** - Horizon Europe and R&I policy for digitalisation in Southern Europe

### 12:40 PANEL DISCUSSION

- **Dimitris LIAKOS**, Former Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister, Greece
- **Mercedes CABALLERO**, Secretary General for European Funds, Ministry of Finance, Spain
- **Valentina MELICIANI**, Director, Luiss Research Centre for European Analysis and Policy, LUISS University
- **Paulo TRIGO PEREIRA**, Professor, ISEG, Ex-Vice-President of the Budget Commission of the Portuguese Parliament

### 13:10 Q&A SESSION

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