

PRESS RELEASE

Enlargement Pulse Colloquium

The **College of Europe** and the **CSF Foundation** are proud to launch the “Enlargement Pulse Colloquium” to reassess the future of EU Enlargement

Tirana, Albania – 21 November 2025

College of Europe Campus in Tirana, Godina Liria Building | 9:00–13:00

The Colloquium offers an open platform for discussing the future of EU enlargement and highlighting its continuing value. With the aim of truly “taking the pulse” of ongoing enlargement processes in various national contexts, the Colloquium will distinctively focus on the societal and human dimensions of EU enlargement, reaffirming the centrality of human development and democratic civic engagement aspects of the European project. Enlargement Pulse Colloquium panels will address the continuing importance of “winning the hearts and minds” of European citizens around the vision of a stronger and more united Europe as a necessary condition for the EU to truly assert itself as a strategic actor in its own right.

The Colloquium is intended to become a series, taking place on an annual basis on the premises of the College of Europe Tirana Campus.

The event will be officially opened by the **Rector of College of Europe, Prof. Federica Mogherini** and by the **Director of the CSF Foundation, Dr. Nicolò Russo Perez**, and will feature a special Keynote address by **Elisa Spiropali, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania**.

Furthermore, this event will be the occasion for the **official signing** of the **Memorandum of Understanding between College of Europe and Fondazione CSF** which provides that FCSF will support a series of scholarships for students who will attend the College of Europe.

“Thanks to the collaboration with Federica Mogherini, Rector of the College of Europe (College) and member of the Scientific Committee of our Foundation”, said Nicolò Russo Perez, Director of FCSF, “it was decided to institutionalize the relationship between the FCSF and the College through this important agreement, on the basis of which FCSF will support two scholarships for participants selected by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who will receive an additional contribution from FCSF to attend the College, as well as a scholarship to attend courses at the College's new campus in Tirana. This scholarship,

worth €10,000, will be named after Alessandro Rotta, a researcher and scholarship holder at the *Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo* in the European Foreign and Security Policy Studies program, who passed away prematurely in 2024 after devoting a lifetime of study and work to the Balkans. In addition to the scholarships, a prize for a degree thesis has been established, as well as opportunities to strengthen collaboration between the FCSF and its members and the College through joint training activities, seminars/lectures at the College's various locations."

"One of the hallmarks of the College of Europe", said **Rector Federica Mogherini**, "is that it enables its students not only to study Europe, but also to live Europe. To achieve this, the College places a strong emphasis on building partnerships with organizations across the continent. This is a process where our curriculum is enriched through extracurricular activities, such as the "Enlargement Pulse Colloquium – a timely response to Albania's EU accession efforts. However, the formalization of the partnership with the CSF Foundation is something that we welcome on more than one level.

I am particularly pleased of the CSF Foundation's commitment to support our students.

This means, two scholarships per academic year of the amount of €5,000 each, for the top-ranked admitted Italian candidates for the Bruges and the Natolin campus of the College; and one scholarship per academic year of the amount of €10,000 awarded to a candidate admitted to the Tirana campus. This scholarship is dedicated and named after Alessandro Rotta, died prematurely in 2024, who dedicated his academic career to the study of the Balkans.

This showcases a shared understanding between the College and the Foundation: European integration is a two-sided process – just as candidates must understand the Union better, the Union must also make an effort to understand them, something the College is dedicated to contributing to.

Additionally, we welcome the Foundation's interest in future collaboration on similar events, as well as the master's thesis award."

Turin (Italy) – Tirana (Albania), 20 November 2025

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