

## INVITATION

### **“The EU and Human Rights – Eamon Gilmore and Michael O’Flaherty in Conversation”, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7 pm, Haus der EU**

The European Union is a key actor in the field of human rights, setting global standards for policy-making and implementation. Yet, the EU faces a variety of human rights-related challenges both internally and externally, be it in terms of asylum law, the freedom of speech or social, cultural and economic rights. How are these and other issues connected to changes in the political landscape, and how can we address them in order to strengthen human rights in Europe, in the European Neighbourhood, and elsewhere?

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, **Eamon Gilmore**, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, and **Michael O’Flaherty**, Director of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, will discuss **“The EU and Human Rights”**. Following the talk, the experts will take questions and comments from the audience.

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs cordially invite you to join them at **Haus der EU**, Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Vienna, **on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, 7 pm**. The event is being supported by the European Parliament and the European Commission. A drinks reception will provide the opportunity for informal exchanges after the panel discussion.

**We look forward to seeing you at this high-level event!**

Please register at [bim.office@univie.ac.at](mailto:bim.office@univie.ac.at).

Please find the agenda attached. The talk and the discussion will be held in English.

## AGENDA

### 7 pm: Welcome addresses

Patricia MUSSI-MAILER, Administrative Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights

Gerhard DOUJAK, Director for Human Rights and Minority Issues, Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

Thomas WEBER, PR Officer, European Parliament

### 7.05 pm: Panel discussion

Eamon GILMORE, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights

Michael O'FLAHERTY, Director, European Union Fundamental Rights Agency

Chair: Joanna BOSTOCK, Editor Current Affairs, Radio FM4, Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (tbc)

### 7.30 pm: Discussion

### 8 pm: Reception



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**EAMON GILMORE** has been the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights since March 2019, and the EU Special Envoy for the Columbian Peace Process since October 2015. Eamon was Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (2011– 2014) and Leader of the Irish Labour Party (2007– 2014).

During this time, he also led Ireland's successful Presidency of the European Union, was President of the EU's General Affairs Council and Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE. Since his resignation as leader of the Labour Party in 2014, Eamon has been actively involved with the EU on its external work.

Gilmore has been honored with awards for his leading role in the promotion of human rights. In 2015, he was named one of the 100 leading Global Thinkers by „Foreign Policy“ for his role in Ireland's Marriage Equality Referendum.



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**MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY** is Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. Previously, Michael O'Flaherty was Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He has served as Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Member of the UN Human Rights Committee and head of a number of UN Human Rights Field Operations.

O'Flaherty has been a member of the UK Foreign Office's advisory bodies on freedom of expression and the prevention of torture and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs' human rights advisory committee.