

SPEAKER BRIEFING – Chair’s briefing for Prof Dominic Wring:

Europe Votes: Party Campaigning in EEC/EU Parliamentary Elections 1979-2019

Date: Thursday 1 February 2024
Location: Room C, 1 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2JR
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Event Overview

A panel event examining the evolution of European election campaigns between 1979-2019, which is the subject of a research project conducted by the European Election Monitoring Centre (EEMC). We will hear from two members of the Centre about the project as well as two current politicians who have served in both the European Parliament and UK Parliament across the forty-year period.

The event marks the release of a new book, *Europe Votes: Party Campaigning in EEC/EU Parliamentary Elections 1979-2019*, which provides a retrospective evaluation of how European election campaigns have evolved in that time. The collection focuses on nine member states over the forty years since the public first elected their Members of the Brussels/Strasbourg Parliament. It is published by the EEMC and Loughborough University’s Centre for Research in Communication and Culture (CRCC).

Speaker biographies

The Rt. Hon. Baroness Joyce Quin of Gateshead



A Europhile, Baroness Joyce Quin served as a Member of the European Parliament for Tyne South and Wear and Tyne and Wear successively from 1979 to 1989. During her time as an MEP, she served as Labour spokesperson on Fisheries from 1979 to 1984. She was a member of the Agriculture, Women's Rights, Regional and Economic Affairs Committee. In 1979, she tabled the resolution to set up a Register of Members' Interests which was eventually accepted by the European Parliament.

She entered the House of Commons in the 1987 election as Member of Parliament for Gateshead East and held several roles in opposition. After boundary changes for the 1997 general election, she represented the new Gateshead East and Washington West constituency. In government she served as prisons minister, Minister for Europe, and as Minister of State for Agriculture. She stepped down from the House of Commons at the 2005 election and was appointed to the House of Lords in 2006.

Alyn Smith MP



Alyn has been the SNP MP for Stirling since December 2019. Before entering the House of Commons, he was elected to the European Parliament in 2004 and re-elected for the SNP in 2009, 2014 and 2019. In his first two terms in the European Parliament, Mr Smith served as a full member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI). This resulted in him winning the Scottish Farmer Magazine award for Outstanding Contribution to Scottish Agriculture in 2009. After the 2019 European Parliament elections Mr Smith became president of the European Free Alliance group and, as a result, first vice-president of the Greens/EFA Group.

Mr Smith is a fervent Europhile. Having been elected to the House of Commons in December 2019, he said in his maiden speech that Scotland was not “leaving the European Union; we are being dragged out against our will” and that he stood for his seat “to try to stop Brexit”. He has previously held the role of SNP foreign affairs spokesperson and is now its Europe and EU Accession Spokesperson.

Professor Edoardo Novelli



Edoardo Novelli is full Professor in Political Communication and Media Sociology at Roma Tre University. His research interests focus on the formats and languages of propaganda, the audio-visual and iconographic dimension of political-electoral communication, and the transformation of political and media environments. On these issues, he has coordinated national and international research projects funded by the European Community and the European Parliament, written television programs, and curated exhibitions. Since 2012 he has been responsible for the Archive of Italian Political Commercials (www.archivispotpolitici.it), the leading free online archive of TV advertisements, posters and social media contents. He is the principal investigator of the Jean Monnet project - European Election Monitoring Network 20-23, an international research programme for the archiving and monitoring of European election campaigns. He is member of the editorial board of the Journal.