



EUROPE IN THE WORLD
Balancing Values, Geopolitics and Geoeconomics
In a Fragmenting World.

WHAT ROLE FOR EUROPE?

A Conversation with Sir Michael Leigh and Ambassador Dr. Len Ishmael

Venue: The Press Club, Froissartstraat 95, 1000 Brussels

Date: Thursday June 6th 16:00-18:30

Speaker: Sir Michael Leigh Academic Director Johns Hopkins University SAIS Bologna

Host: Ambassador Dr. Len Ishmael Head Expert Groups & Global Affairs BDA

PROGRAMME

16:00 Welcome & Introduction of Speaker: Dr. Len Ishmael

16:05 Conversation with Sir Michael Leigh

17:00 – 18:15 Open Discussion

Sir Michael Leigh is the academic director of the MA programs in European public policy and global risk at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy (SAIS-Europe). He is a distinguished visiting fellow at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States. Leigh has written and lectured on the future of Europe, Brexit, energy, enlargement, Turkey, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and neighbourhood policy. He has facilitated simulated negotiation and scenario-building exercises for Bruegel and SAIS-Europe. Leigh has been a guest lecturer at the Naval War College, Dartmouth College, Brigham Young University, Université Catholique de Louvain, the London School of Economics, and the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. Leigh's current roles follow over thirty years in EU institutions, including as a cabinet member for several Commissioners and as director in the task force for the EU accession negotiations. He became director-general for enlargement at the European Commission in 2006, after three years as external relations deputy director-general, overseeing European Neighbourhood Policy, relations with Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Mediterranean countries. Earlier, Leigh was the chief negotiator with the Czech Republic and other candidate countries. He also worked on the

development of the single market and the common fisheries policy. Leigh began his career as a lecturer in international relations at the University of Sussex and assistant professor of international relations at SAIS Bologna. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University and a PhD in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Ambassador Dr. Len Ishmael is the Global Affairs Advisor of the Brussels Diplomatic Academy and Head of the Expert Groups. She is a visiting Professor of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Mohammed 6 University (Morocco) affiliated with the MSc Program and the Joint HEC Paris/ Public Policy School Executive Program. She is a Senior Fellow and Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the German Marshall Fund of the United States of America and a Senior Fellow of the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS). She is the former Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States to the Kingdom of Belgium and European Union, and past President of the 79-member African, Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) Committee of Ambassadors in Brussels and Commissioner on the UN/Lancet Covid-19 Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. She is a former Director & Head of the Regional Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean; Director General of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Alternate Governor of the World Bank and Director for the Foundation Leadership for Environment & Development (New York) of the Rockefeller Foundation. She is The Fletcher School Tufts University GMAP Endowment Fellow and member of The Fletcher School GMAP Advisory Council. Ambassador Ishmael is an international speaker on relations between the West and the Global South and the author of several publications on the Global South, Geopolitics, Africa-EU relations, China, and the Trans-Atlantic relationship. Her most recent book as editor and co-author entitled: *Aftermath of War in Ukraine, the West vs the Global South?* was published by the PCNS in 2023.