



The European Council as constitutional architect and crisis manager

‘Brexit’ as case study of a summit’s course

Roundtable

Vilnius University | April 26th, 2016 | 16:45

Location:

Chair: **Prof. Ramūnas Vilpišauskas**, Vilnius University

Presentation: **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels**, University of Cologne

Commentary: **Renaldas Vaisbrodas**, Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the President
of Lithuania

Discussant: **students**

Studying the European Council is interesting because of both its importance in the EU system and the variety of its tasks. The Heads of State or Government as ‘constitutional architects’ are responsible for system-making in pursuit of ‘deepening and widening’ as well as for policymaking in core areas of economic governance, external action and the area of freedom, security and justice. Besides pursuing its regular activities, the European Council has also on several occasions acted as crisis manager. Via the European Council, the EU’s national leaders show a high degree of personal commitment to tackling turbulences through coordinated activities.

The case of the United Kingdom (UK) possibly leaving the EU represents a crisis for the Union’s current system and common action. A referendum of the British citizens in June 2016 will decide on the country’s stay or exit.

Participants of the roundtable are welcome to discuss how the ‘Brexit summit’ of the European Council in February 2016 handled this development, and whether it was representative for the institutions functions in general.

SUMMIT is a Jean Monnet project which aims to contribute to the promotion of European Union studies by providing the latest research-based knowledge about the European Council. The idea of the SUMMIT roundtable series is to enable a debate with academics, practitioners and the general public on a European Council topic in selected European cities.

