



Kindly Invite You to a Virtual Roundtable on

The Sofagate Incident: Diplomatic, Legal, Political and Protocol Dimensions

Thursday 6 May 2021 | 11:00 - 13:00 CEST

On 7 April 2021 Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan received the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, for a high-level meeting in Ankara. However, in the room in which the meeting was to take place, there were only two chairs prepared for the three leaders. While Mr Michel seated himself in the chair beside the Turkish President, Ms von der Leyen was offered a seat on a sofa across from the Turkish Foreign Minister. The incident gave rise to considerable criticism and prompted a lively session in the European Parliament on Monday, 26 April. The present webinar brings together four experts to discuss the diplomatic, legal, political and protocol dimensions of the incident.

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Mr Jacques de Baenst



Dr Sanderijn Duquet



Dr Mauro Gatti



Dr Steven Van Hecke

Panelists:

Mr Jacques de Baenst, Visiting Professor, College of Europe; Honorary Director General of the European Commission, Ambassador (ret.) of H.M. The King of Belgium; Former Director of the Protocol Service of the European Commission

Dr Sanderijn Duquet, Diplomatic Advisor of the Belgian State Secretary for Asylum and Migration, previously Belgian Permanent Representation to NATO

Dr Mauro Gatti, Assistant Professor in EU Law at the University of Bologna, previously University of Luxembourg and The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Dr Steven Van Hecke, Associate Professor in Comparative and EU Politics, KU Leuven

Moderator:

Prof Dr Jan Wouters, Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam*, Director Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven



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