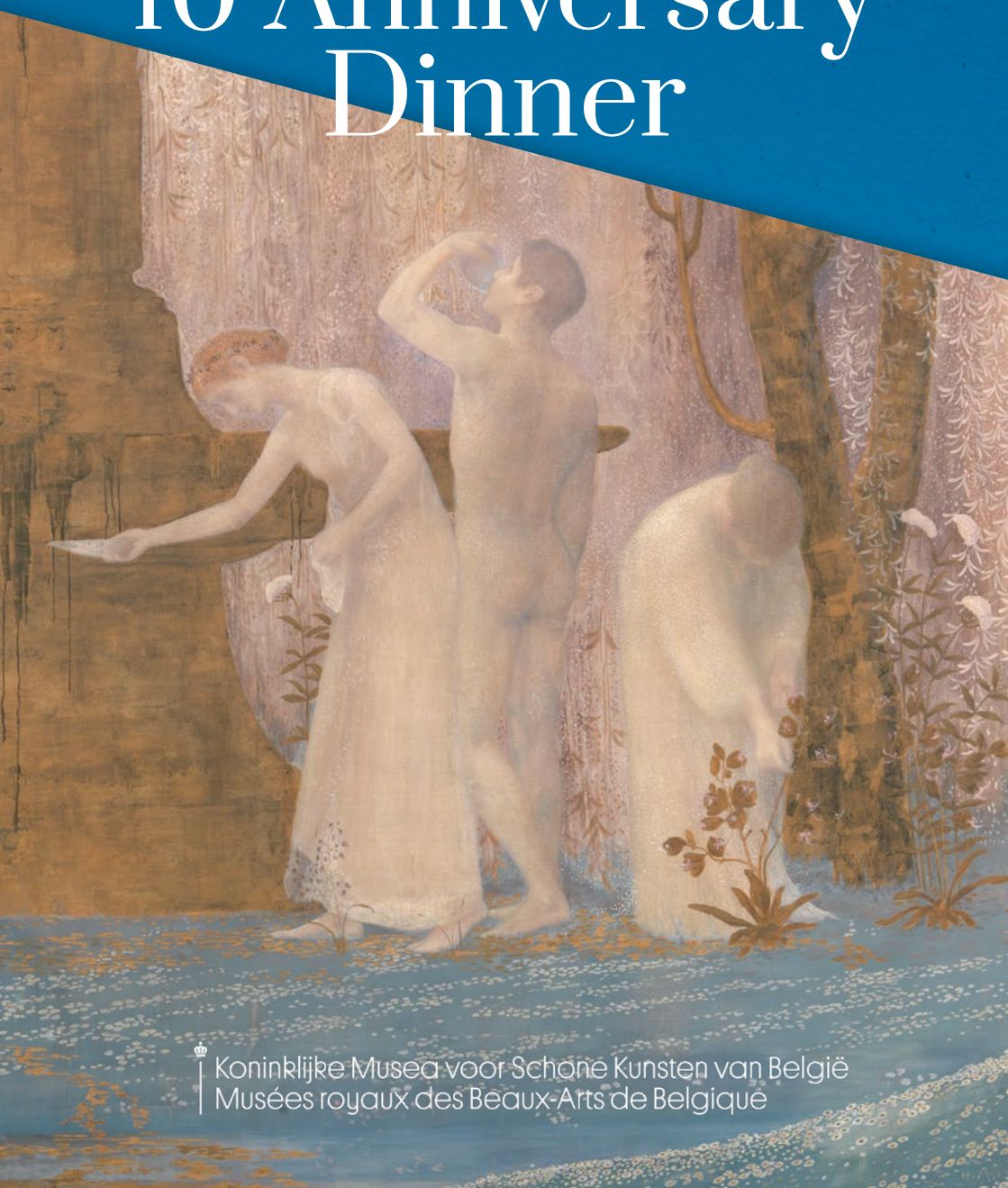




New
Direction

10th Anniversary Dinner



Koninklijke Musea voor Schone Kunsten van België
Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique



New
Direction

Established by
Margaret Thatcher,
Europe's leading
Conservative political
think tank & publisher
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Rome and Warsaw.

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Tomasz POREBA

It was my great honour to host New Direction's Tenth Anniversary Dinner in Brussels on the 25th June 2019.

2019 marks a decade of ground-breaking research, in which the Foundation has shaped not only the political discussion in Europe but also the direction of the conservative movement around the world. We have produced more than two hundred reports and policy briefs, and hosted over a hundred conferences and seminars - and we have been honoured to have politicians, government ministers, advisers, academics, business leaders and journalists: participate and contribute.

New Direction has established academic networks across Europe from London to Warsaw as well as research partnerships throughout across the globe, from: Washington to Sydney; Buenos Aires to Lagos.

At the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, we paid tribute to those that have made it possible:

First: Margaret Thatcher, who established New Direction in 2009 as the intellectual hub of European Conservatism. Who as Prime Minister, was a steadfast champion for liberty, freedom and democracy.

Second: my colleague and friend Geoffrey Van Orden, who Margaret Thatcher entrusted to lead the Foundation and create a European Conservative & Reformist movement. He led New Direction for its first five years and his drive, ingenuity and commitment to Conservatism, ensured New Direction was built to last.

Then there are my fellow board members, with whom the Foundation's work would not be possible: Amjad Bashir (UK); Angel Dzhambazki (Bulgaria); Rafaele Fitto (Italy); Daniel Hannan (UK); Karol Karski (Poland); Ruža Tomašić (Croatia); Valdemar Tomaševski (Lithuania); Jan Zahradil (Czech Republic); and Roberts

Zile (Latvia).

And, of course, none of our work would be possible without the effective leadership and excellent management by the Foundation's Executive Director, Naweed Khan.

And finally, our supporters for their continuous backing and friendship.

In the years to come, we will work tirelessly to put forward ideas for European reform rooted in individual freedom and liberty and make the positive case for conservative values.

On behalf of all at New Direction, thank you!

Tomasz Poreba MEP
New Direction President

GUEST SPEAKER



Sir Roger SCRUTON

Roger Scruton was born 27th February 1944 in Buslingthorpe, Lincolnshire in England to working class parents. He was educated at the prestigious Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (1954-61) famously being expelled from the school shortly after winning a scholarship to Cambridge University. He read philosophy ("moral sciences") at Jesus College from 1962 receiving a BA in 1965 and gaining his MA in 1967. He was awarded his PhD in 1972 for a thesis on aesthetics – a topic which would go on to be a long-standing philosophical concern. He became a research fellow at Peterhouse, Cambridge in 1969 and joined Birkbeck College London in 1971 where he taught philosophy until 1992 first as a lecturer, then as a reader and finally as professor of aesthetics. Scruton went on to study law during the 1970s and was called to the bar in 1978 though he never practised.

During the 1980s Scruton published extensively, particularly focused on attempting to shift political conservatism away from economic issues and towards moral ones (see particularly *The Meaning of Conservatism* from 1980). Scruton was also heavily involved in supporting Communist dissidents in Eastern European countries under USSR rule, helping to establish underground education networks among students and political activists. After leaving Birkbeck in the 1990s Scruton returned to academia during the 2000s. From 2005-2009 he was research professor at the Institute for the Psychological Sciences in Arlington, Virginia, and from 2009 held a visiting scholarship at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. In 2010 he was visiting professor at Oxford teaching graduate courses in aesthetics and is also research professor at Buckingham University. In 2010 he delivered the Gifford Lecture at the University of St Andrews under the title "The Face of God."

Throughout his career Scruton has focused primarily on aesthetics, conservative politics and political culture seeing all three as closely interlinked. Aesthetics, Scruton argues, is about the appreciation of something for its own sake which closely ties into his conservatism. Scruton identifies his political awakening upon witnessing the radical student protests of 1968 in France realising that "I wanted to conserve things rather than pull them down" (*The Guardian* 28th October 2000). This conservatism has led Scruton to argue, alongside TS Eliot, that true originality is only conceivable within a tradition and within the fractured subjectivity of postmodernity the conservative project acquires new and vital importance.

Over the course of his career Scruton has written over 40 books including *How to Be a Conservative* (2014), *Immigration, Multiculturalism and the Need to Defend the Nation State* (2006) and *The Meaning Of Conservatism* (1980).





Alice. Poussin dans son Quatuor

The Quartet performing before you tonight is made up of a young and talented group of Belgian, French and Hungarian instrumentalists who met at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles (Koninklijke Conservatorium). The musicians are Vilmos Csikos (first violin) Cléo Dahan (second violin) Romain Felis (viola) and Alice Poussin (cello).

Vilmos CSIKOS

Vilmos Csikos was born in Budapest and has taken part in a number of international competitions. In October 2015, he won first prize at the “Young Belgian Talent” contest and in May 2017, and won first prize at the Leonid Kogan International Competition for Young Violinists. He has held a soloist position with the Young Soloists Orchestra Ensemble of Belgium, the Aria Chamber Orchestra, the orchestra of the LISZT Weimar School of Music, the Brussels Sinfonietta and the Euregio Jeugdorkest.

Cléo DAHAN

Cléo Dahan, the second violin, was born in France, where she studied under renowned musicians such as, Jean-Jacques Kantorow, Jan Talich, Gil Apap, the Ysaÿe Quartet and the Modigliani Quartet. In 2016, she joined the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris. There, she won the award of harmony and counterpoint. She led le Pupitre des Seconds Violons de l'Orchestre de Chambre de Champagne-Ardenne from 2013 to 2017 and participated in the quartet and philharmonic orchestra at the Reims Flâneries Musicales festival.

Romain FELIS

Romain Felis was born in Belgium. After earning a bachelors in musicology with distinction, he entered the Koninklijke Conservatorium of Brussels. Noticed by Zofia Wislocka, he turned to conducting, leading l'Orchestre d'Harmonie de l'ULB for five years. As a violist and chamber musician, he studied with Maté Scúzcs (solo viola of the Berliner Philharmoniker), Werner Dickel and Tony Nys (Malibran Quartet). Alongside his practice with the quartet, Romain Felis participated in orchestral projects, notably under the baton of Roger Norrington.

Alice POUSSIN

Alice Poussin was born in France and began playing the cello at the early age of 5, she is soon noticed and mentored by Bernard Matern, a renowned French violinist. She won a prize of excellence at the Conservatoire de Rouen in 2016. Alice is regularly invited to the Rouen Opera Orchestra where she played, among others, under the direction of Anthony Hermus, Kaspar Zehinder and Oswald Sallaberger. In 2018, she was invited by Oscar Barahona to play as a soloist with Alexandre Vay's philharmonic orchestra.

















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PROGRAMME INCLUDED

Speeches by:

Tomasz Poręba MEP, *President of New Direction*

Prof. Ryszard Legutko MEP, *Co-Chairman of ECR Group*

Raffaele Fitto MEP, *Co-Chairman of ECR Group*

Daniel Hannan MEP, *Vice-President of New Direction*

Naweed Khan, *Executive Director of New Direction*

and

Geoffrey Van Orden MEP, *Founding President of New Direction*

A keynote address by:

Sir Roger Scruton

A classical performance by musicians from
the Conservatoire Royale de Bruxelles:

Alice Poussin dans son Quatuor

Introduced by:

Benjamin Pogorel

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As the leading authority on European Reform, our supporters know that their contribution is helping to shape the global conversation on the issues that matter.

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