



## **POLICY DEBATE | The Rising Power of BRICS: Implications for the European Union**

The Vocal Europe Team with the support of the EPP Group is delighted to invite you to a Policy Debate with the aim to discuss the dynamic relationship between the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and the European Union. The event, titled "BRICS: Threat, Competition, or Opportunity for the EU?" aims to delve into the multifaceted aspects of this relationship and the potential challenges and opportunities it presents.

The BRICS countries collectively represent a considerable share of the world's population, economy, and political influence. Their growing prominence in international affairs raises questions about the implications for the European Union in terms of trade, security, and diplomacy.

The last BRICS Summit has accepted 6 new Members of the Club from 2024 1<sup>st</sup> of January: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Some other countries have expressed their interest like Algeria, Bolivia, Indonesia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Comoros, Gabon, and Kazakhstan

These new additions to the BRICS alliance will undoubtedly further reshape the global landscape, as they bring diverse perspectives and resources to the table. With a broader and more inclusive membership, the BRICS nations are poised to exert even greater influence on global affairs, potentially altering the dynamics of their interactions with the European Union and the rest of the world. As these countries continue to collaborate and define their common goals, it will be essential for the EU to closely monitor the evolving relationships and partnerships that emerge within this expanded coalition.

We have assembled a distinguished panel of speakers to provide insights and perspectives on this crucial geopolitical topic. We would be delighted if you were to accept this invitation and look forward to hearing from you shortly. We remain at your disposal for any further information. Please confirm your attendance by sending an e-mail to [daniel.marco4010@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.marco4010@gmail.com)

**Time:** 7 December 2023, 11h00 – 13h00

**Venue:** 60 Rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60 B-1047 - European Parliament - Brussels, Belgium

## Topics for Discussion

Our expert panel will engage in a discussion, exploring various aspects of the BRICS-EU relationship, with a focus on the following topics:

### 1. The BRICS Perspective:

- We'll hear directly from a representative of one of the BRICS nations (South Africa, India or Brazil) about their strategic goals, interests, and priorities concerning the EU.
- We'll also analyze how the economic and geopolitical interactions between the BRICS countries and the EU impact global governance and cooperation.

### 2. BRICS in the Global Context:

- We'll examine the recent expansion of the BRICS group to include six new countries and its implications for global dynamics.
- We'll discuss the potential cooperation's perspectives for Europe with the BRICS countries after its expansion in the Mediterranean, South America, and the Middle East region.

### 3. BRICS and European economic and security Perspective:

- We'll explore the economic and security implications of BRICS activities for Europe, along with the EU's response to these challenges.
- Regional and global issues, as well as potential areas of cooperation or tension between the EU and BRICS, will be discussed.

### 4. Challenges for Europe:

- The panel will explore how European traditional axes, such as human rights, democracy, and the rule of law intersect with BRICS policies.
- The panel will evaluate the difference in interests on EU and BRICS side's and examine the possible convergences.
- We'll assess the challenges and opportunities for the EU countries to revise their strategy and positions in the context of the potential dynamic of the BRICS and possible decline of the traditional G7, G20 approach where the West and Europe have been dominant.

