The European Union after Brexit
What the UK Can Expect Negotiating a Swiss-Type Arrangement with the EU

14 July 2016
Sala Jordi Maragall, CIDOB. Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona
Organised by: CIDOB in collaboration with FORAUS (Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy) and the support of the Europe for Citizens programme

Background
The UK went to the polls last 23rd June to decide the future of its country and of the rest of the EU. The referendum for Brexit or Bremain ended with 52% of citizens willing to abandon the European project and changing the course of over 40 years of membership. The consequences for both the UK and the EU will be long-lasting. The UK has started to witness the economic downturn generated by the referendum results, while the EU is debating the treatment to give to the first country that ever decides to leave the European integration project.

This workshop will debate the consequences of the Brexit referendum for the future of European politics, the possibility of contagion to other countries, the prospects for future bilateral relations and the long-term reforms that the EU has to undertake to reverse the trends of crisis that dominate European politics. Particular attention will be put to the Swiss option for bilateral relations between the UK and the EU, drawing from the insights of a study produced by FORAUS, the Swiss think tank on Foreign Policy. A panel of senior experts will discuss the pros and cons of the different bilateral options and the consequences of the UK referendum for the future of European integration.

Programme

09.00  Welcome remarks
Josép Joan Moreso, President, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, CIDOB
Jordi Solé, Secretary for Foreign and EU Affairs, Catalan Government

09.30  Panel debate: The European Union after Brexit
Chair: Pol Morillas, Research Fellow in European Affairs, CIDOB
Cenni Najy, Senior Policy Fellow Europe, FORAUS
Anna Bosch, Journalist, former London correspondent, TVE
Caroline Gray, PhD in Politics, University of Liverpool

10.15  Discussion with the audience

11.00  End of the panel debate