

# Programme

European Office, Brussels

## The Morning After – Bulgaria has voted

Tuesday, 04 April 2023

09:30-10:15 CET

Online Event (via Zoom)

The European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is very pleased to invite you to the next session of our event format "**The Morning After**". In this online format, we are monitoring the Parliamentary and/or Presidential Elections in European states and discuss the results with our KAS colleagues in the respective country. Furthermore, we try to assess the implications the result could have for the country's relationship with the European Union. This session will focus on **Bulgaria**, where **Parliamentary Elections** are scheduled for **2 April 2023**.

On 2 April 2023, Bulgaria will elect a new parliament for the fifth time in two years. After the last election in October 2022, it was again not possible to establish a stable majority in the national parliament in Sofia in three attempts. After the conservative GERB party (a member of the EPP at the European level), which won the last election, the party "We continue the change" (PP) and the socialist BSP party also returned the mandate to form a government to the President of the Republic, who in this case must dissolve parliament and call new elections in accordance with the constitution. The other parties had ruled out cooperation with the GERB party of former Prime Minister Boyko Borisov in the run-up to the last election and stuck to this position after the election. Another government majority was also not possible due to the discord among the other parties. For the April election, polls predict a neck-and-neck race between GERB and an electoral alliance of "We Continue the Change" and the party "Democratic Bulgaria" (DB), which is running together for the first time in this election. Both can probably expect about 25 per cent support. Other parties that could be needed for a majority, some of which were founded only a few months or years ago, follow at a great distance. A clear positioning and location is therefore not recognisable and possible for all parties, which could make the formation of a government difficult even after the fifth ballot in a very short time.

Who are the winners, who are the losers of the Parliamentary Election 2023? What issues have dominated the election campaign? Is there hope that the political stalemate in Bulgaria can be resolved after the fifth Parliamentary Elections in two years? How does the multiplicity of elections affect trust in politics? Can changes of course be expected in domestic and European policy or is the country relying on continuity with this vote?

The event „**The Morning After – Bulgaria has voted**“ will take place on **Tuesday, 04 April 2023** from **09:30-10:15 CET** via Zoom. We look forward to discussing the election result with our colleague **Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes**, Director of the KAS Office in Bulgaria. After the conversation between Mr Beckmann-Dierkes and **Dr. Hardy Ostry**, Director of the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the audience will have the opportunity to contribute their questions to the discussion. The event will be held in **German** with simultaneous interpretation into **English**.

We look forward to your participation!

# Programme

European Office, Brussels

**Tuesday, 4 April 2023**

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| 09:30 | <b>Welcoming</b><br><br><b>Dr. Hardy Ostry</b><br>Director of the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung   |
| 09:35 | <b>Discussion about the Parliamentary Elections 2023 and their national and European implications</b><br><br><b>Dr. Hardy Ostry</b><br>Director of the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung<br><br><b>Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes</b><br>Director of the KAS Office in Bulgaria |
| 10:05 | <b>Questions from the audience</b>  |
| 10:15 | <b>End of event</b>   |

## **Information on registration and participation:**

Please register by providing your name, email address, organisation and position. You will then receive a confirmation of your registration and further information on how to participate in the online event.

## **During the online event:**

During the event, you will not be connected via video and will be muted by the host. After the speakers' short statements, you are welcome to join the conversation by asking the speakers a written question (click on the Q&A icon in the toolbar).