

**Institute of Political Studies
Polish Academy of Sciences**

invites you to

**TRACK webinar
European Council and EU response to covid crisis**

17 June 2020 16.00-18.00

via Zoom

with

a keynote speech by

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels (University of Cologne)

and

Dr hab. Sebastian Płóciennik (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Dr Monika Sus (Institute of Political Studies PAS & Hertie School)

Moderator:

Dr hab. Agnieszka Cianciara (Institute of Political Studies PAS)

Please register by 15 June 4pm: politic@isppan.waw.pl

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Council has met several times in order to coordinate effective European measures. We observe new forms of how the Heads of State or Government try to deal with a question of 'life or death' (Merkel) and with a 'war'-like challenge (Macron). As expected, the Franco-German couple has already taken over a leading role by proposing the 'Corona Recovery Fund'. The 'frugal members' and the Visegrad group formulate their diverging positions. Though typical patterns of cleavages between EU members become again apparent, the political leaders will face on June 18 the need to find a consensus on how to proceed.

One day before the June European Council, Wolfgang Wessels, professor at the University of Cologne and academic coordinator of the Jean Monnet project TRACK, will give us an overview of the main issues at stake, cleavages and challenges facing European leaders as they come to grips with the pandemic's economic, social and political consequences of unprecedented magnitude.

The keynote speech will be followed by a panel discussion on challenges and threats, but also opportunities that the European Union and its Member States are now facing both economically and politically.