

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS - UK SECTION

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

Yet again, most of the focus at our lunchtime meetings has, inevitably, been on Brexit which included our speaker David Isaac, Chairman of the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission, who focused on the impact Brexit could have on human rights protection. But, other issues discussed at our meetings over the past year included changes made to foreign policy by the Chinese Peoples Congress and its impact on China's future relationship with the EU, as well as the removal of the two year time limit on China's presidency, raised by Dr Yu Jie, Head of China Foresight at LSE IDEAS, the foreign policy think tank at the London School of Economics (LSE). And two of our meetings focused on Germany's current political and economic power in Europe.

The UK section is pleased to have a membership level of 43 members in 2018.

In 2018 we continued our successful student support arrangement with City University's journalism department under which several of their post-graduate students have attended each of our lunchtime meetings free of charge as a practical part of their International Journalism MA course.

Our lunchtime guest speakers since the last report are:

Sir Stephen Wall, former UK Ambassador to the EU and Official Historian of Britain's membership of the European Community

Sir Nigel Scheinwald, former UK Permanent Representative to the EU and Foreign Policy adviser under prime minister Tony Blair

Lord Peter Lilley, former Conservative cabinet minister and a leading Brexiteer

Sir Paul Lever, former UK ambassador to Germany

Baroness Diane Hayter, Labour's deputy leader in the House of

Lords and shadow Brexit Minister

Dr Yu Jie, Head of China Foresight at LSE IDEAS, the LSE's foreign policy think-tank

David Isaac, Chairman of the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission

Bob Bischof, Vice President of the German British Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Sergei Guriev, Chief Economist at European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The office-holders of the AEJ UK Section's Committee are (elected):

Chairman : **William Horsley**

Secretary: **Margaret Hughes**

Treasurer: **Mike Springate**

(Other responsibilities):

Events Director: **David Lennon**

Website Manager: **David Barker**

More details of AEJ UK Events, Meetings, News and Blogs & Briefings are published on the UK Section website: www.aej-uk.org as well as useful links to items of special interest on the international AEJ website www.aej.org .

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