

Vello Pettai's Presentation: "EU Enlargement and National Minorities: Lessons from the Past and Challenges for the Future"

Vello Pettai's presentation explores the relationship between EU enlargement and the protection of national minorities. He reflects on the historical lessons learned from previous enlargements, particularly the integration of minority groups within new member states. Pettai highlights both successes and shortcomings in promoting minority rights and fostering social cohesion. Looking to the future, he discusses the challenges that persist, such as balancing national sovereignty with EU norms, and the evolving role of the EU in addressing minority issues amidst changing political landscapes. The presentation underscores the need for continued efforts in safeguarding minority rights in the enlargement process.