



## DAY 3 SUMMARY

On day three of the PES, guests gathered for breakfast at the Hungarian and Croatian embassies, discussing pertinent issues for the Visegrad Four and Western Balkans. A parallel breakfast at the Institute for Politics and Society examined Eurozone integration from a business perspective.

The first plenary panel on the EU's Global Role dealt with the influence of individual nation states in global governance, with some panelists citing a lack of unity amongst EU members as a cause for the "*dwarf*" mentality that has burdened Europe in the realm of global affairs. This dialogue led to Petr Drulák, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to France, to claim citizens should not be involved in high level discussions on global affairs, garnering sharp responses from fellow panelist and Chair of European Politics at the University of Kent Elena Korosteleva, who stated "*citizens define their governance*", in defence of public interaction with EU and national policy. The final consensus of the speakers centred around a need for unity amongst EU members if the continent were to bridge the gap between its international potential and reality.

A refreshing change of pace from previous panels, the "*Prague European Innovation Chat*" saw Nobel Laureate Jean-Marie Lehn, economist Tomáš Sedláček and young biochemical researcher Karina Zadorozhny address a range of challenges for Europe's scientific community. Lehn pointed to a system of overregulation and a lack of emphasis on funding as two factors that hinder research and development. In contrast, Sedláček highlighted the scientific accomplishments accredited to Europe, the most notable example being the CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. The panelists agreed that science is an avenue for EU interconnectivity, as it can transcend national borders and unite Europeans in pushing the boundaries of innovation together.

In the final panel "*Brexit, Two Years Behind, One Year Ahead*", speakers selected key elements of Brexit that will be of importance as the process unfolds. Young activist Aileen McKay suggested Scottish independence was back on the table, while Centre of European Reform Fellow Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska doubted the speed with which new terms will be agreed between the UK and Europe. The panelists expressed hesitant confidence that an agreement will be reached by the 2019 exit date. Regardless, all the speakers agreed that a healthy and strong relationship between the EU and the UK is of tantamount importance, and it will only be achievable through dialogue.

In closing remarks, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Ivo Šrámek praised the constructive dialogue held over the three day summit, and offered an optimistic outlook on the continual discussion of EU affairs between academics, government officials, and members of the public to propel the continent towards continued stability and prosperity.