

Adelina Marini, Editor-in-Chief, Euinside.eu
Viktoria Vajnai, Public Affairs Consultant, Dr2 Consultants
Nicolai Von Ondarza, Head of EU/Europe Research Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
Boris Zala, Member of European Parliament
Chair: Eric Maurice, Editor-in-Chief, EUobserver

18:00 – 18:15 Coffee Break

18:15 – 18:55 Key-Note Address. Choosing the West: The United States and Central Europe

Opening Remarks: Jakub Dür, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
A. Wess Mitchell, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Chair: Rastislav Káčer, Honorary Chairman of Board, GLOBSEC

19:30 – 21:00 Reception & Annual “Vision for Europe” Award

Venue: Czernin Palace, Loretánské náměstí 5, Prague 1

Vision for Europe is the annually bestowed award for distinguished personalities who have, in the course of their lives, devoted substantial energies to the establishment and development of European ideals such as strengthening peaceful cooperation among European nations, developing a fair institutional arrangement of European integration, making European integration more accessible to European publics, and overcoming prejudices and misconceptions related to the integration process. The awarding ceremony is part of the annual Prague European Summit, and it is accompanied by the European Vision speech, which is delivered by the awardee.

Official Opening: Martin Stropnický, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Day Three, 21 June 2018, Czernin Palace

8:00 – 9:30 Discussion Breakfast, Embassy of Hungary – Visegrad Agenda for the EU

Venue: Embassy of Hungary, Pod Hradbami 17, Prague 6

The Visegrad Countries have strengthened their common approach concerning the future of Europe, and they do not shy away of debating it, as they believe that the EU is the best framework to face and tackle both internal and external challenges. What has the V4 achieved during its Hungarian Presidency regarding the following issues: build EU on existing foundations/ unity in diversity/ evolutionary and transformative strands/ competitiveness/ democratic legitimacy/ comprehensive approach to migration policy?

Jan Král, Director, European Policies Coordination Department, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
Balázs Molnár, Deputy State Secretary for EU Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office of Hungary

8:00 – 9:30 Discussion Breakfast, Embassy of Croatia – European Security Area: Can it be completed without integration of the Western Balkans?

Venue: Embassy of Croatia, V Průhledu 775/6, Prague 6

The migration crisis in 2015 triggered intense discussions on European security and has emphasized the need for its upgrading. The political agreement with Turkey brought a relief, but it did not answer the question about the role that countries on the migratory route i.e. the Western Balkan countries should play in security architecture aimed at preventing similar crisis in the future. While some EU Member States vehemently oppose the integration of WB they do not offer alternative options for the region whose own security is still fragile. Would integrating the WB cause more problems than converting it to some sort of permanent hotspot in Europe’s front yard with disastrous consequences for its but also for Europe’s safety?

Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head of EU Foreign Policy Unit, Centre for European Policy Studies
Adelina Marini, Editor-in-Chief, Euinside.eu
Chair: Filip Tesař, Representative, Embassy of Croatia

8:00 – 9:30 Business Breakfast, Institute for Politics and Society – Integration of the Eurozone and Two-Speed Europe: What will be the position of the EU member countries that so far have not adopted the common European currency and do not even plan to accept it?

Venue: Bellevue, Smetanovo nábřeží 18, Prague 1

It is currently discussed that the EU will become two-speed. The harder core should include the eurozone countries, led by France and Germany. Members with “soft” integration rates, and thus without the single currency, should be included in the second group. Two-speed Europe whose biggest supporter is French President Macron, may be a problem for non-eurozone countries. Important issues can be solved by the states themselves or among themselves. What will be the position of the EU member countries that so far have not adopted the common European currency and do not even plan to accept it? Can the future of these states within the EU be jeopardized even if we remain with the existing system and a two-speed Europe will not form?

Peter Balázs, Professor, Central European University, Former EU Commissioner and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary
Aleš Chmelař, State Secretary for European Affairs, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
Josef Janning, Senior Policy Fellow and Head of Office, European Council on Foreign Relations - Berlin
Chair: Jan Macháček, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Institute for Politics and Society

9:45 – 10:15 Registration and welcome coffee

10:15 – 11:15 Plenary Panel: The EU’s Global Role: Capacities, Credibility, and Coherence

The EU is undergoing decisive debates about its future, with different options on the table being defended by different sets of actors. In parallel, the EU has become markedly more ambitious in terms of foreign and defence policy, and remains a global economic actor. How do European

neighbours and partners perceive these debates across the world, and what are the expectations outside of Europe? Is this perception of the EU’s distinctiveness shared inside the EU’s borders as well? How are the EU’s identity and role perceived outside of the Union?

Petr Drulák, Ambassador of the Czech Republic in France
Elena Korosteleva, Professor, Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics, University of Kent
Josef Janning, Senior Policy Fellow and Head of Office, European Council on Foreign Relations - Berlin
Chair: Jeremy Cliffe, Berlin Bureau Chief, The Economist

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30 Prague European Innovation Chat

Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
Tomáš Sedláček, Economist

12:30 – 13:30 Buffet Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Plenary Panel: Brexit: Two Years Behind, One Year Ahead

Despite the ambitious deadline for the withdrawal treaty set for October 2018, the terms of Brexit still remain largely uncertain. Phase 2 negotiations divide not only EU decision-makers, but the British political scene. The promised ‘meaningful vote’ of the Parliament on the withdrawal treaty has been dubbed by British media as a ‘moment of maximum political danger’ for Theresa May, who is under increasing pressure from her own Conservative Party. Wales has agreed on a Brexit deal with the UK, leaving Scotland isolated after Nicola Sturgeon’s refusal to do the same. How can a return to a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland be prevented? Is the future of Britain in or out of the customs union? Is a second Brexit referendum only wishful thinking of the remainers or is it a realistic option?

Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform
Christophe Hillion, Professor of European Law – Oslo and Leiden Universities Researcher at Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies
Aileen McKay, Writer, English Tutor and Member, Young European Collective
Zbyněk Smetana, Director, EU Economic Policy Coordination Department, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
Chair: Tim Ross, Brexit and UK politics journalist, Bloomberg

14:30 Closing Remarks, Glass of wine

Martin Stropnický, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Ondřej Ditrych, Director, Institute of International Relations



Day One, 19 June 2018, Lobkowitz Palace

12:15 – 13:00 Registration, coffee and refreshment

13:00 – 13:15 Words of Welcome:

Vladimír Bartovic, Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy
Ondřej Ditrych, Director, Institute of International Relations

13:15 – 14:00 Key-Note Address. EU: Ever Closer to the Citizens?

Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
Věra Jourová, European Commissioner, Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

14:00 – 15:00 Opening Plenary Session: Populism and Demagogy: Are We Really out of the Woods?

The year 2017 was dubbed by some, perhaps too quickly, as the year that populist parties were defeated in crucial elections, especially with the defeat of Marine Le Pen and the realization that BREXIT will be a slow and mostly painful process. Is the influence of populist parties on the decline? Have the underlying factors of their rise been identified, and are mainstream politicians acting upon them? What is the danger of traditional parties appropriating themselves the rhetoric and sometimes even policies from these populist movements?

Rosa Balfour, Senior Fellow, Europe programme, German Marshall Fund of the US
Yves Bertoncini, President of the European Movement-France
Josip Brkić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Monica Frassoni, Co-Chair, European Green Party
Isabell Hoffmann, Senior Expert, Head of the Research Project eupinions, Bertelsmann Foundation
Chair: Patrick Wintour, Diplomatic Editor, The Guardian

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 Breakout Sessions:

Session A: **Quo Vadis European Neighbourhood?**

The European Neighbourhood Policy was conceived with the aim of creating a ring of peaceful, stable and prosperous states at the EU's borders. However, in the meantime, the situation has dramatically changed as many new challenges have emerged in the neighbourhood, ranging from the conflicts in Syria and in Ukraine to economic stagnation and democratic backsliding in many other partner countries. Hence, we need to ask the most fundamental questions about the ENP's functioning again: Does the EU need a new impetus for its policy in the neighbourhood? How can we make the policy truly attractive to partner countries? Are there lessons to be learned from the enlargement process? How to deal with the influence of external actors who are sometimes opposing EU's intentions in the region?

Sonja Lokar, Member of Executive Council of the Women's Lobby of Slovenia
Pierre Mirel, Honorary Director-General, European Commission
Daniela Morari, State Secretary for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova
Chair: Rikard Jozwiak, Brussels Correspondent, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Session B: **Automation, Robotization, and Transformation of the Labor Market: Impacts for Central Europe**

Czech and CE industry, great economic providers, are to be threatened by automation and robotization of manufacturing and traditional sectors of economy. What impacts does it have on the labor force and how can we already think of restructuring the economy long term? What are the sectors where CE can derive benefits, where/how can the EU help and provide guidance? Do the digital agenda and other initiatives provide sufficient growth? Will CE still depend on foreign investments to ensure its growth?

Corina Cimpoa, Founder, MKOR Consulting
Michal Pěchouček, Professor of Computer Science, CVUT
Leonardo Pucciatti, Prague Payables Center Manager, ExxonMobil Business Support Center Czechia
Andrea Renda, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Regulatory Policy, CEPS and Chair for Digital Innovation, College of Europe
Milan Zubiček, Public Policy and Government Relations Manager, Central and Eastern Europe, Google
Chair: Charles Read, Columnist, The Economist

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee break

17:30 – 18:30 Communicating Europe? Public Perceptions of the EU and its Reform

Public opinion is increasingly at the heart of debates on European integration. Europe seems to be emerging from its many crises and the time seems to be up for decisive steps forward. The feasibility and

sustainability of EU reform however crucially depend upon the support amongst national publics. So what do European citizens really want? Have they become too sceptical about the European project to resist any steps forward? Or they are keen to move towards an ever-closer Union? Is the issue of EU reform and its future subject of public debate preceding national elections? And what are the implications of recent national elections across Europe for the future of European integration?

Daniel Debomy, Associate Research Fellow, Institut Jacques Delors, Paris
Elitsa Kortenska, Ph.D. Candidate at Leiden University, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs
Kasia Wojcik, Theatre artist, Elected Board Member of the Democracy in Europe Movement 2025 (DiEM25) in Germany
Chair: Karolína Kottová, Head of Political Section, Representation of the European Commission

18:30 – 20:00 Welcome Networking Reception

20:00 – 21:15 Night Owl Session: Fiscal and Social Convergence: Is a Middle Ground Possible?

With the posted workers directive voted, it seems that a first step has been taken towards finding future potential compromises on building Social Europe, one key step forward in EU integration. Discussion of parameters, red lines, future evolutions – harmonization of corporate tax, EU-wide social and retirement contributions, EU minimum wage etc.

Martina Dlabajová, Member of the European Parliament
András Inotai, Research Professor, Institute of World Economy, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Kelig Puyet, Director, Social Platform
Chair: David Herszenhorn, Chief Brussels Correspondent, Politico

Day Two, 20 June 2018, Lobkowitz Palace

9:00 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 11:30 High-level Chat: A road to Sibiu and beyond

The European Council has set for the leaders an ambitious programme on reflecting the EU's future. The process should be finished at April 2019 informal summit in Sibiu. Are the expectations of the process materialising and how should the next European Council President take the result of the debates forward? Is the new Commission term an opportunity for consolidation based on deepening the already achieved (internal market, security and defence policy, EU's global role) or are we going to see a never-ending debate on new initiatives deepening the EU integration in many areas also during the next term of the European Parliament?

Aleš Chmelař, State Secretary for European Affairs of the Czech Republic, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
Ivan Korčok, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Chair: Vladimír Bartovic, Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:15 Parallel Panels:

Panel A: **Mapping the EU's Relationship with the US**

The seeming increasing "bilateralization" of relations between the US and EU member states means that a narrower set of interests is communicated through transatlantic channels. What do we, as Europeans, learn from almost two years of DJT? Is someone in the EU leading the discussions with Trump? How has the relative loss of American normative power influenced the EU's role as a foreign policy actor?

Petko Draganov, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria
Vassilis Ntousas, International Relations Policy Advisor, Foundation for European Progressive Studies
Jana Puglierin, Head of Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies, German Council on Foreign Relations
Paweł Świeboda, Deputy Head, European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission
Chair: Jiří Schneider, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Central Europe

Panel B: **Future of the Cohesion Policy**

Cohesion policy – the main priority of CEE member states – may undergo deep changes after 2021, and with net payers attempting to downsize it and net recipients planned to fight for its preservation, there is a chance that this issue will be at the forefront of EU policies in the near future. Potential divergences, such as linking the delivery of funds to respect of rule of law, will make the topic even more controversial. What changes can we expect in the Cohesion policy? Does Cohesion policy still meet its original aims?

Péter Balázs, Professor, Central European University, Former EU Commissioner and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary
Iain Begg, Professor, European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science
Nicola Francesco Dotti, Dynamics of Innovation, Research and Higher Education (DIRE), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, Project Manager, "Pomorskie in the European Union" Association
Dana Spinant, Director, Directorate-General REGIO, European Commission
Chair: David Herszenhorn, Chief Brussels Correspondent, Politico

13:15 – 14:30 Buffet lunch

14:30 – 16:15 Plenary Panel: Financial Framework beyond 2020, Prague European Summit Study Presentation

The Commission will present in May 2018 its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework, including beyond 2020; it is expected that the Commission will propose fundamental changes to the structure of the Framework including changes to income side of the EU budget (new sources, elimination of VAT based-resources and rebates, creation of a Eurozone envelope within the budget, etc.). What are the changes that have the biggest chances of being adopted? Will we see an end to all of the rebate systems? How will the budget be structured in the absence of the UK's contribution?

Study Coordinator: Daniel Šitera, Researcher, Institute of International Relations

Martina Kobilicová, Director General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
Petr Mooz, Head of Communication Unit, Directorate-General for Budget
Jorge Núñez-Ferrer, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies
Petr Zahradník, Economic Analyst and Consultant, European Social and Economic Committee
Chair: Mehreen Khan, Brussels Correspondent, Financial Times

16:15 – 16:45 Coffee break

16:45 – 18:00 Parallel Panels:

Panel A: **European Defence Cooperation: A Symbol of the Future of European Integration?**

Defence is the field in which the most progress has been made since the UK referendum. In a year and a half, the EU will have been able to successfully put together the non-executive mission's HQ, PESCO, CARD, and an expanded role for the European Defence Agency. However, the speed at which progress has been made could be a validation of the fears about two-speed Europe, and of the way future integration will be drawn up: a French-German led initiative that other countries outside of the "core" have the choice – or not? – to join, at the risk of being left out? Is this a viable model that can be transposed for other issues? On principle, all countries who sign up to PESCO agree about the fact that the goals of its numerous projects is to reach European strategic autonomy. But how can we reconcile different priorities within PESCO, countries who see it as an opportunity to reinforce their territorial sovereignty and fight against migration, others who see it as enabling European intervention forces?

Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head of EU Foreign Policy Unit, Centre for European Policy Studies
Filomena Chirico, Member of the Cabinet of Jyrki Katainen, Commission's Vice President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness
Alice-Billon Galland, Policy Fellow, European Defence Programme
Jan Macháček, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Institute for Politics and Society
Bram Vranken, Researcher and Campaigner, Vredesactie
Chair: Matthew Karnitschnig, Chief Europe Correspondent, Politico

Panel B: **Spitzenkandidaten: Shaping EU for Future**

The debate about the future of the EU is partially premised on the idea of improving responsiveness of and representative democracy at the European level. The EU's response to this challenge will in part define the future of European integration. The introduction of the 'Spitzenkandidaten' system before 2014 EP election was one of the steps to make the EU more responsive. Given its polarising effect, the questions remain whether the system will be repeated and how should it be improved if it is supposed to stay? Should the EU go further and link the election of a (joint) EU president to the outcome of the EP elections? Or should the heads of state and government try to marginalise it?