

European Union Institutions Fit for External Challenges

Conference in the framework of the Prague European Summit

12 – 13 November 2015

Lobkowitz Palace, Prague Castle, Jiřská 3, Prague 1

12 November 2015

- 12:30 – 13:30 Registration and coffee
- 13:30 – 13:35 Welcome Words
Vladimír Bartovic, Director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague
Radko Hokovský, Executive Director, European Values Think-Tank, Prague
Petr Kratochvíl, Director of the Institute of International Relations, Prague
- 13:35 – 15:00 **Plenary Panel I:
EU Institutions Fit for Crisis Management**
- As the Eurozone crisis unfolded and measures were adopted to counter it, accelerated inter-institutional dynamics brought about a shift in the balance between EU institutions. At the same time, a fissure is growing which separates Eurozone members and their informal institutions from the formal decision-making of the 28. Are EU institutions prepared to deal with future challenges? What recalibrations of the EU's set-up are needed to ensure a suitable balance between the main institutions? How can we ensure that the growing gap between the Eurozone and the non-members is overcome?*
- Steven Blockmans**, Head of EU Foreign Policy, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels
Thierry Chopin, Research Director at the Robert Schuman Foundation, Paris
Ana Palacio, Member of Spanish Council of State, former Minister for Foreign Affairs
Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, former President of Latvia and Vice-Chair of the Reflection Group on the long term future of Europe
Chair: **Petr Drulák**, Political Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break
- 15:30 – 15:40 **Welcome to the Plenary Meeting: Lubomír Zaorálek**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
- 15:40 – 16:00 **Key-Note Speech: Frans Timmermans**, First Vice-President of the European Commission
- What changes do EU institutions need in order to address new challenges?*
- 16:00 – 17:30 **Visegrád Ministers' Panel:**

How to Enhance Central European Clout in the Discussions on EU Institutional Reforms?

The financial crisis, the refugees problematique and the increasingly contested legitimacy of the EU combined pose one of the gravest challenges to the integration process ever. The growing Eurosceptic tendencies are palpable not only in the UK but also elsewhere in the EU including in Central Europe. The triple conundrum this panel will address is how to prevent further fragmentation of the EU, how to reinvigorate the Visegrad cooperation and how to make the V4 constructive partners within the EU. This panel shall explore whether the basic interests of the Visegrad countries are in harmony and whether the V4 countries can become agenda setters for the institutional changes, policy adaptation or even treaty revisions needed for the EU to find new dynamics. How can we encourage the centripetal tendencies in the Visegrad Four? How can we change the deteriorating public perceptions of the EU in the V4 countries? Is the danger of the V4 falling apart – or even of some of them leaving the EU - real? In terms of further EU integration, is it in the interests of the V4 countries that EU institutions (such as the European Commission) gain more powers? If yes, in what areas – external policies, monetary policy, fiscal policies, migration and asylum, or elsewhere? What is the role for the V4 in this regard? Is there a common Visegrad stance on any of these issues?

Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Moderator: **Petr Kratochvíl**, Director of the Institute of International Relations, Prague

17:30 – 18:00

Coffee Break

18:00 – 19:30

Plenary Panel II:

Re-enchancing the European dream : are we still capable of living together?

Tensions surrounding the European social model have flared up, as the idea of the welfare state has come under stress from the ongoing pressures of the economic crisis. The multiple uses of the notion of solidarity in the past few years have contributed to increasing intra-European divides, for example in the continued support of Greece by the so-called “fiscally responsible” northern EU member states, or solidarity of newer member states in supporting the intake of refugees, are symbols of how these tensions have paved the way for a rethinking of the way we live together. Politicians, populist or sometimes not, have seized on these new fault lines to question the idea of the European model, at a time when refugees continue to pour in the continent to live their European dream. What are the tools at our disposal to give a new life to this European dream? Is the welfare state set to undergo deep adaptations to fit the new European realities? How do we foresee intra-European divisions evolving, and how will European solidarity continue to be



affected? Do they have repercussion on the ability of the EU to project power and effect change abroad?

Joško Klisović, Deputy Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia

Martin Michelot, Head of Research, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague

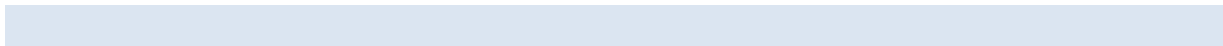
Tomáš Sedláček, Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at ČSOB (a Czech national bank)

Jiří Schneider, Senior Fellow, Prague Security Studies Institute

Chair: **Beata Jaczewska**, Executive Director at International Visegrad Fund

19:30 – 21:30

Reception



13 November 2015

8:00 – 9:00 Registration and coffee

**9:00 – 10:30 Plenary Panel III:
Enhanced European Neighbourhood Policy**

This panel will provide an opportunity to discuss the European Commission's proposal of a revised European Neighbourhood Policy as well as drafts of a new EU strategy for external action. It will shed light on the new formats of cooperation with the EU's neighbours and on the process of differentiation in the EU's approach to them. Is the EU's position as presented at the Riga Summit an appropriate foundation for the new EaP? Is the EU prepared to fully commit itself to a special partnership and/or eventual membership of the most advanced partners? Is further differentiation between the East and the South needed? What approach should the EU take regarding the special cases of regimes such as Belarus and Azerbaijan?

Vladimír Bilčík, Head of EU Program, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava

Anthony Dworkin, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations, London

Barbara Lippert, Executive Board Director of Research, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin

Marc Pierini, visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe and former EU ambassador in MENA countries

Chair: **Věra Řiháčková**, Secretariat of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and Associated Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Breakout Sessions: Major Challenges in our Neighbourhood

Session A: Ukraine: How to avert yet another frozen conflict in Europe?

The crisis in Ukraine and conflict with Russia has been among the most defining events of current EU external policy. This panel will review the common European response and propose tracks to settle the situation in our Eastern Neighbourhood. Does the EU possess effective tools to assist Ukraine in its European perspective? Is the EU able to respond to destructive Russian policies?

Hanna Hopko, Head of the Foreign Affairs Committee Parliament of Ukraine
Iryna Solonenko, Researcher, European University Viadrina, Associate fellow at the DGAP's Robert Bosch Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia

David Stulík, Press and Information Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Asle Toje, Research Director, Norwegian Nobel Institute, Oslo

Chair: **Martin Bútorá**, Honorary President, Institute for Public Affairs, Bratislava

Session B: DAESH: How to defeat the so-called Islamic State and prevent the formation of other such organizations in the MENA region?

Despite the campaign of the international coalition against ISIL, the terrorist organization is still capable of expanding its territory and destabilizing the region. Moreover other ISIL-inspired groups in Libya and elsewhere are trying to follow its tactics and strategies. The very existence of ISIL poses a direct security threat for European countries through foreign fighters. What can the EU do in order to help defeat the so-called Islamic State and prevent the formation of other similar territorial terrorist organizations in the destabilised and failed states of the Middle East and Africa?

Shmuel Bar, Senior Research Fellow, The Samuel Neaman Institute for Public Policy, Technion University, Haifa

Jana Hybášková, former Head of the Delegation of the EU to Iraq, Head of the Delegation of the EU to Namibia

Roland Freudenstein, Deputy Director and Head of Research at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, Brussels

Antonio Missiroli, Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies, Paris

Chair: **Milan Nič**, Managing Director, Central European Policy Institute, Bratislava

Session C: The Mediterranean: How to prevent the human tragedies at sea and adopt a viable and sustainable European immigration policy?

The Central Mediterranean has seen a terrifying increase in deaths of people sailing to Europe to seek refuge. The EU has adopted a number of measures to address the current asylum crisis from different angles. This breakout session will provide an opportunity to review efforts on the part of the European Commission and the Member States, especially the European Agenda on Migration and the adoption of its key actions.

Eduard Soler i Lecha, Senior Research Fellow, Research Coordinator, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Polly Pallister-Wilkins, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam

Benjamin Tallis, Researcher and Co-ordinator of the Centre for European Security, Institute of International Relations, Prague

Chair: **Radko Hokovský**, Executive Director, European Values Think-Tank, Prague

12:30 – 14:00

Buffet Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Plenary Panel IV: Towards an EU 'Global Strategy': How to Combine Ambition and Realism, Ends and Means, an Inclusive Process with an Incisive Outcome?

The 25 June European Council invited High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini to work on a new EU "global strategy on foreign and security policy" to be delivered by June 2016. Based on her recent report on the changes in the global environment, a comprehensive outreach and consultation process has been set in motion with a view to reaching an

agreement among the 28 EU member states on a sustainable platform for the Union's common external action in the years to come. What are the policy priorities on which to concentrate limited resources? How can we join up what the member states do and what the EU does (across and through its institutions and bodies) in order to defend our common interests and values and contribute to a viable, peaceful and fair new international order?

Annegret Bendiek, Senior Associate, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin

Zoltan Martinusz, Director, Enlargement, Security, Foreign Affairs Council Support, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Brussels

David Král, Head of the Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Stuart Summers, Adviser, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Chair: **Antonio Missiroli**, Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies, Paris

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30

High Level Ministerial Panel: How to Restart the Pending Process of the Western Balkans Enlargement?

The political guidelines of the Juncker European Commission state that the EU needs to digest the addition of 13 new member states and that there will be no enlargement in five years. Is this a shared opinion of all EU member states? Are there still strong advocates of the EU enlargement process? Does the slowdown in enlargement contribute to the growing tensions in the region? What can be done to set the enlargement process back on track?

Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the Western Balkans region

Chair: **Štefan Füle**, former European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

17:30 – 17:45

Closing Remarks: Vladimír Bartovic, Director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague

17:45 – 20:30

Cocktail