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Prague European Summit 2022

“Leading the Green and Digital Future?”

Day One – Thursday, November 10, 2022

14:30 – 15:30 Registration, Coffee, and Refreshments

15:30 – 15:40 **Opening Ceremony: Musical Performance**

15:45 – 16:05 **Words of Welcome**

Ondřej Ditrych, Director, Institute of International Relations

Martin Vokálek, Executive Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

16:10 – 17:00 **The EU’s Geo-economics after the Russian-Ukrainian War**

The Russian-Ukrainian war has been a major blow to the global economy. Beyond the suffering and humanitarian crisis caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the entire global economy will feel its effects, with the European economy being particularly susceptible due to its proximity to the conflict. Although the economic impact has already been significant, there will also be long-term consequences for the EU’s geo-economics.

- 1) *Has the Russian-Ukrainian war and Lithuanian conflict with China pushed the EU towards a decisive geo-economic power?*
- 2) *Is the EU capable of using its geoeconomics as a double-edged sword, by simultaneously utilizing it as both a defensive anti-coercion tool and also as an offensive instrument to influence other actors through sanctions in the global economy?*
- 3) *How does this change the EU’s identity as a globalist and free trade promoter? What are the benefits, costs, and limits of such tools?*

Belén Martinez Carbonell, European External Action Service - Managing Director for Global Agenda and Multilateral Relations

Ondřej Ditrych, Director, Institute of International Relations

Jaroslav Kurfürst, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Issues, Czech Republic

Kataryna Wolczuk, Associate Fellow at Chatham House (Russia and Eurasian Programme)

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Moderator: **Ondřej Houska**, Journalist, Hospodářské noviny

17:00 – 17:20 Coffee Break

17:20 – 18:50 **Roundtable: European Financial Instrument to Support Innovation in Urban Mobility** (upon separate invitation only); In cooperation with EIT Urban Mobility
Objective of this session is to give overall information about different European financial instrument in the field of urban mobility and facilitate access to finance for innovative businesses, cities, and other related entities in Europe. EU, EIB, EIT and other entities provide finance to support research and innovation in cities, small tech start-ups, big business and research facilities through different programmes that will be introduced. Participants can learn how to find and apply for suitable EU funding and tender opportunities. At the end of the event participants will have a great opportunity to network.

17:20 – 17:55 **European Chat: Fit for 55 - How to Put the EU on Track to Achieving Its 2030 Targets?**
Fit for 55 is the cardinal legislative package on climate change leading up to 2030. Yet despite defining the conditions for future generations on the path to decarbonisation, the package has been contentious regarding a series of issues, such as carbon pricing, ensuring fairness without losing competitiveness, and maintaining the necessary ambition amidst pushback from stakeholders with a vested interest in minimising its aspirations.

- 1) *How can the EU leverage the full potential of carbon pricing and revenue recycling to achieve its climate targets?*
- 2) *How can digitalization be leveraged in the EU's transition to carbon neutrality?*
- 3) *What parameters should the Social Climate Fund have to contribute to a fair and effective green transformation?*
- 4) *How can the EU avoid further polarisation and division caused by socioeconomic tensions of the twin transformation?*

Jan Dusík, Deputy Minister in charge of Climate Protection Directorate, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Ana Palacio, Former Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs

Moderator: **Ivan Hodáč**, Founder and President of Supervisory Board, Aspen Institute Central Europe

18:00 – 18:40 **Making the EU Single Market More Resilient**

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Over the past two decades, the EU single market has evolved into the world's most integrated transnational market, making it the key machinery through which all other EU policies can be successful. Despite its successes, however, the Single Market is increasingly affected by a global rise in protectionism and distorted competition. The EU single market thus faces many new challenges, which, if disregarded, could lead to greater market fragmentation and put member states in a weaker position to respond to global competition.

- 1) *How to make the EU's single market more resilient vis-a-vis the coronavirus pandemic and the Russian aggression against Ukraine?*
- 2) *Should a more integrated EU economic policy with the single market at its core be established?*
- 3) *How to better enforce single market rules and consumer protection? Should there be a permanent EU unemployment benefit and (re-)insurance scheme or a common EU public procurement agency?*

Ilya Bruggeman, Director for Digital, Single Market & Consumer Policy, EuroCommerce
Štěpán Černý, Director-General of the Section for European Affairs, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Outi Slotboom, Director for Strategy and Economic Analysis, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission

Moderator: **Eva Anderová**, University of New York in Prague/Czech & Slovak Leaders

18:40 – 19:00 Coffee Break

19:00 – 20:00 Dawn of a New Age: Can Europe Lead in the Green and Digital Transformations?

The two interlinked challenges of green and digital transformations will shape the world for generations to come. Against the backdrop of the climate crisis, Europe's ability to spearhead these transformations will determine the future of the EU as well.

- 1) *How can the EU become a global leader in the twin transformations?*
- 2) *How can green and digital transformations work in tandem to aid in the EU's recovery?*
- 3) *How can the EU leverage the single market to inspire a worldwide green and digital transformation?*
- 4) *Can the EU successfully motivate other states globally to reduce their emissions through instruments such as CBAM?*

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Ivan Bartoš, Deputy Prime Minister for Digitisation and Minister of Regional Development, Czech Republic

Dr Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Minister of Digital Transformation of the Republic of Slovenia

Lilyana Pavlova, Vice-President, European Investment Bank

Monika Ladmanová, Head of the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic

Moderator: **Wester van Gaal**, EUobserver

- 20:05 – 20:30** **Vision for Europe Award Ceremony**
Bestowed by Mikuláš Bek, Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Republic
- 20:30 – 22:00 Reception

Day Two – Friday, November 11, 2022

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration, Coffee, and Refreshments
- 9:00 – 9:10** **Opening Musical Performance**
- 9:10 – 9:15** **Welcome Notes**
- 9:15 – 9:25** **Keynote Address**
Věra Jourová, European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency - video message
Naser Nuredini, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia
- 9:30 – 10:10** **European Chat: Green Goeconomics and the European Neighbourhood**
The EU has recently been paying a high price for its heavy dependence on fossil fuels from Russia and other hostile states. Although its green transition might reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, it will inevitably lead to new resource dependencies.
1) *How will the EU replace its dependence on fossil fuels from Russia and other hostile states, while securing enough resources for its own green transition?*

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- 2) *Are tighter and transformative economic relations with the neighbouring resource-rich regions in Africa and Eastern Europe such as Ukraine and the Western Balkans a viable strategy?*
- 3) *What will such a strategy need to include so that it is not perceived by these states as only a Western neo-colonial attempt for resource exploitation without any added value?*

Naser Nuredini, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia

Dirk Buschle, Chairholder European Energy Policy Chair, European Political and Governance Studies Department

Vessela Tcherneva, Deputy Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations and head of ECFR's Sofia office

Moderator: **Rikard Jozwiak**, Europe Editor for RFE/RL in Prague

10:10 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:20 CEE Recovery and Resilience Plans: Accelerating the Transition towards a Zero-emission Transport Sector; In cooperation with EIT Urban Mobility

Although the path for greening the transport sector has been drafted by the European Commission, regional disparities might represent a major obstacle to the decarbonization pathway. While Central and eastern European economies face several challenges, large EU-level funds, such as The National Recovery and Resilience Facility, are available for this transition.

- 1) *How can e-mobility adoption be encouraged across CEE countries, where households have lower purchasing power, and where the second-hand automobile market plays a key role?*
- 2) *Are the EU countries on the right path to building a widely accessible charging infrastructure to keep up with the increasing number of newly sold electric vehicles? Has the chicken & egg problem been resolved?*
- 3) *How can the CEE countries support the transformation of the automotive industry at the dawn of the new automotive order?*
- 4) *Are European funds efficiently allocated to incentivize both production and consumption in the field of clean mobility?*

Szymon Byliński, Director of the Department of Electromobility and Hydrogen Economy at the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland

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Charlotte Nørlund Matthiessen, Policy Adviser in the Cabinet of Commissioner of Transport Adina Vălean, European Commission

Traian Urban, Director Innovation Hub East, EIT Urban Mobility

Christoph Weiss, Senior Economist, Economics Department, European Investment Bank

Moderator: **Katarína Svítková**, Research Fellow at EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

11:00 - 12:00 International Programme Board Meeting

11:20 – 11:40 European Chat: **War Returns to Europe: How It Changed the EU and Ukraine?**

The Russian war in Ukraine caused an immense shock across the European continent, fundamentally changed the context in which political decisions are being made and Europe is only gradually adapting to the challenges stemming from the new reality. The tragic event, however, also mobilized an unprecedentedly swift and united action by the EU Member States and led to the rethinking of the EU's approach to its neighbourhood.

- 1) *How has the Russian aggression changed the dynamics of relations in Central and Eastern Europe?*
- 2) *What impact does the war have on global alliances and on the role of the EU on the global scene?*
- 3) *Will Ukraine manage to use the rebuilding process to accelerate its integration into the EU and the green and digital transition?*

Representative of the Embassy of Ukraine in Prague (TBC)

Moderator: **Rob Cameron**, BBC Prague Correspondent

11:40 – 12:40 Buffet Lunch

12:40 – 13:20 PES-FELF Chat: **Youth Perspectives on the Future of the EU**

The representatives of the Future European Leaders Forum (FELF) present their ideas on how to shape policy. FELF is an integral part of the Prague European Summit, bringing together exceptional future leaders with diverse professional and academic backgrounds, and with a proven track record as opinion leaders in their fields of activity. The mission of FELF is to create a space for meaningful, open and inspiring formal and informal conversations and learning via different formats - for instance, teambuilding, workshops, simulations, training and panel discussions. FELF

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interconnects young people with experienced experts and decision makers and teaches the youth practical sets of skills needed to advocate, create and succeed.

Tomáš Petříček, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Moderator: **Eva Horelová**, Head of Political Section of the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic

12:40 - 14:10 Roundtable Blok A: The Czech Republic as Laboratory of Euroscepticism in Time of War

The start of the Russian war against Ukraine is proving to be a turning point in European, and very likely also in World history. Our societies are under unprecedented stress caused by the close proximity of a major armed conflict as well as economic implications such as high inflation, skyrocketing energy prices, and an influx of Ukrainian refugees. Without a doubt, these factors will influence European political stability in years to come. In this sense, the Czech Republic proves to be a good case study of how the Russian war against Ukraine might influence Euroscepticism. The Czechs have been known for at least a decade as a nation with the lowest support for EU integration, and always balanced on the verge of leaving. Based on our newest sociological data, we will answer the most pressing question regarding Russian aggression and the Czech population:

- 1) *Is the energy crisis and skyrocketing inflation a case to worry?*
- 2) *To what extent the war influences Czech support for EU membership?*
- 3) *What do Czechs expect the EU to do?*
- 4) *Moreover, how might the war impact EU flag policies such as green transition?*

14:20 - 15:15 Roundtable Blok B: Trust in the EU in Times of Crisis: Public Perceptions in the Czech Republic in the Aftermath of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Over the past decade, the Czech Republic has continuously been one of the member-states with the lowest level of trust in the EU. This study examined how the EU's management of the coronavirus pandemic has affected public perceptions in the Czech Republic of the European Union. The study has shown that while Euroscepticism persists in Czech society, it has not increased as a result of the crisis. Furthermore, although Czechs exhibit low levels of trust in the EU, they equally distrust their national government, indicating there is no duality between the two. Finally, Czech Euroscepticism does not equal an anti-EU attitude, as the majority of respondents

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expressed an appreciation of the EU's contribution to managing the pandemic and continue to believe the Czech Republic is better off as part of the EU.

13:25 – 13:55 European Chat: Digitalization as a Driver for Growth in Europe, In cooperation with European Investment Bank

The digital share of the economy is growing rapidly across the globe; data is termed the new oil, and digital adaptation is swiftly becoming one of the cardinal determinants for economic prosperity. However, the rate of digital transformation varies across the EU, raising the potential dilemma of a multi-speed Europe.

- 1) How can the EU leverage the strengths of the (digital) single market in the digital age?*
- 2) How can the EU attain leadership in the digital market compared to other geopolitical competitors?*
- 3) How can the emergence of a new multi-speed EU with regard to digitalization and the digital economy be avoided?*

Desiree Rückert, Economist, European Investment Bank

Mikuláš Peksa, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the European Pirate Party

Moderator: **Jakub Železný**, Czech Television

14:00 – 14:20 European Chat: Belarus' Future Perspectives in Russia's Shadow

The war in Ukraine had severe ramifications for the fledgling democratic opposition in Belarus. As Putin has used Belarus as a staging point for its illegal invasion of Ukraine and actively includes Belarus in its strategic considerations, President Lukashenko has capitalized on the war and Belarus' strategic importance to Russia as a pretext for solidifying his autocratic government. While all focus is currently on Ukraine, the question of the future of Belarus' democratic aspirations remains of great importance to the EU.

- 1) How is the outlook on Belarussian democracy and liberty now that Russia is both using it as one of its staging points for the war in Ukraine, essentially making it a Russian vassal state?*
- 2) How is the opposition, which was slowly acquiring influence before the invasion, faring under this new reality?*
- 3) Have the various sanctions by the EU towards Belarus had an effect in your view?*

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Vladimir Astapenko, Deputy Head of the National Crisis Management of Belarus and Head of Mission for Democratic Belarus in Brussels

Moderator: **Jamie Fly**, President and Chief Executive Officer of RFE/RL

14:20 – 14:40 Coffee Break

14:40 – 15:15 RePowering the EU - On the Road to a Cleaner, Autonomous, and Resilient EU?

The new geopolitical and energy reality necessitates a drastically accelerated transition towards clean energy and the adoption of renewable energy solutions, both of which must be accompanied by a corresponding focus on developing energy resilience and efficiency.

- 1) *What is the potential of renewable energy in terms of cutting dependency on foreign fossil fuel imports?*
- 2) *What is the potential of energy efficiency and how can it be tapped?*
- 3) *What do the V4 countries need to do to more fully unlock the potential of renewables after years of stalling?*
- 4) *How will RePowerEU impact the EU's endeavours towards strategic autonomy and resilience?*

Joanna Flisowska, Senior Climate & Energy Analyst, Instytut Reform

Václav Vislous, Product Owner, CO2IN

Moderator: **Magda Jakubowska**, Vicepresident at Visegrad Insight, Res Publica Foundation

15:15 – 16:15 New Industrial Strategy for Europe - Can Europe Emerge from the Shadows of Washington and Beijing through the Twin Transformations?

The New Industrial Strategy for Europe is the cornerstone strategy aimed at strengthening industrial competitiveness amidst the twin transformations. However, the path to resilience remains mired in apprehension as industries weigh the consequences of first-mover disadvantages against the eventual benefits of positioning themselves towards the markets of tomorrow.

- 1) *How can the industrial transition be accelerated while ensuring competitiveness in the global markets?*
- 2) *How can the EU uphold a global level playing field while decarbonizing?*
- 3) *How can practices on industrial decarbonisation best be shared across the EU?*

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4) *How can the EU provide certainty for and inspire industry stakeholders to become more active in green and digital transformations?*

Peter Balazs, Professor Emeritus, Central European University

Petr Očko, Deputy Minister for Digitalization and Innovation at Ministry of Industry and Trade

Georg Riekeles, Associate Director and Head of the Europe's Political Economy Programme at the European Policy Centre.EU

Martina Lyons, Associate Programme Officer, Innovation Strategies, IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre

Markus Fischer, Deputy Head of EU Office, Orsted (TBC)

Moderator: **Jakub Železný**, Czech Television

16:15 – 16:25 **Closing Remarks**

17:00 – 18:00 **Townhall: Should Flexibility and Multi-speed Europe Become the Norm in European Integration?** (Change of Venue: Sněmovní 7, Malá Strana, Prague)

In the past several years, Emmanuel Macron, Olaf Scholz as well as leaders of other member states proposed their visions for the future of European integration as well as the wider European region. Some speak of creating a European political community as a framework for EU members and democratic, non-members of the EU to discuss shared interests. The first meeting of the European Political Community is set to take place in Prague in early October. Other arguments concern more efficient policymaking in the EU foreign and security policy via the introduction of majority voting or allowing the group of EU member states to act on behalf of others in this field.

- 1) *Should the EU, with a view of possible prospective enlargements, go in the way of promoting multi-speed integration?*
- 2) *Can forms of flexible integration, such as lead groups in which several member states act on behalf of the EU in foreign policy, enable a European response in the context of urgent challenges and thus drive the EU into common action? Or does multi-speed Europe spur fragmentation and lead to disintegration?*
- 3) *Should majority voting be gradually introduced in the fields currently decided by unanimity?*

Steven Blockmans, Director of Director of Research at the Centre for European Policy Studies

Marek Havrda, Deputy Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Government

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Tyine Karjalainen, Researcher at the European Union research programme of FIIA
Jan Kovář, Deputy Research Director of the Institute of International Relations of Prague

Orsolya Ráczová, Deputy Director, GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Moderator: **Zdeňka Trachtová**, Czech Radio

18:00 – 21:00 **Closing Reception** (Sněmovní 7, Malá Strana, Prague)



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Urban Talks

November 7 **Mladá Boleslav: Decarbonisation of the Automotive Industry** (Sál Hieronymus 16:00, Škoda museum)

In cooperation with Škoda Auto, Mladá Boleslav

The automotive sector and its supply value chains are significantly influenced by the foreseen legislative amendments. Electrification, new CO2 standards or EURO emission standards shape the pathway towards 2035. Such green transformation needs new investments, new job skills and new supply chain strategies.

- 1) *Is the Czech automotive industry ready for the transition to e-mobility? What steps are necessary to make it so?*
- 2) *What is the future of automotive sector workers amidst digital transformation and automation?*
- 3) *What should the role of government be in creating a conducive environment for the decarbonisation of the automotive industry?*

Tomáš Dzurilla, Director of Electromobility Department at ČEZ

Michal Kadera, Director of External Relations at ŠKODA AUTO

Vladimír Kubeček, Representative of the Charles University Environmental Centre

Monika Martišková, Researcher at Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI)

Moderator: **Michal Hrubý**, Research Fellow EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

November 8 **Ústí nad Labem: Just Transition of Coal Regions** (ICUK Space, Velká hradební 2800, Ústí nad Labem)

As the EU is moving away from fossil fuels and embracing cleaner energy sources, the question arises of how to make the transition fair and just for all regions and communities. Coal regions have historically bore the brunt of the negative side-effects of coal mining and burning, but they are also the ones who will be most impacted by the coal phase outs. It is necessary to include people from these regions in the planning of the post-coal world and to ensure a just transition for all.

- 1) *Stock-take: has the Just Transition Fund been allocated and used efficiently in the Czech Republic?*
- 2) *How to ensure citizens' participation within the most affected regions in Just Transition planning?*
- 3) *How can SMEs be mobilized to contribute to the Just Transition of coal regions?*

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Jan Hlaváček, Head of Unit of Methodology of Just Transition, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Marika Volfová, Platform for Socio-economic Transformation Re-set

Iva Dvořáková, Member of the Region Council, Ústí nad Labem Region

Petr Globočnick, Member of the City Assembly, City of Litvínov

Moderator: **Luboš Palata**, Deník

November 9

Brno: Gaslighting Future Generations? (Faculty of Social Sciences, Masaryk University, Joštova 10, Brno); *In cooperation with Faculty of Social Sciences, Masaryk University*
As Europe's long-overdue transition away from Russian gas has become accelerated by the war in Ukraine, the politics of necessity - fuelled by past political naivety and short-sighted convenience - once again risks the sustainability of future generations. As Europe runs the risk of carbon lock-in due to accelerated investments that might soon become stranded assets, are there alternatives and other low-hanging fruits to explore as the EU embarks on its journey towards both decarbonisation and strategic autonomy?

- 1) *How can we provide for our immediate gas-needs without compromising future generations?*
- 2) *How can the EU avoid creating new dependencies on fossil gas imports?*
- 3) *What are the possibilities for decarbonizing European heating systems without overcommitting to gas?*

Ana Šerdoner, Senior Policy Manager for Industry and Energy Systems at Bellona

Michał Smoleń, Head of Energy & Climate Program at InStrat Foundation

Kostis Geropoulos, Co-founder/Director of Energy & Climate Policy and Security at NE Global Media