

PROGRAMME



IN THE FACE OF WAR: European Dialogue

Tuesday 14 November 2023

Profesní dům, Malostranské náměstí 25, Prague 1

Opening of the Prague European Summit 2023

The launch of a new project named "In the Face of War – a European Dialogue", initiated by the Institut français (Paris) in partnership with the Prague European Summit.

The "In the face of war – European dialogue" project consists of organizing a series of meetings between experts, journalists, representatives of the civil society and the general public. These will take the form of public debates addressing the consequences of the war in Ukraine for the unity and identity of the European Union. The project responds to an evident and urgent need for structured, sustained and audible conversations on a European scale, bringing together expert voices in the public space and shedding light on the current situation and future challenges.

17.30 – 18.00 Opening Words

Mats Braun, Director, Institute for International Relations

Alexis Duterre, French Ambassador to the Czech Republic

Martin Vokálek, Executive Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Eva Voldřichová Beránková, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Charles University

18.00 – 19.15 **Panel Discussion: European Unity Facing the War**

The European Union has responded effectively and in a united fashion to the war of invasion launched by Russia in Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Although there are dissenting voices among the Member States, support for Ukraine has grown steadily, and European political leaders regularly reaffirm their enduring commitment to the country's independence. However, the upheavals caused by the return of war to Europe are immense, and the Union must face up to multiple challenges in terms of security, economics, energy, geopolitics, etc. Current events in the Middle East are obviously reshuffling the cards of the international order and calling into question the European Union's place in the global balance and its foundations and values. In this period of great instability, is the European project running the risk of cracking? Could citizens become even more distracted from the issues of solidarity and cohesion that are the hallmark of the Union? What unity can be preserved – and how – as a new period of enlargement opens up to new countries?

David Cvach, Director for the European Union, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France

Jaroslav Kurfürst, Director General for European Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Carlota García Encina, Senior Analyst for the US and the Transatlantic Relations, Elcano Royal Institute for International and Strategic Studies

Oleksandra Matviichuk, President of the Centre for Civil Liberties (Ukraine) and 2022 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Luuk van Middelaar, Professor, historian and political philosopher, Brussels Institute for Geopolitics

Moderator: Laurent Marchand, Ouest-France

19.15 – 20.30 **Panel Discussion: Reconnecting Narratives in Europe**

What kind of Europe are we talking about when we are in Vilnius, Athens, Belgrade, Amsterdam or Kyiv? What are the historical figures, the shared narratives, the architectural ensembles, the squares that we invoke to refer to European roots and a European future? So where is Europe? Does it tell its own story through its relationship with peace, its cultural heritage, the mobility it offers, its economic integration or its technical networks? While these questions are not new, the outbreak of war in Ukraine has highlighted major differences in perceptions of the relationship with the eastern neighbourhood and, by extension, a lack of understanding of the local contexts in which the relationship with Europe and its historical foundations are expressed. So how can we encourage a better circulation of narratives in Europe

while at the same time understanding the concerns and tensions that arise here and there? How can we explain a Europe that is 'growing', possibly to be enlarged in the future to include new countries, when the temptation is to withdraw? What role can geopolitical experts and research professionals play in facilitating discussion and debate on this subject?

Christine Cadot, Professor of Political Sciences Paris 8 University

Thomas Gomart, Director, Institut français des relations internationales

Kateřina Králová, Historian, Department of Russian and East European Studies, Charles University in Prague

Kristupas Sabolius, Professor of Philosophy, Vilnius University in Lithuania

Moderator: Mateusz Chmurski, Director of CEFRES (Centre Français de Recherche en Sciences Sociales) in Prague



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PRAGUE EUROPEAN SUMMIT

DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2023

Liechtenstein Palace, U Sovových mlýnů 506/4, Prague 1

12:45 – 13:20 Registration, Coffee, and Refreshments

13:20 – 13:30 **Opening Ceremony**

13:30 – 13:50 **Words of Welcome**

Tomáš Dub, Deputy Minister for European Affairs, Czech Republic

Mats Braun, Director, Institute of International Relations

Martin Vokálek, Executive Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

13:50 – 15:05 **Plenary Panel Discussion: *Towards a More Sustainable and Prosperous European and Global Economy through Trade and Investments***

Navigating a complex global landscape, the EU is keenly positioning itself as a champion of sustainable and prosperous economic engagements through trade and investments. At the forefront is the EU's Global Gateway, an instrument poised to challenge the expansive reach of the Chinese Belt and Road initiative, signalling a new epoch in infrastructure development and geopolitical influence. Simultaneously, the EU is seeking new trade agreements with partners around the world. Despite all these efforts, Europe lags behind its Chinese and American competitors in a number of areas, while some trade agreements remain pending even after years of negotiations. Are Europe's trade and investment strategies effective to stand up to today's challenges? Is the EU still the defender of normative values, or has its trade policy turned more towards business interests?

François Chimits, Analyst, Mercator Institute for China Studies

Mirek Dušek, Managing Director, World Economic Forum

Jochen Schanz, Senior Economist, European Investment Bank

Sabine Weyand, Director-General, DG Trade, European Commission

Moderator: Vanda Kofroňová, Czech Television

14:00 – 15:00 **Closed Roundtable Discussion: *Countering Disinformation and Misinformation in the EU***

In cooperation with the French Institute's project "In the Face of War – European Dialogue", a series of debates on the European upheavals caused by the war in Ukraine.

15:10 – 16:25 **Plenary Panel Discussion: *Re-invigorating the EU's Neighbourhood Policy and Diplomatic Efforts amid the War in Ukraine***

In light of the ongoing war in Ukraine, the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy and diplomatic engagements are under an intense microscope. The intricate web of relations between the EU and its neighbouring countries presents both challenges and opportunities. Beyond the borders of the Union, initiatives such as the European Political Community seek to foster greater cooperation. The post-Brexit era heralds a new chapter in the EU-UK relations, with all its complexities and imperatives. Additionally, the aftermath of the May 2024 elections in Turkey suggests a continuation of the status quo in EU-Turkey ties. Beyond these bilateral and multilateral relations, the EU's role in regional conflicts, including the enduring tensions in the EU's neighbourhood, adds another layer to the discussion. How does the EU's Neighbourhood Policy reflect these developments? What are the primary objectives and potential outcomes of initiatives like the European Political Community, and how do they contribute to fostering greater cooperation between the EU and its neighbouring countries?

Štěpán Černý, Director-General of the Section for European Affairs, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Thomas Gomart, Director, Institut français des relations internationales

Eva Horelová, Deputy Head, Head of Political Section, European Commission Representation to the Czech Republic

Luuk van Middelaar, Professor, historian and political philosopher, Brussels Institute for Geopolitics

Moderator: Markéta Boubínová, Deník N

16:25 – 16:55 **Coffee Break**

16:55 – 17:05 **Keynote Address**

Jan Lipavský, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechia

17:05 – 17:45 **European Chat: *European Vision for Ukraine***

The European Union offers Ukraine a promising prospect of deeper integration and eventual membership, underscoring the nation's commitment to democratic values. However, Ukraine faces the pressing challenge of addressing Russian aggression, while simultaneously embarking on a journey of reconstruction and post-war development. What are the European visions for the future of Ukraine? How will the EU participate in the further development of this country? How further can Ukraine strengthen and anchor its democratic principles and ties with European partners, despite the war?

Monika Ladmanová, Head, European Commission Representation to the Czech Republic

Oleksandra Matviichuk, President of the Centre for Civil Liberties (Ukraine) and 2022 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Jaroslav Zajíček, Director of the Foreign Policy Department, Office of the President

17:50 – 19:05 **Plenary Panel Discussion: *European Position in the Formation of New Security Geopolitical Order in the Aftermath of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine***

In the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European stance in the geopolitical security order is being critically re-examined. The continent finds itself at a juncture, grappling with the need to promote a rules-based international order. While Europe navigates its path forward, pivotal questions arise. How does the EU fit into the broader context of global power dynamics? Are key players from the Global South being overlooked or even taken for granted in this evolving landscape? With the shifting sands of international relations, the future of transatlantic ties is under the lens, putting EU-US cooperation in security matters at the forefront of discussions. Moreover, the continent must reckon with the burgeoning threats of the digital age, aiming to bolster its resilience against hybrid threats.

Carlota García Encina, Senior Analyst for the US and the Transatlantic Relations, Elcano Royal Institute for International and Strategic Studies

Matúš Halás, Senior Researcher, Institute for International Relations

Ivana Karásková, Project Coordinator and Analyst, Association for International Affairs

Eric Maurice, Head of the Brussels office, Robert Schuman Foundation

Moderator: Rikard Jozwiak, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Prague

18:00 – 19:00 Closed Roundtable Discussion: *Central European Perspectives of Migration*

19:10 – 19:40 Vision for Europe Award

Bestowed by **Tomáš Dub**, Deputy Minister for European Affairs, Czech Republic

Věra Jourová, Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency

19:40 – 22:00 Reception



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PRAGUE EUROPEAN SUMMIT

DAY TWO

THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2023

Liechtenstein Palace, U Sovových mlýnů 506/4, Prague 1

8:00 – 9:00 Registration, Coffee, and Refreshments

9:10 – 9:15 **Welcome Notes**

9:15 – 9:25 **Opening Address**

9:25 – 10:40 **Plenary Panel Discussion: *Twin Transitions as the Driving Force of Europe’s Competitive and Sustainable Economy***

Amid a rapidly evolving global economic landscape, the European market emerges as a pillar of efforts to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the local economy. At the heart of this discussion lies the resilience of cross-border supply chains, ensuring that the wheels of commerce run smoothly even in the face of disruptions. Critical raw materials, often the unsung heroes of production processes, command attention due to their pivotal role in meeting industrial demands. As industries gear up for the “twin transformation”, aligning their operations with digital and green transitions, what are the vital needs to be addressed? Is the European labour market already adapted to the transition? How will Europe manage its target of reaching net zero emissions while keeping the European single market competitive?

Matthias Koch, Senior Policy Advisor, Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Strategic Capital Networking

Chris Skidmore, Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom, Chair, Net Zero Review

Linda Zeilina-Cross, CEO & Founder, International Sustainable Finance Centre

Moderator: Kostis Geropoulos, NE Global Media

10:40 – 11:10 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 **Closed Roundtable Discussion: Net zero as the next Industrial Revolution: short-term risks and long-term benefits**

In cooperation with the British Embassy in Prague.

11:10 – 12:25 **Plenary Panel Discussion: Transforming European Economy Smartly and Efficiently, by Leveraging Sources to Prepare for Future**

In the wake of global upheavals, geopolitical tensions and climate crisis, Europe stands at a crossroads, charting its course towards a resilient and sustainable economic future. With new tools available, including the post-pandemic NextGenerationEU stimulus package with REPower EU initiative poised to recalibrate the EU's energy sources, Europe should be much better equipped to rebuild its economy, support sustainable development and boost promotion of advanced technologies. However, success will largely depend on the effectiveness of the use of these instruments. How do member states embrace emerging EU financial instruments? Are they achieving the desired outcomes effectively? Do these instruments align adequately with the current circumstances, offering the requisite flexibility for member states while contributing to common European goals?

Andrea Ferjenčíková, EIB Group Representative in the Czech Republic

Marie Donnay, Director, Recovery and Resilience Task Force, European Commission

René Neděla, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Jan Švejnar, Professor of Economics, Columbia University

Moderator: Pavel Hnát, Vice-Rector for Education and Quality Assurance, Prague University of Economics and Business

12:25 – 13:25 **Buffet Lunch**

12:30 – 14:00 **Closed Lunch Discussion (IPB Lunch Discussion)**

13:25 – 14:25 **Prague European Summit – Future European Leaders Forum (FELF) chat**

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 interconnects young

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

Věra Jourová, Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency

Moderator: Jiří Mach, FELF Honorary Chairperson

14:35 – 15:50 **Panel Discussion: *Small and Medium-Sized Member States in the EU as a Powerful Actor of European Integration***

As the European Union continues to evolve and respond to contemporary challenges, the role of its small and medium-sized member states emerges as a significant and potent force in the integration process. Beyond individual member states, the strength of regional cooperation and coalitions within the EU becomes increasingly evident, fostering stronger ties and collaborative initiatives. In this web of interactions, consensus-building emerges as a cornerstone of European cooperation, guiding decisions that affect the bloc's future. Moreover, the Franco-German engine generally considered a driving force in EU matters, is examined for its current effectiveness in this dynamic landscape. How do small and medium-sized member states contribute to and influence the EU's future, particularly in the context of addressing contemporary challenges? What are the key examples of successful regional cooperation and coalitions within the EU, and how do these collaborative efforts strengthen the overall unity and effectiveness of the EU?

Anders Adlercreutz, Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering, Finland

Eduard Hulicius, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Eliška Tomalová, Head of the European Studies Department, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Moderator: Žiga Faktor, Deputy Director & Head of Brussels Office, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

15:50 – 16:20 Coffee Break

16:20 – 17:00 **European Chat: *Central European View on the EU Agenda before the European Elections***

Amidst democratic challenges, Euroscepticism, and a sense of detachment from the European project in some of the newer EU member states, what the Visegrad Four (V4) countries think and say about pivotal EU topics like migration, climate change, rule of law, or the post-pandemic recovery in the EU will largely affect the upcoming crucial 2024 European Parliament elections. Drawing on the multiple research carried out during

the RevivEU project, we'll discuss what the citizens of the four countries think of the EU agenda before June 2024. Are there similarities and patterns that warrant the common perception of the V4 grouping? What are the most talked about EU policies in the four countries, and how did the situation in the region change after the recent elections in Slovakia and Poland?

Anna Orosz, Member of Parliament of Hungary

Michal Vašečka, Sociologist, Director of Bratislava Policy Institute

Moderator: Martin Ehl, Hospodářské noviny

17:05 – 18:20 **Panel Discussion: EU Reformed and Enlarged: Capacities of the EU to Integrate New Members while Securing Development and Effective Institutional Functioning**

The EU stands at a pivotal moment in its history. As it contemplates further expansion, the inherent opportunities and challenges of enlargement become paramount. Considering geopolitical aspects, expanding the EU's borders can have far-reaching consequences for regional stability and security. Economic cost-benefit analysis is another pivotal factor, with the EU weighing the economic advantages of new members against the potential strains on its resources. Additionally, the domestic politics within both current and aspiring member states can shape the enlargement process. Balancing these elements is essential to ensure that the EU's development trajectory remains robust while its institutional functionality adapts to accommodate the challenges and opportunities presented by a Union of more than 30 members. How does the EU weigh the benefits against the challenges of enlargement? Are the existing institutional frameworks sufficiently adaptive for a Union of 30+ members? How has the EU's approach to Ukraine evolved in response to the unique context and what lessons can be drawn from this case for the EU's enlargement strategies?

Isabelle Ioannides, Senior Policy Analyst, European Parliament's research service

Camino Mortera-Martinez, Head of the Brussels Office, Centre for European Reform

Milica Uvalić, Professor, European University Institute (Florence)

Moderator: Jana Juzová, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Global Europe Programme, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

18:20 – 18:40 **Closing Remarks**

18:40 – 21:00 **Glass of Wine**

Additional Fora of the Prague European Summit 2023

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- 7 November** **Urban Talk in Olomouc: Unesené svobody (Kidnaped Freedom)**
19.00 – 21.00 *In cooperation with Eurocentrum Europe Direct Olomouc, Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci and Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic*
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- 13 November** **Urban Talk: Female Empowerment**
16.00 – 18.00 *In cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Charles University, the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic and the European Investment Bank*
Andrea Ferjenčíková, EIB Group Representative in the Czech Republic
Milena Králíčková, Rector, Charles University
Monika Ladmanová, Head, European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic
H. E. Gabriella Sancisi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Slovakia
Moderator: Tereza Willoughby, Czech Television
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- 15 November** **Summit Talk: Imaginaries of Revenge**
10.50–12.20 *In cooperation with the Faculty of Arts, Charles University and the Embassy of Lithuania in the Czech Republic. The Summit Talk is a part of Week of Humanities 2023 (Týden humanitních věd).*
Kristupas Sabolius, Filosof, Vilnius University
H.E. Laimonas Talat-Kelpša, Ambassador of Lithuania in the Czech Republic
Moderator: Zora Hesová, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, Charles University
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- 15 November** **Summit Talk: Half-time of the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility: What have we learned so far? (Prague University of Economics and Business)**
17:30 – 18:30 *In cooperation with the Centre for European Studies at the Faculty of International Relations, Prague University of Economics and Business.*
Marrie Donnay, Director, Recovery and Resilience Task Force, European Commission
Moderator: Jarolím Antal, Director, Centre for European Studies, Prague University of Economics and Business

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