



## DAY 1 SUMMARY

The 2018 Prague European Summit's agenda was outlined through keynote speeches by Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis and European Commissioner Věra Jourová. For Prime Minister Babis, illegal migration and European border security belong at the forefront of EU policy. Commissioner Jourova stressed unity in the face of external pressures, and outlined concrete policies by the European Commission to empower citizens within the EU, such as an initiative to create an EU-wide collective redress for consumers to rectify corporate misconduct.

Influenced by Babis's comments on migration, speakers in the first plenary panel "Populism and Demagoguery" noted the disconnect between nationalist rhetoric and the factual impacts of migration on European countries. Misinformation and insufficient knowledge about EU policies are exploited by populist movements, and, despite the optimism generated by the 2017 French presidential election, a resurgence of populist victories across Europe demonstrates the troubling endurance of populism.

In a breakout session on European Neighbourhood Policy, speakers addressed the progress of the Eastern Partnership with Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, encouraged a re-opening of dialogue with Russia, and highlighted the importance of policies tailored to the specifics of neighbourhood countries. While the EU should take a pragmatic and realistic stance toward its neighbours, it can also promote European values by engaging with civil society, especially women and youth.

Another breakout session explored the potential for automation and technology in Central Europe. The discussion dealt with advances in the fields of AI and robotization and consequences for labour markets. While higher grade tech products offer a range of financial and social benefits, speakers also noted a need to regulate the pace of change in order to allow societies and governments to properly train and adapt their workforces.

The closing panel finished on an optimistic note, brainstorming creative ideas for mitigating public misperceptions and ambivalence about the EU by engaging citizens in EU politics through performance art, e-democracy, and cross-cultural initiatives.