



An Annual Conference of the Prague European Summit, 13 - 15 June 2017

Day One, 13 June 2017, Lobkowitz Palace

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

13:00 – 13:15 Words of Welcome:

Vladimír Bartovic, Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Petr Kratochvíl, Director, Institute of International Relations in Prague

Introductory Remarks:

Petr Gajdušek, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

13:15 – 14:00 Key-Note Address:

Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

14:00 – 15:00 Opening Plenary Session: The EU as a Community of Rules or as a Community of Exceptions?

The EU has always stressed that rules have to be obeyed, a fact strongly underlined during the accession process of CEE countries. However, the last decade has shown that the application of these rules EU and its institutions can be very flexible. It also seems that some Member States can infringe the rules without the concerns of sanctions that have hit others. Exceptions that are planned to overcome a possible deadlock or to solve an unexpected crisis seem to sometimes fall outside of these bounds. Can the EU sustain its stability by granting more and more exceptions? Does this hamper mutual confidence within the EU and its Member States? Should the EU return to a more rigorous enforcement of rules?

Jakub Wiśniewski, Vice President of GLOBSEC & Director of the Globsec Policy Institute

Massimo D'Alema, Former Prime Minister of Italy, President of Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Jakub Dür, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Péter Balázs, Professor, Central European University, former EU Commissioner & Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

Chair: **Eric Maurice**, Editor-in-Chief, EUobserver

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break



15:30 – 17:00 Breakout Sessions: Rules or Exceptions

Breakout Session A: External Players in Central Europe – USA, China, Russia

Apart from membership in the EU and close relations with European partners, Central European diplomacy is also marked by the involvement of powerful external players. Central European governments have traditionally sought to cultivate special bilateral partnership with the US, particularly in security cooperation. More recently, Russia and China have been gaining increasing influence and access in the region, chiefly - though not exclusively - through strategic business endeavours, or even, as in the case of Russia, through political subversion. What role do these external actors play in the domestic and foreign policies of Central European states? Is there a risk of Central Europe becoming - as it sometimes alleged - yet again a playground for great power politics?

Petr Kratochvíl, Director, Institute of International Relations in Prague

Agatha Kratz, Associate Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations

Roland Freudenstein, Policy Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Maria Ordzhonikidze, Secretary General, EU-Russia Centre

Chair: **Anastas Vangeli**, Researcher, Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw

Breakout Session B: Paris, Berlin: still deciding the future of Europe?

It has become commonplace to assert that Franco-German cooperation, a traditional motor of EU politics, is stuttering. This is often attributed to the growing imbalance in their economic performance and political weight. And yet, in many areas - notably defense integration or Eurozone governance reform - agreement between Berlin and Paris remains indispensable to any meaningful progress. What will be the implications of the successive elections for Franco-German cooperation? What role will other big Member States - Italy, Spain and Poland - play in the post-Brexit configuration of power in the EU?

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

Nicole Koenig, Senior research fellow and Deputy Head of Research at the Jacques Delors Institut – Berlin

Pawel Swieboda, Deputy Head, European Political Strategy Centre

Christian Lequesne, Professor, Sciences Po & Chief Editor, European Review of International Studies

Chair: **Zlatko Šabič**, Professor, Centre of International Relations, University of Ljubjana

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee break



17:30 – 18:30 **Plenary Panel: EU Energy Security between Business and Politics**

Over the years, and in part thanks to Russia's aggressive posture, the EU has made notable progress towards greater energy security, both internal and external, especially in the framework of the Energy Union. However, national or business interests continue to stand in the way of the collective pursuit of energy security and diversification of sources, routes and suppliers. How can the situation be remedied? Does the EU need a more robust legislative framework to ensure Member States compliance with respect to energy supply contracts? What remains to be done to build a functioning internal energy market?

Filippos Proedrou, Research Fellow, University of South Wales

Jan Kerner, Director Growth and Strategy for GE Power Europe

Beata Jaczewska, Member of the High-Level Advisory Panel to EU Research Commissioner on Decarbonisation Pathways for the EU

Václav Bartuška, Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Chair: **Richard Cockett**, Business Editor, Economist

18:30 – 20:00 **Welcome Networking Reception**

Welcome address: **Adriana Krnáčová**, Mayor of Prague

20:00 – 21:30 **Night Owl Session**

Session A: **Pressing the Reset Button of Transatlantic Relations: What Next?**

Even before the US presidential election, transatlantic relations had been adrift. The failure of TTIP, as well as the growing US frustration with European inability to step up its security and defence commitments, reflected the dilution of a common strategic purpose. The election of President Donald Trump led to predictions of an impending breakdown of the transatlantic alliance amidst mounting challenges to the liberal international order. Are these worries being born out?

Sophia Besch, Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform

Vessela Tcherneva, Senior Director for Programmes and Head of European Council on Foreign Relations, Sofia Office

Rudolf Jindrák, Director of International Department at the Office of the President of the Czech Republic

Ivan Vejvoda, Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences

Chair: **Vassilis Ntousas**, International Relations Policy Advisor, Foundation for European Progressive Studies



Session B: **The Uncertain Future of EU-Russia Relations**

Once perceived as a promising strategic partner, Russia has become EU's main strategic challenge. While the EU has managed to come together in enforcing as a sanctions regime in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea and aggression in the Donbas, it has failed to formulate a sustainable strategy for managing relations with Russia in this new, more adversarial context. Is there enough common ground in the EU for such a strategy? It is possible to unfreeze and rebalance EU-Russia relations without compromising EU's principles and commitments to Ukraine and other Eastern partners? What is the right balance between containment and engagement? What role should current US policy play in defining EU's approach to Russia?

Mark Galeotti, Senior Researcher, Institute of International Relations in Prague

Kristi Raik, Senior Research Fellow, European Union Research Programme, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Anna-Liisa Heusala, Senior Researcher, Aleksanteri Institute

Jakub M. Godzimirski, Research Professor, Research Group on Russia, Eurasia and the Arctic, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Chair: **Edward Lucas**, Senior Editor, Economist

Day Two, 14 June 2017, Lobkowitz Palace

9:00 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 11:30 Plenary Panel: Future of Digital Europe

Capitalising on the digital revolution presents a key source of economic growth for the EU. Digital technologies are inspiring new business models, transforming traditional industries, facilitating creative start-ups and changing the ways we live and work. The EU needs a regulatory environment that encourages innovation and risk-based, entrepreneurial approach, while striking a balance with protections and standards. This calls for an EU regulatory environment that has to be simple and harmonised in order to reap maximal benefits. How can we best contribute to truly completing the Digital Single Market? In order to fully participate in it, EU citizens will need new skills and lifelong learning. It is crucial to think ahead now of ensuring that no one is left behind by digitalization in order to avoid the disappointment for some that globalization has caused?

Sarah Vormsby, Analyst, Think Tank EUROPA

Václav Mach, Legal and Corporate Affairs Lead, Microsoft Corporation, CEE

Ondřej Malý, Digital Agenda Coordinator, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Taavi Roivas, Vice President of the Parliament, Former Prime Minister of Estonia



Jaanika Merilo, Vice Mayor of Dnipro, Advisor to Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation and Mayor of Lviv

Chair: **Ivan Hodač**, Founder and President, Aspen Institute Central Europe

11:30 – 12:00 **Prague European Summit study: What is wrong with the Single European Market and how to move forward: Towards a service and digital market?**

Adéla Zábrazná, Project Manager, Slovak Alliance for the Innovative Economy

Petra Dzurovčinová, Executive Manager, Slovak Alliance for the Innovative Economy

Chair: **Jan Kovář**, Researcher, Institute of International Relations in Prague

12:00 – 13:15 Buffet Lunch

13:15 – 14:30 **High Level Ministerial Panel**

Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

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

Clemens Koja, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council

Chair: **Ryan Heath**, Senior EU Correspondent & Associate Editor, Politico Europe

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee Break

15:00 – 16:00 **Plenary Panel: What further reforms and add-ons for the Eurozone?**

There's now a consensus across Europe that more needs to be taken to strengthen the eurozone, but there is no consensus on what to do. Does the eurozone need its own budget and its own finance minister? How might this budget be used? Does the eurozone need eurobonds? Is this a realistic goal? Should the eurozone focus on completing its existing projects? Why is the banking union not yet complete? How likely is it that member states will agree to implement the European Deposit Insurance Scheme? What role might Capital Markets Union play in strengthening the eurozone?

Aleš Chmelař, Financial Analyst, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Jiří Rusnok, Governor of the Czech National Bank

Martin Špolc, Head of Unit, Economic Analysis and Evaluation, European Commission

Petr Zahradník, Member, European Economic and Social Committee, Česká spořitelna

Chair: **Simon Nixon**, Chief European Commentator, Wall Street Journal

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:45 **Plenary Panel: Redefining the terms of the European security narrative**

The EU has made significant progress in the past year on strengthening its CSDP and to implement the strategic autonomy that the EU Global Strategy has called for. The drivers



of increased cooperation seem to be on a strong path, buoyed also by Central European countries who view a strong EU as a way to protect its citizens and defend its borders. Can we expect these positive dynamics to continue, or will the dangers of “two-speed Europe” limit integration on security issues? Are we witnessing a division of labour between NATO and the EU?

Martin Michelot, Deputy Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Petr Drulák, Ambassador of the Czech Republic in France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Lina Grip, Researcher, European Security Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Alexandre Escorcia, Deputy Director, Centre for Analysis, Forecasting and Strategy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Chair: **Rick Noack**, Reporter, Washington Post

17:45 – 18:15 Coffee Break

18:15 – 19:30 Plenary Panel: Investing in Europe’s Growth

The Investment Plan for Europe is a flagship initiative that it is intended to boost the European economy with huge investments flowing to different sectors, and that leverages the partnerships between the EU, Member States and private companies. The expectations it has raised are high. Has the Plan so far delivered on its expected results? Should the Plan be tweaked? Does it have the potential to secure sustainable growth and low unemployment in the EU?

James Watson, Director of Economics, BusinessEurope, the Confederation of European Business

Iliyana Tsanova, Deputy Managing Director, European Fund for Strategic Investments

Sebastian Plóciennik, Head of the Weimar Triangle Program, Polish Institute of International Affairs

Olga Afanasyeva, Executive Director, Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association

Chair: **Ivana Kottasova**, Reporter, CNNMoney

19:30 – 20:00 Registration at Czernin Palace

20:00 – 21:30 Reception & Annual “Vision for Europe” Award (upon invitation)

Venue: Czernin Palace, Loretańské 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



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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: **Lubomír Zaorálek**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Day Three, 15 June 2017, Czernin Palace

8:30 – 10:00

Discussion Breakfasts

Slovenian Embassy – *The future legal framework of the EU: Ljubljana initiative*

Peter Jambrek, Professor, Former Member of the European Court for Human Rights

Pavel Šturma, Professor, Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Law

French Institute in Prague – *European Defence – Challenges and Way Forward*

Manuel Lafont-Rapnouil, Head of Paris Office and Senior Policy Fellow of the European Council on Foreign Relations

Michal Šimečka, Researcher, Institute of International Relations in Prague

Chair: **Martin Michelot**, Deputy Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

British Embassy - *The media as guardians of the truth*

Ryan Heath, Senior EU correspondent, Politico

Michał Kokot, Foreign desk journalist, Gazeta Wyborcza

Chris Morris, Correspondent, BBC News

Tom Nuttall, Charlemagne columnist, Economist

10:30 – 11:00

Registration and welcome coffee

11:00 – 12:15

Plenary Panel: Brexit. Bad or Worse?

Brexit negotiations will dominate the EU's political agenda for years to come. Its significance will go beyond setting the parameters of EU's trade and political relations with the UK. Brexit will also shape the identity of the European project itself - to the point of re-defining the very meaning of EU membership, and ways in which EU relates to European non-member states. Just as importantly, the process and outcome of Brexit will bear on the future of the single market. Is there a shared vision of future EU-UK relations that can serve as a basis for a win-win outcome of Brexit negotiations? Can a mutually acceptable agreement be reached without compromising the integrity EU's four freedoms? How will Brexit change patterns of integration in the EU, and in Europe as a whole?



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Stefaan De Rynck, Advisor for Outreach and Think Tanks, Brexit Task Force of European Commission

Tim Oliver, Research Director, Brexit Analytics, Associate, LSE IDEAS

Emmy van Deurzen, Director, New Europeans

Martin Povejšil, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the European Union

Chair: **Tom Nuttall**, Charlemagne Columnist, Economist

12:15 – 13:30 Buffet Lunch

13:30 – 14:45 Plenary Panel: Exploring Options for EU – UK Trade

Once the UK leaves the EU, it will become the EU's main trade partner. Without any doubt, it is in the interest of both parties to preserve intensive mutual trade relations. To what extent will this be possible? What is the price the UK will have to pay for access to the EU internal market? What sort of trade agreement will the UK have with the EU? Will it also cover services, particularly financial services? Will there be a trade-off between the scope and speed? What sectors will be most affected by the Brexit?

Elvire Fabry, Senior Research Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute

Glenn Vaughan, Chief Executive, British Chamber of Commerce in Brussels

Christian Bluth, Project Manager, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Vladimír Bártl, Deputy Minister for European Union and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Jaromír Šindel, Chief Economist for the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia, Citibank

Chair: **Richard Cockett**, Business Editor, Economist

14:45 – 15:15 Coffee Break

15:15 – 16:00 Prague European Summit Chat

Frans Timmermans, Vice-President of the European Commission

Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

16:00 Closing Remarks: Organizers

Glass of Wine

Prague Talks

12 June

16:00 – 19:00 Venue: **Opero**, Salvátorská 931/8, Staré Město, 110 00, Prague 1

16:00 – 18:00 Exploring the nightmare scenario: How Would the EU Break Up?

The specter of a full-blown break-up of the European Union is a recurrent theme in the political discourse of European crises. It was invoked at the height of the Eurozone crisis, during the migration crisis, in the aftermath of UK's Brexit referendum, and, most recently, in the context of French presidential elections. But what exactly would it entail? Could it unfold in a sudden and uncontrollable chain of events, or is a more drawn-out process of fragmentation and hollowing-out the greater risk? Would break-up of the Eurozone or the Schengen area necessarily lead to the demise of the EU as a whole? In such an event, which parts of the institutional and legal edifice are most likely to remain standing? What strategic and regional constellations – for example, a northern bloc around Germany – are likely to emerge in a post-breakup scenario?

Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head of EU Foreign Policy Unit, Centre for European Policy Studies

Roger Casale, Director, New Europeans AISBL

Chair: **Eric Maurice**, Editor-in-Chief, EUobserver

18:00 – 19:00 Glass of wine

13 June

16:00 – 18:00 Venue: **ČSOB Inspirace**, Jungmannovo náměstí 767, 110 00 Praha 1

Turkey: An indispensable ally or a new sick man of Europe?

The EU – Turkey relations are going through deep crisis, yet Turkey remains an important partner as a NATO ally and a linchpin in a volatile region. The agonizing accession talks between the EU and Turkey are a fertile ground for mutual acrimonies. On one side the EU, knowing that a majority of European population rejects Turkish EU membership, pretends that Turkey can become an EU member state, of course only after fulfilling a lengthy list of conditions. On the other side, Turkish government accuses the EU member states of islamophobia and neonacism, yet at the same time pretends that it wants to enter the club it openly despises. Can a healthy EU – Turkey relations be based on such hypocrisy and mutual pretention?

Turkey is often portrayed as an indispensable security partner in a volatile in a volatile region. But how can this partnership between Turkey and the West survive an ever-deepening gap in threat perceptions? Current Turkish government treats internal critics among politicians, academics or journalists as enemies of the state and treats them accordingly, while Western



democracies fume about suppression of legitimate opposition and Turkish descent into authoritarianism. For us, the Kurds are a useful ally, while Turkey paints them as a mortal enemy. The latest Turkish military intervention in Syria highlights this threat perceptions gap and a divergence between what critics describe as neo-ottoman foreign policy of Turkey and Western interests in the region.

Michal Vít, Researcher, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Prof. Dr. Meltem Müftüler-Bac, Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet chair, Sabanci University, Istanbul

Chair: **Chris Morris**, BBC

14 June

16:00 – 18:00 Venue: **European House**, Jungmannova 745/24, 110 00 Praha 1

Brexit – EU: Who will lose more?

The UK formally initiated the process of leaving the EU by triggering Article 50 in March 2017; at this point, this is the certainty that we have about the BREXIT debate that mobilizes European debates. Besides occasional temperature tests such as the EU requesting the UK pay the €60 billion exit bill or the UK retaining the benefits of the single market without its constraints, the respective set of core goals and/or conditions yet remain heavily discussed and politicized. How can we assume that talks will proceed from there? What are the identified objectives for the two sides?

Tim Oliver, Research Director, Brexit Analytics, Associate, LSE IDEAS

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group

Jakub Dürr, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Chair: **Michael Žantovský**, Former Ambassador to the UK, Director of Václav Havel's Library (tbc)