



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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A TENTATIVE VERSION OF THE CONFERENCE AGENDA.

Draft Programme for 2017 conference as of **25 May 2017**, all speakers TBC.

Day One, 13 June 2017, Lobkowitz Palace

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

12:00 – 13:00 *PES Programme Board Lunch*

13:00 – 13:15 Words of welcome:

Vladimír Bartovic, Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Petr Kratochvíl, Director, Institute of International Relations in Prague

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

Catherine Ashton, Former High Representative of the Union for Foreign Security Policy, Former First Vice President of the European Commission (tbc)

Iveta Radičová, Former Prime Minister of Slovak Republic (tbc)

Eliška Wagnerová, Chairwoman, Standing Senate Commission on the Constitution of the Czech Republic and Parliamentary Procedures (tbc)

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?

Martin Michelot, Deputy Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

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

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

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

Peter Stračár, General Director, General Electric CEE

Beata Jaczewska, Executive Director, International Visegrad Fund

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?

Constanze Stelzenmüller, Robert Bosch Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

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

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

Day Two, 14 June 2017, Lobkowitz Palace

9:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 11:30 High Level Panel: Political Radicalisation in Europe

« Post-truth politics », « enough of experts » were the buzzwords for 2016 politics. Have they carried on in 2017 and brought with them the confirmation of the disconnect between established political parties and a European electorate increasingly tempted by self-styled “anti-system” voices? How can political parties regain this essential role of channelling societal desires into daily politics? What do we learn from the U.S. and French presidential elections that should serve a platform to ensure European cohesion and integration?

Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Sebastian Kurz, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe at the German Federal Foreign Office

Vike Vaira Freiberga, Former President of Latvia (tbc)

TBC: Margot Wallstrom, Borge Brende, Angelino Alfano, Didier Reynders, Mikheil Janelidze, Miroslav Lajčák

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

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break



12:00 – 13:15 **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

13:15 – 14:45 Buffet Lunch

14:45 – 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

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

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?

Thomas Gomart, Director, French Institute of International Relations

Jim Townsend, Adjunct senior fellow in the Transatlantic Security Program, Center for a New American Security

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

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

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

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

Wilhelm Molterer, Vice-President and member of the Management Committee of European Investment Bank (tbc)

Fabien Dell, Member of the Pierre Moscovici’s team, European Commission (tbc)

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

19:30 – 20:00 break / transfer

20:00 – 21:30 Reception & Annual “Vision for Europe” Award

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



PRAGUE

europaean summit

of European ideals such as strengthening peaceful cooperation among European nations, developing a fair institutional arrangement of European integration, making European 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.

20:15 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 Jambreč, 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*

Manuel Lafon 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

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?

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



PRAGUE

european summit

Steffan De Rynck, Advisor for Outreach and Think Tanks, Brexit Task Force of European Commission (tbc)

Mats Persson, Special adviser to former UK Prime Minister David Cameron (tbc)

Tim Oliver, Research Director, Brexit Analytics, Associate, LSE IDEAS (tbc)

Emmy van Deurzen, Director, New Europeans (tbc)

Jan Thompson, British Ambassador to the Czech Republic (tbc)

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

12:15 – 13:00 **Prague European Summit study**

13:00 – 14:15 **Buffet Lunch**

14:15 – 15:30 **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?

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

Elvire Fabry, Senior Research Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute

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

Christian Bluth, Project Manager, Bertelsmann Stiftung

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

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 16:45 **Key – note Speech:** Vice-President of the European Commission, Q & A

16:45 – 17:30 **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

Lucio Caracciolo, Head of Geopolitics, MacroGeo Consultancy (tbc)

Chair: **Eric Maurice**, Editor-in-Chief, EUobserver (tbc)

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.

F. Stephen Larrabee, Senior Political Scientist, RAND Corporation, Distinguished Chair Emeritus in European Security

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

Chair: **Chris Morris**, BBC (tbc)

14 June

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

Brexit – EU: Who will lose more?

Delivering the letter of desire to secede, the UK Prime Minister Theresa May has formally started the process of leaving the EU. Yet, it seems like that is all we can say about Brexit with certainty. Aside occasional “tests of temperature” like the EU demanding UK pay €60 billion exit bill or the UK to retain the benefits of the single market while avoiding many of its responsibilities, neither of the two opposing negotiation teams has introduced their respective set of goals and/or conditions. How do experts assume the talks to proceed? What could be the anticipated objectives on both sides?

Jan Thompson, British Ambassador to the Czech Republic

Gina Miller, Investment manager and philanthropist (tbc)

Bohdan Wojnar, president Auto SAP, ŠKODA AUTO a.s. (tbc)

Chair: **Kateřina Etrychová**, ČT (tbc)