

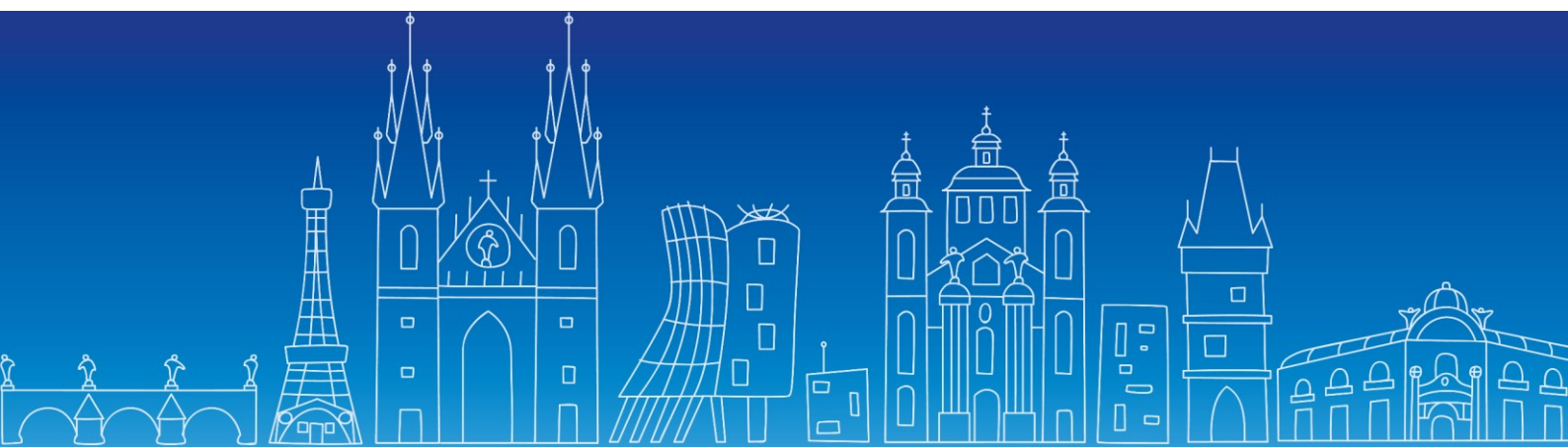
Prague European Summit 2020 Daily Summary

November 17 (Urban Talks)

Prague European Summit 2020 commenced with two Urban Talks, entitled *Satisfaction of democracy and the European Union across Europe* and *Carbon-neutral EU as a global climate leader – Why it matters?*. The Urban Talks are co-organised with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague.

In the talk regarding democracy, some believed politicians directly influence society's opinions while others argued that the population tends to rely more on their governments without expecting real support from the EU. There was consensus on the necessity to educate both adults and children on European values, democratic principles and the EU as a whole. However, it was also pointed out that economic growth remains the most important element in creating a more support mindset toward the EU. Polling data suggests that approval rates of the EU are connected to the economic and political situation. For instance, the 2008 financial crisis or the migration crisis in 2014-15 led to a significant drop in the population's opinion of the EU. In regard to the ongoing pandemic, the panellists were uncertain what the health crisis' impact will be on the EU.

In the climate talk, the panel discussed the carbon-free goals the EU set for the next 30 years and expressed points of view from both the government and industry representatives. It was agreed that the EU is already the global leader in terms of the mitigation of climate change. It was acknowledged that the EU's ambitious goals for carbon neutrality require more nuanced approaches between member states, their metropolitan and rural areas, as well as their industries. Vice-Chair for the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs **Luděk Niedermayer** addressed the common misconception that current high carbon emitting forms of energy are cheap, when in fact they "hide the real costs" given the costs they impose not only on the world but also on peoples' health as a result of exposure to their production.





Recordings

You can watch the recording of Urban talks on our Facebook.

Satisfaction with democracy and EU across Europe (in [English](#), [Czech](#))

Carbon-neutral EU as a global climate leader – Why it matters? (in [English](#), [Czech](#))

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