

Day 1 Summary

The 2019 Prague European Summit commenced with a discussion on the evolving trends in policy and state behaviors among EU nations in 1989, 2004 and 2019. Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs **Tomáš Petříček** highlighted some of the factors that have led to this change, including an increase in Chinese interest on the continent and a decrease in involvement from the United States.

Moderator **Petr Drulák** touched on the way the recent European elections have changed the way policy will be made in the near future and the importance of using good policy decisions and positive political discourse to resolve disputes.

Former Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs **Ana Palacio** referenced the existence of the Prague European Summit as an example of European cohesion and the lessening of divisions while also addressing how EU states have recently stopped moving in the same direction in regard to European integration.

Reka Szemerkenyi, Executive Vice President of the Center for European Policy Analysis, called for a strategic reevaluation of the long-term goals of the EU, stressing the importance of large-scale cooperation on the continent in order to preserve European values.

Finally, **Pawel Swieboda**, who acts as the deputy head for European Political Strategy Centre, an in-house think tank of the European Commission, referenced some specific geopolitical trends that could have an effect on the future of the EU, such as China being projected to overtake the EU's collective defense spending by 2025 and Africa projected to more than double its population by 2050.

The **Vision for Europe** award, 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, was handed over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic Tomáš Petříček. The ceremony took place in the gardens of the Czernin Palace and the 2019 award went to the former Prime Minister of Slovakia and current President of the Wilfried Martens Centre Brussels Mr. **Mikuláš Dzurinda**. You can read his speech [here](#).

Earlier in the day, Slovene politician, policymaker and professor **Žiga Turk**, Director of international think tank RE-DEFINE **Linda Zeilina** and Atlantic Council member **Jakub Kalenský** discussed the impact of disinformation on the European elections and other democratic institutions. The speakers focused on how false information created by the Russian media has affected Brexit, the independence of Catalonia and the refugee crisis in Europe.





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All agreed on three ways to combat such disinformation. The first was for the government to publish official documents and policies in a timely manner to avoid the spread of rumors. The second was to ensure that the flow of information isn't too controlled by the government or oligarchs. The third was to administer appropriate punishment to individuals and media that disseminate false information.



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