

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP VILNIUS SUMMIT: The Victory of Red Tape over Policy-Making?

International Conference organized by the Association for International Affairs (AMO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Embassy of the Republic of Poland to the Czech Republic, International Visegrad Fund, Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic, Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), and Center for EU Enlargement Studies (CENS)

Friday, 22 November 2013

Embassy of the Republic of Poland to the Czech Republic

Valdštejnská 8, Prague, Czech Republic

#AMOeap (suggested hashtag)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Prague



Representation in the Czech Republic



Conference Synopsis

On November 28-29, 2013, under the Lithuanian presidency, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Summit will take place in Vilnius. The long-anticipated Association Agreement's signature with Ukraine is in the spotlight of the majority of observers who still tend to mingle the success or failure of the EaP with EU-Ukrainian deal. In default of agreement, EaP will come under great criticism though the implementation of the Association Agreement will definitely remain questionable.

However, there are other aspects that can quickly turn into success stories of the EaP – most importantly the commitment of the Moldovan government, even after the domestic political crisis; and continuation of Georgian effort to meet the conditions that will bring it closer to the EU. It has not been taken for granted and the situation is subjected to reverse at any time as we have seen recently in case of other partner states. For those reasons, we believe that the development of the EaP programme and close look to the situation in EaP countries is worthy of monitoring and analysis.

With the intensive debate of experts and decision-makers that has been conducted over the last few months, we have identified enduring scepticism towards the EaP, no matter what the real effects are. The commentators are worried about the victory of red tape over policy-making and consequently miss the decisive political leadership from the EU side. They emphasise the negative attitude of Russians to the EU programmes in common neighbourhood, recently epitomized because of Armenian decision to join the Customs Union, and last but not least, doubt the EaP political elites will conduct any reforms without the veritable incentives that are in their opinion constantly absent.

The main objective of our international conference will be to gather top Central European policy makers – taking into account that Visegrád countries are widely perceived as main proponents of the deeper integration with the EaP – and facilitate their dialogue with expert community from V4 and EaP countries. During the first conference day, Czech and Polish ministers of foreign affairs will address the stakeholders as well as the general public with their visions of the EaP before and after the keenly awaited Vilnius Summit. In the second conference day, the event will move into expert level discussing concrete political and economic implications of the current state of play. The Friday session will be held under the Chatham House Rule.

Based on the opinion exchange, AMO and partner think-tanks will produce policy recommendations that will be immediately sent to representatives of EU Presidencies, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission and the European External Affairs Service who will have the unique chance to take them into consideration during the upcoming Vilnius Summit.

We would like to thank all those whose help and cooperation have made this conference possible and hope you will enjoy staying with us.

Vlad'ka Votavová, Program Director, AMO – Association for International Affairs

Programme

Thursday, 21 November 2013

By special invitations only

18:00 **Glass of Wine**

Antonín Berdych, Chairman of Supervisory Board, AMO – Association for International Affairs

Friday, 22 November 2013

By special invitations only

Conference venue: Embassy of the Republic of Poland to the Czech Republic
Valdštejnská 8, Prague, Czech Republic

9:00 – 9:30 **Registration**

9:30 – 9:45 **Welcome Remarks**

Amb. Grażyna Bernatowicz, Ambassador of Poland to the Czech Republic

Amb. Annika Jagander, Ambassador of Sweden to the Czech Republic

Amb. Aurimas Taurantas, Ambassador of Lithuania to the Czech Republic

9:45 – 11:45 **Expert Roundtable #1**
Vilnius Summit – Political Implications

Victoria Bucataru, Research and Programs Director, Foreign Policy Association (APE)

Jeff Lovitt, Coordinator for the Working Group 1: Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum; Executive Director, Policy Association for an Open Society (PASOS)

Amb. Petr Mareš, Special Envoy for Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Jan Michal, Head of the Representation of the European Commission to the Czech Republic

Amb. Beata Pełka, Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland for Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

Amb. Vaidotas Verba, Special Envoy for the Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Chaired by: *Péter Balázs*, Director, Center for European Enlargement Studies (CENS), former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

11:45 – 12:45 **Lunch**

12:45 – 14:45 **Expert Roundtable #2**
DCFTAs – Economic Implications

Tatiana Molcean, Head of the Economic Cooperation and Sectoral Coordination Unit, General Directorate for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova

Veronika Movchan, Academic Director, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting

Martin Pospíšil, Director of the Department of Foreign Economic Policies (European and CIS countries), Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Vilém Semerák, Researcher, Center for Economic Research & Graduate Education – Economics Institute (CERGE-EI)

Markijan Želak, Coordinator for the Working Group 2: Economic Integration and Convergence with the EU Policies, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Chaired by: *Rebecca Murray*, Research Fellow, Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA)

14:45 – 15:00 **Wrap-up Session**

Vít Dostál, Director of the Research Center, AMO – Association for International Affairs

Vlad'ka Votavová, Program Director, AMO – Association for International Affairs

The Meeting is held under the Chatham House Rule

„When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.“

Speakers' Bios

ANTONÍN BERDYCH



Antonín Berdych is Chairman of Supervisory Board of AMO – the Association for International Affairs. In 2003-2007, he worked as its director. At the same time, he was a member of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations. Since 2008, he served as Director of the Cabinet of Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. From 2010 to 2013, he was Chief Advisor of the Foreign Committee at the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

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GRAŻYNA BERNATOWICZ



H.E. Mrs. Grażyna Bernatowicz is the Ambassador of Poland to the Czech Republic. During 2007-2013, she was a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for parliamentary affairs, European policy, and human rights. Previously she served as Poland's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra as well as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs overseeing international organizations, economic and legal affairs. H.E. Mrs. Bernatowicz is an author of over 70 publications on Southern Europe, European integration and regional cooperation. She is a professor at the Helena Chodkowska University of Management and Law in Warsaw.

www.praga.ms.gov.pl | [@PLinCzechRep](https://twitter.com/PLinCzechRep) | [@mszbernatowicz](https://twitter.com/mszbernatowicz)

ANNIKA JAGANDER



H.E. Mrs. Annika Jagander is the Ambassador of Sweden to the Czech Republic. She served as Sweden's ambassador to Botswana as well as her country's permanent representative to SADC. Prior to this, she has worked in Sweden's missions in Havana, Washington D.C., New York and Madrid. Ambassador Jagander was also a member of Sweden's delegation to the UNSC and served as Secretary to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Swedish Parliament. She holds a B.A. from Denison University, Ohio, and a MSc. from the University of Göteborg.

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AURIMAS TAURANTAS



H.E. Mr. Aurimas Taurantas is the Ambassador of Lithuania to the Czech Republic. He is a graduate of Kaunas University of Technology. H.E. Mr. Taurantas worked as an adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lithuania. During the years 1993-1994, he worked in the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

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VICTORIA BUCĂȚARU



Victoria Bucătaru is Research and Program Director of the Foreign Policy Association of Moldova (APE) based in Chisinau. She holds a B.A. and M.A. degrees in international relations, political and administrative sciences from the Moldova State University. In 2005-2010, she worked as a lecturer at the International Relations Department, Moldova State University as well as she has been involved in the activity of several non-governmental organisations such as Institute for Development and Social Initiatives, Information and Documentation Centre on NATO, European Institute for Political Studies.

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JEFF LOVITT



Jeff Lovitt is Executive Director of the Policy Association for an Open Society (PASOS) and Chair of the Board of the Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights (DEMAS). Mr. Lovitt was co-Chair of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in 2012 and was elected again in 2013 as a member of the Steering Committee and Coordinator for the Working Group 1: Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability. He was also a member of the founding Steering Committee of the European Partnership for Democracy. Previously, he worked as a journalist for The European, the Sunday Times, the Financial Times, the International Herald Tribune and others.

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PETR MAREŠ



Ambassador Petr Mareš is Special Envoy for Eastern Partnership at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic since 2010. Previously, in 2006-2010, he was the Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In 1998 he entered politics, becoming a Member of the Parliament (1998-2002) and Deputy Prime Minister (2002-2004). He has also served as Director of the Institute of International Policy and Chair of the Department of American Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague.

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JAN MICHAL



Jan Michal is Head of the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic. He studied International Relations at Charles University in Prague and Economy at the University of Economics in Prague. Prior to assuming his current office, Mr. Michal spent several years at Ministry of Foreign Affairs as UN Department Director or as Deputy of Permanent Representative of Czech Republic to NATO. Among the positions he held were even the purely diplomatic ones in the Netherlands and to United Nations in

New York.

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BEATA PEKSA



Ambassador Beata Peksa is the Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland for Eastern Partnership. Previously she served as the Ambassador, Representative of Poland to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations in New York. She holds a MSc. in Journalism and Political Science of the Warsaw University.

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VAIDOTAS VERBA



Ambassador Vaidotas Verba is Special Envoy for the Eastern Partnership at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. He studied at the Vilnius University, at the University of Birmingham, UK, as well as at the Lithuanian Physical Education Academy. Amb. Verba held the position of the Minister Counsellor at the

Lithuanian Embassy in Canada in 2000-2003. He served as the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the Netherlands, too.

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PÉTER BALÁZS



Professor Péter Balázs is Director and founder of the Center for European Enlargement Studies (CENS) at the Central European University (CEU). Prof. Balázs graduated at the “Karl Marx” University and is a ScD of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was a State Secretary for Industry and Trade in 1992-1993 and a State Secretary for European Integration in 2002-2003. In 2004, he became the first Member of the European Commission from Hungary, holding the Regional Policy portfolio. In 2009-2010, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary. He was also Ambassador of Hungary in Denmark, Germany and to the EU in Brussels. In parallel with his government and diplomatic career he has been teaching and doing research at the CEU.

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TATIANA MOLCEAN



Tatiana Molcean works as the Head of the Economic Cooperation and Sector Coordination Unit of the General Directorate for European Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova. She held the position of Moldovan chargé d'affaires for Sweden, Finland, and Norway in Stockholm in 2008-2009. She also resumed the position of Head of Division for economic and sector cooperation with EU, and was involved in EU-Moldova Association Agreement and DCFTA negotiations in 2011. Ms. Molcean graduated from the State University of Moldova and studied also at the Institut de Hautes Études in Genève.

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VERONIKA MOVCHAN



Veronika Movchan is Academic Director at the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, Kyiv. Her research interests are in macroeconomic analysis and forecasting, international trade and trade policy. She worked as a research fellow at Stanford University, US and the DIW-Berlin, Germany. She was also a consultant at the World Bank Resident Mission in Kyiv and the Harvard Institute for International Development in Ukraine. She graduated from the National University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy“.

MARTIN POSPÍŠIL



Martin Pospíšil has been appointed as Director of the Department of Foreign Economic Policies (European and CIS countries) at the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic since 2009. Previously, he worked as the Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO and Head of WTO Unit at the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic in Geneva. Mr. Pospisil chaired several committees during his time at WTO in Geneva (e.g. Committee on Safeguards, Market Access, Participants to the ITA, Specific Commitments). He has valuable experience in the area of multilateral and bilateral economic relations, international organizations and export promotion.

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VILÉM SEMERÁK



Vilém Semerák is Researcher at IDEA think tank of Center for Economic Research & Graduate Education – Economics Institute (CERGE-EI). He specializes in international trade theory, economics of transition and Chinese economy, his latest research concerns the debt crisis, Sino-EU trade relations and estimates of effects of trade liberalization between EU and the USA. Mr. Semerak studied at Prague University of Economics, London School of Economics & Political Science, and Charles University. He also experienced several longer work- and research-related stays in China (P. R. C).

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MARKIJAN ŽELAK



Markijan Zelak is Coordinator for the Working Group 2: Economic Integration and Convergence with the EU Policies at the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. At the same time, he is a President of Board of the European Cooperation Centre Association based in Wroclaw, Poland. Since 2002 he has been involved in over a dozen international aid projects addressed to Eastern Partnership countries, mainly to Ukraine. He graduated at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine, and at the International Slavic University in Moscow (finance).

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REBECCA MURRAY



Rebecca Murray works as a Research Fellow at Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA). She is the Editor-in-Chief of the online portal Foreign Policy, and the Editor of the web magazine Visegrad Revue. She graduated from the Comenius University in Bratislava and spent a year at Istanbul Cultures Üniversitesi. Ms. Murray has also worked as the Editor of publication Panorama of global security environment in the Transatlantic Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs (CENAA).

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VÍT DOSTÁL



Vít Dostál is Director of the Research Center of the Association for International Affairs where he –among others – has coordinated the Agenda for Czech Foreign Policy and Trends of Czech European Policy projects. In his research, he is mainly focused on Central Europe, Poland and Czech European and Foreign Policy. He pursues his Ph.D. in European Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies of the Masaryk University in Brno. He completed study stay at Collegium Civitas in Warsaw and internships at the Czech Embassy in Poland and the South Moravian Region Representation to the EU.

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VLAĐKA VOTAVOVÁ



Vladka Votavová is Program Director of AMO – the Association for International Affairs. She graduated in international area studies and political sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague where she pursues post-graduate master's programme in East European studies. She studied at the University of Kent, UK (2009-2010), and at Pushkin State Russian Language Institute (2012), as well. She is an alumna of Promoting Tolerance programme carried out by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom and the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

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Association for International Affairs



**Asociace
pro mezinárodní
otázky**
Association
for International
Affairs

AMO – the Association for International Affairs is a preeminent independent think-tank in the Czech Republic in the field of international affairs and foreign policy. Since 1997, the mission of AMO has been to contribute to a deeper understanding of international affairs through a broad range of educational and research activities. Today, AMO represents a unique and transparent platform in which academics, business people, policy makers, diplomats, the media and NGO's can interact in an open and impartial environment.

In order to achieve its goals AMO strives to:

- formulate and publish briefings, research and policy papers;
- arrange international conferences, expert seminars, roundtables, public debates;
- organize educational projects;
- present critical assessment and comments on current events for local and international press;
- create vital conditions for growth of a new expert generation;
- support interest in international relations in the wider public domain;
- cooperate with like-minded local and international institutions.

AMO Research Center

Founded in October 2003, AMO's Research Center has been dedicated to carrying out research and raising public awareness of international affairs, security and foreign policy. The Research Center strives to identify and analyze issues important to Czech foreign policy and the country's position in the world. To this end, the Research Center produces independent analyses; encourages expert and public debate on international affairs; and suggests solutions to tackle problems in today's world.

AMO Team and Volunteers

Antonín Berdych, Chairman of Supervisory Board

Vít Dostál, Director of the Research Center

Jan Kužvart, Head of New Media

Daria Sandul, Head of Conference Service

Vlad'ka Votavová, Program Director

Dominik Židek, Financial Director

Bára Bečvářová, Vít Borčany, Martina Kotasová, Tomáš Opat, Jan Pivoda, Marie Plasová, Šimon Presser, Gabriela Slapničková, Šárka Tesařová

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International Visegrad Fund



IVF – the International Visegrad Fund is an international organization founded by the governments of the Visegrad region. The Fund facilitates and promotes the development of closer cooperation among V4 countries through grant support of common cultural, scientific and educational projects, youth exchanges and cross-border projects. In 2012, a separate V4EaP program was established, offering separate grant and scholarship schemes.

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Center for EU Enlargement Studies



CENS – the Center for EU Enlargement Studies, located at Central European University in Budapest, is dedicated to making recent and upcoming enlargements work, by contributing to the debate on the future of the EU and by exploring the results and lessons of previous EU enlargements. Research activities, however, are not limited only to the analysis of previous enlargements, but also to the potential effects that a wider extension of the EU’s sphere of influence may have on bordering regions.

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Slovak Foreign Policy Association



SFPA – the Slovak Foreign Policy Association was founded in 1993 as an open discussion forum on international affairs and the Slovak foreign policy without links to any party or movement. Its overall goal is to enable open space for free exchange of opinions and ideas on the scope of foreign policy. The SFPA is a voluntary association of individuals and bodies corporate with interest in the area of foreign policy. The main substance of its activities is to actively support integration of the Slovak Republic into the community of democratic countries and their political and security structures.

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Centre for Eastern Studies



OSW – the Centre for Eastern Studies is a research institution dealing with analyses and forecast studies of the situation in: the countries neighbouring Poland and in the Baltic Sea region, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia. OSW was established in 1990. OSW’s tasks include the compilation of information on important events and the political, social and economic processes taking place in Poland’s international surroundings and to make it available to Poland’s state authorities, as well as preparing analyses, expert opinions and forecast studies.

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**Eastern Partnership Vilnius Summit:
The Victory of Red Tape over Policy Making?**

Association for International Affairs – AMO

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