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The Future of EU's Eastern Neighbourhood: Political and Security Update

*International expert conference organized under the auspices of Mr **Václav Hampl**, Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs of the Senate, Parliament of the Czech Republic, as the follow-up on the EU's Eastern Partnership Summit by the Association for International Affairs (AMO).*

Monday, 11 December 2017, 10:30 – 15:15

Venue: European House, Jungmannova 24, Prague

Registration: <http://bit.ly/ziZlf4d>

Working language: English

10:30 – 10:45

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10:45 – 12:30

Panel I: Eastern Partnership after the 2017 summit: What does the future hold?

The Eastern Partnership summit held in Brussels on November 24 confirmed the direction set in Riga – the EaP countries have to choose their own aspirations, thus the two-speed format of the EaP has been formally acknowledged again. Rather smaller steps in specific policy areas were confirmed, even though the EU-Armenia agreement was signed as well.

Is the existing toolbox for the Eastern Partnership able to comply with the current needs? Are the “20 deliverables for 2020” the right way forward or should the ambitions be higher? How to combine the much-needed conditionality with the partner Associated countries’ desire to see a more developed partnership status with the EU? What are the areas the partner countries have to deal with in order to persuade the Members States which still remain reluctant to the Associated countries EU membership in future?

Václav Hampl, Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs, Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Prague

Miriam Lexmann, Director of the EU Office, EU Office of International Republican Institute, Brussels

Dmytro Shulga, European Programme Director, International Renaissance Foundation, Kiev



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Emily Tamkin, Staff Writer, Foreign Policy, Washington, D. C.

12:30 – 13:30

Buffet lunch & Networking

13:30 – 15:15

Panel II: Security in Eastern Europe: How to avoid a permanent deadlock?

Russian aggression against Ukraine has not terminated and there have been more than 10,000 casualties since the outbreak of the war in April 2014. The hostilities continue despite the fact that Russia faces sanctions for harsh violation of the international law, the Minsk Agreements are far from being implemented, and new initiatives – such as the UN Peacekeeping mission – further shake up the debate. Similarly, Russia further slices Georgian territory and Russian troops remain in Transnistria. As a reaction, NATO has strengthened its defense capabilities on its eastern flank.

What kind of scenarios are on the table and how to avoid another frozen conflict and a security deadlock in Europe? What has to be done by Donald Trump's Administration in order to enhance security in Eastern Europe apart from the appeal to the European NATO members to increase their defense spending?

Michael Carpenter, Senior Director, Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, Washington, D.C.

Tomáš Pojar, Vice President, CEVRO Institute, Prague

Serhiy Saienko, Acting Director, EU & NATO Departement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Kiev

Borys Tarasyuk, the People's Deputy of Ukraine, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Foreign Affairs, Kiev, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Kiev

The conference will be chaired by **Vít Dostál**, Research Director, AMO, Prague



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Organizer

AMO is a non-governmental not-for-profit organization founded in 1997 in Prague to promote research and education in the field of international relations. This leading Czech foreign policy think-tank owes no allegiance to any political party or to any ideology. It aims to encourage pro-active approach to foreign policy issues; provide impartial analysis of international affairs; and facilitate an open space for informed discussion.

Partners

The event is supported by the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, U.S. Embassy in Prague and the Transition Promotion Program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.



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