

Expert Seminar	Role of the OSCE in managing the crisis in Eastern Ukraine: lessons learned and prospects
Date	23 October 2018
Venue	Hotel Crowne Plaza
Organizers	Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Friedrich Ebert Foundation
Description/Aim	The crisis in and around Ukraine is a crisis that touches on the very nature of European security architecture. Both its ultimate outcome and the process of finding a solution to this crisis are going to shape a wider understanding and practice of security policy in Europe. This event will provide an opportunity to focus on humanitarian aspects of the whole crisis, which exhibits many features of a humanitarian catastrophe. This particular focus should also underline that there are other and equally important aspects to the crisis besides its military logic. The OSCE has an indisputable added-value as a key international player in this crisis. The main objective of the conference will therefore be to help identify the potential of the OSCE and Slovakia as the future OSCE chairmanship country in managing the crisis in and around Ukraine on several levels and in finding ways how to improve the humanitarian situation in the field.

Draft agenda

9:00 – 9:15 Opening speech: *Dr. Alexander Duleba*, Director of the SFPA

09:15 – 11:00 Panel I. The OSCE in the multi-layered framework of international formats for the conflict settlement: where are we?

The panel will discuss outcomes of the existing formats of negotiations on the resolution of the conflict - first of all, Normandy Format and the U.S.-Russia dialogue in “Volker-Surkov format”. The crucial question is how to synchronize the existing international formats with the OSCE activities in Ukraine? Which are the windows of opportunity to enhance the negotiation process?

Chair	<i>Alexander Duleba</i> , Director of the SFPA
Speakers	<i>Amb William H. Hill</i> , Global Fellow, Kennan Institute, Wilson Center (TBC) <i>Oleg Ignatov</i> , Deputy Director, Center for Current Policy <i>Wilfried Jilge</i> , Associate Fellow German Society for Foreign Policy <i>Florent Parmentier</i> , Head of Policy Lab, Sciences Po

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45 Panel II. OSCE presence in Ukraine: lessons learned

The OSCE is the ears and eyes of the international community in Ukraine. What has been done so far? What are lessons learned from the OSCE activities? What are options/prospects for strengthening the OSCE presence and conflict settlement activities in Ukraine? What can be done to put forward the humanitarian aspect and human face of this crisis instead of military logic?

Chair *Vladimír Bilčík*, Head of EU Program, SFPA

Speakers *Remi Duflot*, Deputy, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to the Trilateral Contact Group on the implementation of the peace plan in the East of Ukraine

Amb. Marcel Peško, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

Amb. Radomír Boháč, Permanent Representative of Slovak Republic to the OSCE in Vienna

Maksym Khyenko, Chairman of the East European Security Research Foundation

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Panel III. OSCE and the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) in Minsk: how to improve TCG capacities to find solutions?

The panel will review lessons learned from TCG talks with the aim to identify the potential for improving its capacities to move forward within the peace talks. It will also discuss options for elimination of a gap between the TCG and other existing international formats, first of all, the Normandy format. Finally, it will provide space to discuss the opportunities on how to improve the situation of the local civil population.

Chair *Kadri Liik*, Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR

Speakers *Yevhen Marchuk*, Ukraine's Representative in the Security Subgroup of the Trilateral Contact Group

Sergey Utkin, Head of Department, Centre for Situation Analysis, Russian Academy of Sciences

Thomas de Waal, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Europe

Anna Hess Sargsyan, Senior Researcher at the Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

16:00 – 16:15 Closing speech: *Karla Wursterová*, Director General, Directorate General for International Organisations, Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid, MFaEA SR