

Conference	East European crisis: scenarios and EU response
Date	27 October 2014
Venue	Congress Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Hlboká cesta 2, Bratislava
Organizer	Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association
Partners	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Media partner	EurActiv.sk
Working language	English
Background	<p>Russia's interference with Ukrainian domestic affairs in the course of 2014 led to the most challenging crisis in Europe since the end of the cold war. Russia has applied political, trade and military actions with the aim to stop pro-EU course of Ukraine as well as political changes brought by the Maydan revolution. Russia violated sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine by acts of aggression, first, by the decision of the Council of the Russian Federation to authorise President of Russia for the use of force on the territory of Ukraine, second, by annexation of Crimea, and third, by supporting military insurgency in South-Eastern Ukraine. What has been initially called "Ukrainian crisis" has turned in the course of several months of 2014 into "European crisis", which, first, threatens European security in unprecedented way since the end of the WWII; second, undermines sovereignty of post-Soviet countries as well as existing international regime in post bipolar Europe; third, divides Europe again into two different "civilization" parts that confront each other; fourth, challenges economic interests of all European nations; fifth, raises question about sustainability of the EU as a transformative power in Eastern Europe as well as a viability of the existing political regime in Russia; and finally, the way this crisis will be approached will help determine European international order, future shape of East European countries, including the EU itself for years to come.</p>
Aim	<p>The one-day conference will discuss EU strategy towards East European crisis with the aim to draft policy recommendations for new EU institutions and governments of EU member states with special focus on the Visegrad Four countries. In order to identify adequate policy response of the EU the conference will, first, examine nature of the crisis, including its reasons, as well as the existing EU policy framework for developing relations with Eastern partner countries and Russia; and second, explore scenarios for further development of the crisis, including both potentials and limits of relevant actors for cooperative and/or confrontational projection of their interests. The conference proceedings will aim at answering the following three key</p>

questions: first, what is the crisis about; second, what are the scenarios for its further development; and third, what should be the EU response.

AGENDA

- 8:00-8:45 Registration of participants
- 8:45-9:00 **Welcome**
Juraj Stern, Chair of the Board of Directors, Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava
Mirko Hempel, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Czech and Slovak Republics, Prague
Alexander Duleba, Director, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava
- 9:00-9:45 **Keynote speech**
Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Q&A
- 9.45-10:00 Coffee-break
- 10:00-12:00 **Panel I. Nature of the crisis**
Chair *Alexander Duleba*, Director, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava
Speakers *Kataryna Wolczuk*, Deputy Director and Senior Lecturer, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham
Oleksandr Sushko, Research Director, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Kyiv
Boris Kuznetsov, Director, Center of International and Regional Policy, St. Petersburg
Grzegorz Gromadzki, Associate Fellow, Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw
Commentary *Petra Kuchyňková*, Lecturer, Department of International Relations and European Studies, Masaryk University, Brno
Discussion

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:00 **Panel II. Dynamics and scenarios**

Chair **Reinhard Krumm**, Head of the Central and Eastern Europe Department, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin

Speakers **James Sherr**, Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Program, Chatham House, London

Arkadiy Moshes, Director of the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia Research Programme, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Helsinki

Cornelius Ochmann, Director, Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation, Berlin/Warsaw

Marek Menkiszak, Head, Russia Department, Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw

Cornel Ciurea, Research Fellow, Institute for Development and Social Initiatives, Chisinau

Commentary **Zsuzsanna Vegh**, Research Fellow, Center for the EU Enlargement Studies, Central European University, Budapest

Discussion

15:00-15:30 Coffee-break

15:30-17:30 **Panel III. EU and the member states response**

Chair **Vladimír Bilčík**, Senior Fellow, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava

Speakers **Petr Kratochvíl**, Director, Institute of International Relations, Prague

Mirja Peterson, Head, Eastern Europe Unit, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Stockholm

Laurynas Kasčiūnas, Head of Policy Analysis and Research Division, Eastern Europe Studies Centre, Vilnius

Nat Copsey, Director, Aston Centre for Europe, University of Aston, Birmingham

Jana Kobzová, Program Officer, European Endowment for Democracy, Brussels; Associate Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations, London

Commentary **Iris Kempe**, Senior Adviser, Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stockholm

Discussion

17:30-17:45 **Concluding remarks**

Alexander Duleba, Director, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava

18:00-18:30 **Book launch “A EUROPEAN UNION WITH 36 MEMBERS? PERSPECTIVES AND RISKS”**

Presented by **Péter Balázs**, Director, Centre for EU Enlargement Studies, Central European University, Budapest

Venue Palugyay Palace, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Hlboká cesta 2, Bratislava

18:30 Glass of wine