



Eastern Partnership: Objectives for Riga Summit 2015

2 October 2014 (Thursday) 09:00 - 13:30

The Polish Institute of International Affairs

1a Warecka Street, Warsaw

Conference room, 1st floor

The lead up to the 2013 Vilnius Summit and its aftermath has posed many questions regarding the European integration process of the Eastern Partnership countries. Being the driving force of continued democratic, economic and social transformations of these countries, the EU's role is becoming more important than ever. Recent developments in the region raised questions about the importance of the security dimension of the Eastern Partnership. The Crimean crisis and the 2008 Russian-Georgian War, as well as the worsening situation with the frozen conflicts in the region, indicate the need for new regional security architecture. EU-facilitated contributions to development of the Eastern Partners is not possible without addressing the security issues that hamper the EaP countries' development.

The value and transformation potential of such instruments as the Association Agreements and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreements offered to Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine cannot be underestimated, but the question remains: can such instruments help set these countries irreversibly on the European path and achieve deep, systemic changes in their societies? How can the EU help induce transformation in Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Belarus, where, in spite of the unfavourable environment, civil society has demonstrated the capacity to unite, mobilise, and act?

The discussion will also address the official Polish position on the future of the Eastern Partnership as well as Poland's possible role in promoting further membership perspectives for the EaP member states to other EU member states.

This event brings together Polish and EU policy-makers as well as civil society actors, including representatives of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

Programme

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:45 Welcome

Jarosław Ćwiek-Karpowicz, Head of Research Office, Polish Institute of International Affairs
Kristina Vaiciunaite, EaP CSF Steering Committee, EU Coordinator, Eastern Europe Studies Center, Lithuania

09:45 – 10.00 Opening remarks

Konrad Pawlik, Director of the Eastern Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland



10:00 – 11:30 Panel I: EU goals, policy objectives and tools in further developing the Eastern Partnership. How can the Riga summit be made a successful milestone for European integration?

- Introducing a security dimension in EaP: how will it affect its goals and engagement in democratic reforms?
- Russian aggression in Ukraine and Russian destabilising influence on the EaP countries
- Role of the EU in resolving regional conflicts
- EU integration beyond DCFTA: what can the EU offer Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine?
- Russian influence in DCFTA's negotiations: what to expect next?
- Dealing with EaP countries where the current political elites withhold from EU integration course

Oleksandr Sushko, Ukrainian National Platform of EaP CSF, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation

Vano Chkhikvadze, Georgian National Platform of EaP CSF, Open Society Georgia Foundation

Lilia Carasciuc, Moldovan National Platform of EaP CSF, Transparency International – Moldova

Boris Navasardyan, Armenian National Platform of EaP CSF, Yerevan Press Club

Jan Piekło, EU Coordinator of the EaP CSF, PAUCI

Moderator: Stanislav Secrieru, Senior Research Fellow, Polish Institute of International Affairs

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 Panel II: Human rights and the state of democracy in the EaP region. How could the EU better support civil society development?

- Deteriorating state of democracy and human rights;
- Civil society as a force in campaigning for democratic transformation, reforms and European integration; Campaigning for Charter on Human Rights;
- Identifying obstacles for reform in each of the EaP countries;
- Policy recommendations from civil society;
- EU: Balancing interest and values;
- EU aid approach and tools: how to better support civil society and help the EaP countries with governance reforms

Leila Alieva, Azerbaijan National Platform, Center for National and International Studies

Jeff Lovitt, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the EaP CSF, PASOS

Andrei Yahorau, Belarusian National Platform of EaP CSF, Center for European Transformation

Elżbieta Kaca, Senior Research Fellow, the Polish Institute of International Affairs

Moderator: Piotr Kościński, Head of Eastern and South Eastern Europe Programme, the Polish Institute of International Affairs