

MEDIA ADVISORY

Security Challenges of the EU's Eastern Neighborhood

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What: Conference “Security Challenges of the EU’s Eastern Neighborhood” by the [Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum](#) (EaP CSF)

When: 28-29 July 2016

Where: Betsy's hotel, Makashvili St., 32-34, Tbilisi, Georgia

28 July

09:00 - 09:30 Photo/TV opportunity; +/- **09.30** Interview opportunity:

Janos Herman, Head of the European Union Delegation to Georgia

Lasha Tughushi, National Coordinator of the EaP CSF Georgian National Platform

Kakha Gogolashvili, Chairman of Georgian National Platform, Director of EU Studies at Rondeli Foundation

Krzysztof Bobinski, Co-chair of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

09:30 - 11:30 Photo/TV opportunity; +/- **11.00** Interview opportunity:

Tengiz Phkhaladze, Advisor to the President of Georgia for the Foreign Affairs

Haykak Arshamyan, Yerevan Press Club

Taras Mykhalnuik, Open Ukraine Foundation

Madalina Dobrescu, European Neighbourhood Policy Chair, College of Europe

15:50 - 17:30 Photo/TV opportunity; +/- **17.30** Interview opportunity:

Ketevan Tsikhelashvili, First Deputy State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality

Nouneh Sarkissian, Media Initiatives Center

Ion Manole, PromoLex Association

Hennadiy Maksak, Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”



On 28-29 July the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) will gather in Tbilisi, Georgia **over 60 representatives of civil society from 6 EaP countries, Georgian government and EU institutions, as well as security experts from the EU and EaP** to discuss solutions to the key security threats (soft and hard power) in the EaP countries.

Janos Herman, Head of the European Union Delegation to Georgia, will welcome the participants on 28 July, together with the EaP CSF representatives **Krzysztof Bobinski, Lasha Tughushi and Kakha Gogolashvili**. During the panel discussions the Georgian government will be represented by Advisor to the President of Georgia for the Foreign Affairs **Tengiz Phkhaladze** and the First Deputy State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality **Ketevan Tsikhelashvili**.

The European Union will be represented by **Jakub Kalensky** from EEAS East StratCom Task Force. The experts from the EU will include former MEP **Hans-Jürgen Zahorka**, **Dusan Fischer** from Slovak Foreign Policy Association, **Daniela Irrera**, Associate Professor at the University of Catania, and **Madalina Dobrescu** from the European Neighbourhood Policy Chair, College of Europe.

The Eastern Partnership countries face considerable security challenges. This is primarily demonstrated by unresolved territorial conflicts, as well as their internal tensions. Russia's aggressive actions in the region, from attempts to change the foreign policy choices of the EaP countries, to excessive interference in the domestic political processes and explicit usage of hybrid methods of influence, cannot be neglected. For the EU, the region has become an area of instability and uncertainty due to increased hostilities in disputed territories, political crises and stalled transitions.

The event will seek to develop **recommendations for the EU and NATO to stabilize the region**, as well as to **identify the measures that can be taken by the civil society**.

For further information about the event and to confirm your attendance, please contact:

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About the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) is a unique multi-layered regional civil society platform aimed at promoting European integration, facilitating reforms and democratic transformations in the six Eastern Partnership countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Serving as the civil society and people-to-people dimension of the Eastern Partnership, the EaP CSF strives to strengthen civil society in the region, boost pluralism in public discourse and policy making by promoting participatory democracy and fundamental freedoms. For more information, visit www.eap-csf.eu

