

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY REVIEW ONE YEAR AFTER - CHALLENGES TO THE EAST**October 29, 2016 at 16.00 - 17.30****Venue: Room Habsburg, 1. floor, Grand Hotel River Park**

Format: Expert workshop on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC Tatra Summit 2016 with expected outcomes, drafting of recommendations for the EaP Review process.

Outline:

In November 2015 a proposal to review the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) was published. The idea of the review was to make the ENP more realistic, clearer and to address most current challenges to Europe's South and East. The intended outcome is to achieve a more stable and stronger neighborhood together with stronger partnerships between the EU and partner countries. A stronger and more stable neighborhood is supposed to be achieved through strengthening economic ties, supporting good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights in partner countries, while recognizing, however that not all partners aspire to comply with EU rules and standards. The ENP should at the same time reflect the wishes of each country concerning the nature and scope of its partnership with the EU.

The expert round-table will discuss in more detail what has been achieved in the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) within the framework of the review process. The panel will take stock of what has already been implemented, what are the deficiencies and opportunities, that should be introduced into the EaP to make it more realistic, clearer and more accessible yet at the same time capable of addressing the challenges EaP countries face today. The aim of the panel is to initiate discussion about the ENP Review in conditions of EaP in areas as highlighted at the EU-EaP Riga Summit (May 2015) prior the next EU-EaP Summit that is supposed to take place in 2017 under the Estonian Presidency in the Council of the EU. It aims at stronger engagement of civil society and experts into formulating recommendations for the EaP invigoration within the ENP Review and at the same time increasing the sense of ownership by the EaP countries. The panel will address also strengthening of ties between EU and EaP countries, where on one side, the EU seems to be softening its approach (human rights issues) and providing the financial support, on the other is facing many times the issue of tax erosions when it comes to goods & services transported from the East to the West mostly through illicit channels.

The areas for further development between the EU and EaP countries as identified in Riga:

1. Strengthening institutions and good governance
2. Mobility and people-to-people contacts
3. Market opportunities
4. Interconnections (including energy security)

Guiding questions:

The expert panel will try to address following main questions (the following list is neither exhaustive nor exclusive):

How could the EU support more effectively good governance and rule of law in EaP countries? What are the roles for civil society in facilitating the EU's effort for strengthening good governance in EaP countries? What are the experience from the Visa liberalization implementation in EaP countries? - recommendations for similar processes in other partner countries. How could the EU and other donors support the people-to-people contacts between the EU and EaP countries? Which are the most effective mechanisms and formats? What are the experiences and recommendations from DCFTA implementation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine? How can stakeholders effectively support business, especially SMEs, in EaP countries in order to decrease unemployment and regional disparities? How to enhance energy security, diversification of supply and sustainability in cooperation with EaP countries? The identification and streamlining of interconnection projects - how could the EU support most perspective projects? How is Europe ready to tackle the tax erosions issue? What are the key areas of interest?

Moderator: Vera Riháčková, Advocacy and Membership Manager, EaP Civil Society Forum, Belgium

Kick-off Speakers: Katarina Mathernová, Deputy Director General, DG NEAR, European Commission

Andrei Galbur, Deputy Prime-minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Moldova

List of invited experts:

Hovsep Khurshudyan, President, "Free citizen" Civic initiatives' Support Center, Armenia

Hovhannes Nikoghosyan, Adjunct lecturer, American University in Armenia, Armenia

Mubariz Rahimli, International Relations Coordinator, Republican Alternative Movement, Azerbaijan

Yauheni Preiherman, Director, Minsk Dialogue Track-II Initiative, Belarus

Darya Mustafayeva, Communications Manager, Eastern Partnerships Civil Society Forum, Belarus

Michal Kořan, Researcher, Institute of International Relations, Czech Republic

Vlad'ka Votavová, Director, Association for International Affairs (AMO), Czech Republic

Ketevan Chachava, Director, Information Center on NATO and EU, Georgia

Mariam Dolidze, Head of Public Affairs Division on EU, Information Center on NATO and EU, Georgia

Irina Shamiladze, Head of Public Affairs Division on NATO, Information Center on NATO and EU, Georgia

Mariam Gamdlishvili, Chief Specialist, Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Georgia

Bobi Apkhazava, Head of the Event Planning and Coordination Division, Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Georgia

Rusudan Zabakhidze, Project Coordinator, Europe-Georgia Institute, Georgia

Benediktas Juodka, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Parliament of Lithuania, Lithuania

Dovile Sukyte, Policy Analyst, Eastern Europe Studies Centre, Lithuania

Arcadie Barbarosie, Director, Institute of Public Policy, Moldova

Marcin Zaborowski, Executive Vice-president, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), Poland

Bruno Macaes, Associate, Carnegie Europe, Portugal

Mihai Sebe, Expert, European Institute of Romania, Romania

Miriam Lexmann, Director of EU Office, International Republican Institute, Slovak Republic

Pavol Demeš, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (Bratislava), Slovak Republic

Matthew Bryza, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council of the United States, US/Turkey

Hennadiy Maksak, Chief of the Board, Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism", Ukraine

Hanna Shelest, Editor-in-Chief, Ukraine Analytica, Ukraine

Neil Campbell, Deputy Director, Open Society Foundation, UK/Belgium

Alvise Giustianiani, VP Illicit Trade Strategies & Prevention, Philip Morris International, Switzerland

Diego Raiteri, Director, ITS&P European Union, Philip Morris International, Switzerland

Alena Kudzko, Deputy director, Globsec Policy Institute, Slovak Republic

Jana Žilková, Research fellow, Globsec Policy Institute, Slovak Republic

Ján Cingel, Research fellow, Globsec Policy Institute, Slovak Republic

Zuzana Ivančíková, Project coordinator, Globsec Policy Institute, Slovak Republic