

FINAL AGENDA AS OF 24 OCTOBER

DATE: 28 – 30 OCTOBER 2016

DAY 0 – THURSDAY, 27 OCTOBER

19:00 WELCOME RECEPTION: OPEN SOCIETY IN EUROPE: FEAR AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY
(upon separate invitation, organised in cooperation with ERSTE Foundation and Nadácia Slovenskej Sporiteľne)

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER

8:45 – 9:00 OPEN SOCIETY IN EUROPE POLICY CONFERENCE WELCOME ADDRESS
(organised in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)
Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

ANDREJ NOSKO, Governance and Policy Debates Unit Manager, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Budapest

9:00 – 10:00 STATE OF OPEN SOCIETY IN EUROPE TODAY
(organised in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)
Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

The European Union, founded on the values of respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, is facing multiple crises today and both the EU's long term survival, as well as its role as a beacon of open society values is put to question. What is the state of open society in Europe today? What are the major trends affecting the open society values that our societies are facing? What is the state of public opinion on issues affecting open society values in European politics, including nativism, xenophobia, the rise of right-wing parties, civic participation, and attitudes toward democratic institutions and free expression? How are the changes in prospects for open society values affecting the quality of democratic governance within EU and its member states? Do we see move towards closing of the European societies?

RICHARD WIKE, Director of Global Attitudes Research, Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C.

ALINA MUNGIU-PIPPIDI, Professor, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
Introduced by: GORAN BULDOSKI, Co-Director, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Budapest

10:00– 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 – 11:45 OPEN SOCIETIES TAKING ACTION TO RESPOND TO THE CURRENT CHALLENGES

(organised in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)

Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

What can Europeans, whether individually or together do to counter these trends that are affecting prospects of open society and democracy in Europe today? Can the tide of growing skepticism about constitutional pluralist democracy be turned around? What could be done for the majority to regain its ownership of the concept of human rights again, instead of it being increasingly perceived as issue only for minorities and “others”? What can mainstream political forces, old and upcoming, offer to address the disenchantment that feeds an upsurge of extremist politics? How can European values of pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, and solidarity be reinvigorated in the face of increasing majoritarian “winner-takes-all” approach that leads to calls for suspension or undermining of democratic checks and balances, human rights and growing contempt for various minorities?

ROKHAYA DIALLO, Activist Journalist and Film Director, Paris

BALAZS DENES, Director, Civil Liberties Union Europe, Budapest

ULRIKE LUNACEK, Vice-President, European Parliament, Brussels

BRENDAN COX, International Campaigner and Activist, London

Led by: HEATHER GRABBE, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute, Brussels

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT OFFICIAL OPENING

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

RÓBERT VASS, President, GLOBSEC, Bratislava

IVAN KORČOK, Ministre Délégué for the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU; State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

12:05 – 12:50 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT ANNUAL SPEECH ON EUROPE

Featuring GLOBSEC European Award

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

H. E. WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE, Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin

Introduced by: H. E. PETER KAŽIMÍR, Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

12:50 – 14:20 **SESSION 1: STRENGTHENING EMU IN TIME OF TURMOIL AND CRISES**

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

The European Union has recently been shaken by a new series of crises, from the unexpected migration wave, through the worsening security situation, up to the challenge thrown up by the Brexit referendum. These have added to the difficulties already experienced before, chiefly but not exclusively by the Eurozone: the financial and the sovereign debt crisis, low growth and high unemployment. While some of these challenges are not primarily economic, there are economic aspects to all of them. And while some of them are new and require a response by all the members of the EU, others have been around for a long time and the responsibility for solutions lie on the shoulders of Eurozone members especially. A common EU action on issues such as migration, security, or climate changes is clearly necessary, perhaps including investment in countries outside of the EU, or budgetary tools for new purposes. And an inclusive debate on the budgetary tools for preserving the stability of the Eurozone is required as well, since without the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union, future shocks will continue to spread from the Eurozone to the EU as a whole. The discussion among some of the most senior policy makers in Europe could clarify how to both provide a protective boundary around the EU and preserve the calm inside the Eurozone.

H. E. PETER KAŽIMÍR, Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

H. E. WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE, Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin

H. E. MICHEL SAPIN, Minister for Economy and Finance of the French Republic, Paris

H. E. PIER CARLO PADOAN, Minister of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic

HON. PIERRE MOSCOVICI, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, European Commission Brussels

Led by: **PETER SPIEGEL**, News Editor, Financial Times, London

14:20 – 14:50 Coffee Break

14:50 – 15:35 **GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT CHAT: #DIGITALSINGLEMARKET**

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

HON. GÜNTHER OETTINGER, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission, Brussels

VAZIL HUDÁK, Vice-President, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg

MATT BRITTIN, President for the EMEA, Google, London

Led by: **SILVIA SCIORILLI BORRELLI**, Reporter, Politico, London

15:00 – 17:00 **GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT WORKSHOP 1: MFF POST 2020 – FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE IN FINANCING GROWTH & JOBS AND SECURITY & EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

(upon separate invitations only)

Venue: Habsburg 1, Grand Hotel River Park

15:00 – 17:00 **GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT WORKSHOP 2: MFF POST 2020 – WHAT IS THE ROLE AND BEST USE OF GRANTS AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS?**

(upon separate invitations only)

Venue: Habsburg 2, Grand Hotel River Park

15:30 – 17:00 **GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT DEBATE: SHADOW ECONOMY**

(upon separate invitations only)

Venue: Ferdinand, Grand Hotel River Park

15:35 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:15 **SESSION 2: GEOPOLITICS AND ENERGY – GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EUROPE**

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Achieving energy security in the EU has proven to be extremely challenging, with member states' varying dependence and a narrow selection of energy suppliers. Finding reliable energy sources is only a part of the solution, securing stable transit routes is just as challenging. Projects like Nordstream 2 and Southern Gas Corridor are aiming to broaden transit and source alternatives, yet they are not universally supported. On a larger scale, diversification and stability of energy supplies means also embracing the issues of the Eastern neighbourhood, the relationship with Russia and the normalisation of partnership with Turkey. According to the European Commission, the first order of business is decoupling geopolitical tensions in Eastern Neighbourhood from European energy security. How can this be achieved without compromising foreign policy goals? What will be the European policy towards energetically strategic regions? Which energy suppliers should we focus on and how can we secure stable transit routes beneficial for the whole Union?

H. E. TORD ANDRÉ LIEN, Minister of Petroleum and Energy of the Kingdom of Norway, Oslo

HON. MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President for Energy Union, European Commission, Brussels

JOHN M. ROBERTS, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center and Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council, Washington D.C.

ZSOLT HERNÁDI, Chairman & CEO, MOL Group, Budapest

Led by: **ALAN RILEY**, Senior Fellow, Institute for Statecraft, London

17:15 – 17:45 Coffee Break

17:45– 19:00 **SESSION 3: MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK POST 2020 – BALANCE BETWEEN POLITICAL AMBITION AND REALISM**

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Europe is rapidly changing. MFF reform is needed to respond to new challenges in today's globalised world and the EU spending needs to better reflect these new realities and priorities, while at the same time remaining the main investment tool of the EU. However, to find the right balance between political ambition and realism will be not an easy task. Two and half years of negotiations on the MFF represents a major investment that should bring delivery. The time is right for big questions to be put on the table: To what extent should we increase the EU budget total exposure in the future? What will be the main role of the EU budget post 2020: will it be covering guarantees in order to stimulate economy or focusing expenditure on new challenges and redesigned common policies? Will it serve as an important anti-crisis mechanism or as an effective tool for delivering policies improving life of the EU citizens? What is the right balance between political ambition and real possibilities of the budget accounting for around 1% of the EU's GDP?

H. E. LOUIS GRECH, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs of the Republic of Malta, Valleta

HON. KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA, Vice-President for Budget and Human Resources, European Commission, Brussels

JEAN ARTHUIS, Chairman, Committee on Budgets, European Parliament, Brussels

PETER JAVORČÍK, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the European Union, Brussels

Led by: **JORGE NÚÑEZ-FERRER**, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS, Brussels

19:45 Buses leave for the GLOBSEC Tatra Summit Cocktail

20:00 **GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT COCKTAIL**

(upon separate invitations only)

Venue: Palugyay Palace, Bratislava

DAY 2 – SATURDAY, 29 OCTOBER

9:00 – 10:30 **SESSION 4: (MISSING) PIECE OF THE PUZZLE: THE WESTERN BALKANS**

Venue: *Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park*

Countries of the Western Balkans have come a long way in the EU enlargement process, which has continued to move forward even after the Brexit vote in the UK. During the current Slovak EU Presidency, several important steps have been achieved at a technical level in the accession talks with Serbia, in terms of judiciary reform in Albania and in the case of Bosnia's membership application. Meanwhile, Montenegro's membership in NATO is currently being ratified. At the same time, there is still a lot of security challenges and unfinished business in the region, be it inside some countries as well as on the bilateral level. There is a potential for tensions, unresolved issues and setbacks. Therefore, positive track with the region through the enlargement process have to be maintained. What can be done to make it sustainable in the near future? Will EU enlargement continue to move ahead even with waning support in many member states and against stronger Eurosceptic, anti-enlargement positions in their societies? How can Balkan aspirant countries improve their own credibility among member states? Which obstacles should be addressed as a priority in order to enhance our capabilities to counter instability, enhance economic growth and support democratic development in the region?

Keynote address by:

LUKÁŠ PARÍZEK, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

H. E. NIKOLA POPOSKI, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia*, Skopje

H. E. IGOR CRNADAK, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

H. E. ENVER HOXHAJ, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo**, Pristina*

ODETA BARBULLUSHI, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, Tirana

ALEKSANDAR ANDRIJA PEJOVIĆ, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro, Podgorica

ROKSANDA NINČIĆ, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade

Led by: **VESSELA TCHERNEVA**, Programme Director, European Council on Foreign Relations, Sofia

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

* The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, following the EU and UN practice, always uses the provisional reference: The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

** This designation is without prejudice to positions and status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

11:00 – 12:30 **SESSION 5: OPTIMAL FISCAL POLICY: EFFECTIVE TOOL TO PREVENT FINANCIAL CRIME**

Venue: Maria Theresa, Grand Hotel River Park

Among the most essential tasks of every government is ensuring the right balance between fiscal strategies & the security of its citizens. Recent developments in Europe have demonstrated the need for a more balanced approach in government decisions regarding the fiscal policies to achieve regular tax collection and secure and efficient law enforcement. Credit card fraud, wire fraud, tax fraud, charitable donation fraud and money laundering are just some of the revenue sources of terrorist organisations. The link between tax fraud and money laundering on the one hand and the financing of terrorism on the other has been recognized by the EU finance ministers. The Commission is also active and recently proposed the revision of the anti-money laundering directive. The Slovak Presidency included the work on this file among its priorities. Are the measures proposed in the anti-money laundering directive a sufficient base? Could enhanced cooperation between the tax and customs administration and financial intelligence units also make a difference in this important area?

Keynote address by:

ARTHUR LAFFER, Economist, Chairman, Laffer Associates, Nashville

DANA MEAGER, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

GRACE PEREZ-NAVARRO, Deputy Director, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD, Paris

SIMON RIONDET, Head of Financial Intelligence, Horizontal Operational Support, Europol, The Hague

Led by: **HENRY FOY**, Central Europe Correspondent, The Financial Times, Warsaw

11:00 – 12:00 **GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT ROUNDTABLE: NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF?**

(organised in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)

Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

How is the emerging culture and politics of fear gripping the European Union and manifesting itself within its member states? What are the origins of this fear-based culture (social, economic and political) and what threats it poses and how are they manifesting at transnational, national and local level? Three case studies will be presented: the social, political and economic underpinnings of the Brexit vote in the UK; Euroscepticism and the role of political rhetoric in shaping citizens' fears and perceptions in Germany; and the changing nature of Swedish identity and how this has been constructed through politics and the media in relation to immigration in Sweden.

This session will offer an exclusive presentation of interim results of the comparative research project "Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself? Mapping and Responding to the Impacts of a Rising Culture and Politics of Fear in the European Union."

Opening remarks: **SOPHIE GASTON**, Head of External Affairs, Demos, London

RALPH SCOTT, Head of Citizenship, Demos, London

JAN EICHHORN, Partner, D-Part Think Tank, Berlin

YVES BERTONCINI, Director, Notre Europe, Paris

STEFANIE BOLZEN, UK Correspondent, Die Welt, London

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT BRAINSTORMING: FROM BRATISLAVA TO ROME AND BEYOND: UNCERTAIN FUTURE?

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

In March 2017, Europe will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. Over decades, the European Union has developed into a unique supranational body that has guaranteed the longest period of peace and prosperity in our history. Moreover, it has integrated our economies, overcome national borders and linked our political destiny. But most recently, shaken by globalisation, multiple crises and polarisation within our societies, it is facing its existential moment. Decisions taken in the upcoming period will be crucial for its future. At the Bratislava summit on 16 September, EU leaders launched a reflection process which will be finished six months later in Rome. The upcoming period serves as a preparatory phase for a more flexible Union that will enable a different level of integration among different groups of member states. How can further disintegration be avoided as the EU reconfigures? How shall we manage relations between the core and the periphery, North and South, West and East, larger and smaller member states? What are the expectations from the Slovak EU Presidency for the remaining two months?

IVAN KORČOK, Ministre Délégué for the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU;
State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

SANDRO GOZI, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Office of the Prime
Minister of the Italian Republic, Rome

DANIELA SCHWARZER, Director, Europe Program, German Marshall Fund of the
United States, Berlin

ZDENĚK TUREK, CEO, Citibank Europe plc, Dublin

Led by: **NIK GOWING**, International Presenter, London

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY REVIEW ONE YEAR AFTER - CHALLENGES TO THE EAST

(upon separate invitations only)

Venue: Habsburg 1, Grand Hotel River Park

16:00 – 17:00 SESSION 6: REVIVING THE EU FISCAL RULES FRAMEWORK

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Significant measures for a better functioning of the EU fiscal framework have been put in place since the financial and debt crisis. The Member States have agreed to an unprecedented degree of coordination of budgetary policy making. Still, not everyone is happy. Some criticize the Commission for weakening the common rules and mutual trust in the EU by being too political when assessing countries' fiscal policies. Others believe that the rules are still too strict, disincentivise investments in times of need and therefore require a discretionary room for manoeuvre in their implementation. Additionally, some voices emphasize the need for further potentially useful reforms of the fiscal framework, such as more simple and predictable application of the rules, including the role of Eurostat decisions therein. Last but not the least, it should be noted that for some stakeholders, full implementation of the fiscal rules is a precondition for further deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union and for the construction of the fiscal union. Is the ongoing work to simplify the set-up of the fiscal rules enough to ensure a growth-friendly and sustainable fiscal policy, or do we need to re-design the EU fiscal framework from scratch?

H. E. MICHAEL NOONAN, Minister for Finance of Ireland, Dublin

THOMAS WIESER, President, Economic and Financial Committee,
Council of the European Union, Brussels

GUNTRAM WOLFF, Director, Bruegel, Brussels

Led by: **TOM NUTTALL**, Charlemagne Columnist, The Economist, Brussels

18:00 Buses leave for the GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT Gala Dinner

18:30 – 20:30 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT GALA DINNER

(upon separate invitations only)

Venue: Reduta building, Slovak Philharmonic, Bratislava

Speech by: DANUTA HÜBNER, Chair, Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament, Brussels

21:00

NIGHT OWL SESSION A: UK AND EU: WHAT FUTURE?

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

When the UK referendum favoured the Brexit scenario, the results came across as shocking to many. A Member State leaving the EU is an unprecedented situation and to this day its practical impact remains very much unclear. While everybody nervously awaits for the UK to invoke the infamous Article 50, this will only be the beginning of a long and difficult process that will shape UK-EU relations for years to come. This will have a profound effect on both sides. What can we expect from the Brexit negotiations? How can the future modus operandi look like? What effect will this have on British access to the Single Market? How will the EU cope without one of its largest net contributors and defence pillars? Can this partnership be preserved?

DANUTA HÜBNER, Chair, Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament, Brussels (TBC)

ALAN RILEY, Senior Fellow, Institute for Statecraft, London

JANA PUGLIERIN, Head of Program, Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies, German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin

JOZEF BÁTORA, Professor, Comenius University in Bratislava

Led by: TOM NUTTALL, Charlemagne Columnist, The Economist, Brussels

21:00

NIGHT OWL SESSION B: FROM AUTHORITARIANISM TO EUROPEAN POPULISM: OBSERVING POLITICS THROUGH A NEW LENS

(organized in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)

Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

Authoritarianism is a disposition that is antithetical to thriving diversity and liberal democracy. It is the root of intolerance. Individuals that tend toward authoritarianism perceive the world in us-versus-them, black-and-white mental and moral frames. They seek order and uniformity. They follow and obey authoritarian leaders. This session will offer a discussion over a newly published comparative study on authoritarianism in America and European countries. Discussing what the emergence of popular support for new type of political leaders including Trump, Orbán, Kaczyński or Le Pen means for democracy.

MATTHEW MACWILLIAMS, President, MacWilliams Sanders Communication, Washington, D.C.; Teaching Associate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

ANDREW RZEPA, Managing Consultant, Gallup, Washington, D.C.

HEATHER GRABBE, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute, Brussels

Led by: CHRISTAL MOREHOUSE, Senior Program Officer, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Barcelona

DAY 3 – SUNDAY, 30 OCTOBER

PLEASE NOTE THE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME CHANGE (AT 3 A.M. PUSH THE CLOCK ONE HOUR BACK)

9:00 – 10:15 SESSION 7: EU TOWARDS SECURITY UNION: NEED FOR EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE REFORM IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Terrorist attacks in France and Belgium painfully reminded the whole EU of its weaknesses in internal security. The nature of terrorism has become very dynamic and complex, their networks operate in transborder and virtual space and common action becomes essential. Effective counter-terrorist action on the European level would require intelligence sharing on a compulsory basis, creation of new common institutions and enhancement of competences of existing ones. While internal action remains crucial, the external dimension of security must be embraced as well. For this purpose, the EU needs to cooperate more closely with its neighbours and ENP countries in order to prevent radicalisation. Since national security is an exclusive competence of Member States, can effective measures be taken at the European level? Is there political will for the cooperation of intelligence services? What can be done in the area of police and judicial cooperation? What policies must be adopted in relation to troubled countries in the European neighbourhood?

Keynote address by:

HON. MICHAEL CHERTOFF, Member of International Advisory Board, GLOBSEC;
Executive Chairman and Co-Founder, The Chertoff Group, Washington, D.C.

SIR DAVID OMAND, Visiting Professor, King's College; former Director
of GCHQ, London

AUGUST HANNING, former President of German Federal Intelligence Agency,
Berlin

HON. ANNEMIE TURTELBOOM, Member of the Federal Parliament; former Deputy Prime
Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, Brussels

Led by: **STEPHEN FIDLER**, Brussels Editor, The Wall Street Journal, Brussels

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00 **SESSION 8: MIGRATION CRISIS IN EUROPE: CHALLENGES AHEAD**

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

In 2015 Europe has faced the largest migrant and refugee inflows since World War II. This year has also seen challenges to existing protection systems and EU Member States grappling with the issues of reception and integration of new arrivals. European Common Asylum System and European cooperation on migration have been challenged to the point where they pose a threat to the entire European project. The true long-lasting solution has yet to be found. The relocation project proposed by the European Commission has met with strong resistance and has yet to show meaningful results. The EU-Turkey agreement raised many hopes for a long-term solution, but remains fraught with legal and logistical challenges. The need to have a truly common European approach towards migration issues is crucial more than ever. Can Schengen be preserved without jeopardizing internal security? How can the EU secure its borders without compromising its fundamental values? What will bring a revision of the EU Asylum System that would create a true area of Justice, Freedom and Security? How can we bring about successful inclusion of migrants into European society and reap long-term benefits from migration?

SZABOLCS TAKÁCS, State Secretary for European Union Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister of Hungary, Budapest

STEFAN LEHNE, Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Europe, Brussels

NINA GREGORI, Director General & Senior Secretary, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

JAKUB WIŚNIEWSKI, Vice-President of GLOBSEC, Director of GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava

Led by: **ELIZABETH COLLETT**, Director, Migration Policy Institute Europe, Brussels

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Break

12:30 – 13:45 **SESSION 9: HOW TO REBUILD THE TRUST OF EU CITIZENS?**

Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Extremism presents one of the most challenging threats to liberal democracy in Europe. The rise of extremism and the popularity of far-right / left extremist parties is a phenomenon that we can see almost in all European countries. Extremist parties usually benefit from crises since politicians are usually not able to find their solutions and thus the disappointment of European citizens towards mainstream political parties. Moreover, through social media activities, using charisma and rhetorical skills, extremist parties gain trust and interest of young people, who in most of the countries present a huge portion of extremist parties' electorate. However, solutions proposed by extremist parties usually cause growth of nationalism, xenophobia or racism. And thus, growing distrust of EU citizens built on disappointment and fear about the future is a matter that needs to be not only taken into consideration, but actively dealt by politicians. Does the European Union have capacity to combat extremism? Shall this be its tasks or responsibility of the member states? How can national and European leaders regain trust of European citizens and thus to prevent rise of extremism and populism? Is this the fault of the EU, or of national politics? What reforms does the EU or the Member States have to take?

VIVIEN ANN SCHMIDT, Professor, Boston University, Boston

GORAN BULDIOSKI, Co-Director, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Budapest

JOHN ERIK FOSSUM, Professor, University of Oslo, Oslo

DANIEL MILO, Senior Research Fellow, GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava

Led by: **BARBARA WESEL**, Brussels Correspondent, Deutsche Welle, Brussels

13:45 – 14:00 **CLOSING REMARKS**

RÓBERT VASS, President, GLOBSEC, Bratislava

14:00 Farewell Lunch