



Minsk Dialogue Briefing

Breaking away from Geopolitical Clichés?

Implications of events in Armenia for regional security

September 20, 2018

Venue: Renaissance Hotel (1E Dzerzhinsky Av.)

Time: 18.30 – 20.00 (discussion), 20.00 – 21.00 (light buffet)

Format: moderated discussion

Participants: MPs, diplomats, academics, experts, journalists, students

Working languages: Russian

Organisers: Minsk Dialogue Track-II Initiative, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies and Konrad Adenauer Foundation

The recent change of government in Armenia came as a complete surprise to most observers. The post-revolutionary processes taking place in this country attract growing interest both in Armenia itself and far beyond its borders. Particularly, on the eve of the elections to the Council of Elders of Yerevan, scheduled for September 23, which will be the first internal test for the Pashinyan government.

Possible international implications of the events in Armenia cause even more interest. Traditionally, there existed an unspoken geopolitical cliché in the perception of the post-Soviet reality: "fundamental changes under democratisation slogans should lead to foreign policy reorientation". Yet, the new Armenian government repeats continuously that the internal political transformation will not affect Armenia's foreign policy priorities. Instead, they declare their own geopolitical formula: "the EU is a partner in democratization and Russia – in security".

- Will Armenia be able to break away from the established geopolitical cliché and maintain the continuity of foreign policy under the new power configuration in the country?
- What do events in Armenia mean in the context of growing tensions between Russia and the West?
- How will Yerevan's relations with main geopolitical centers develop?

The seminar receives financial support from the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with the organiser, the European Parliament is not responsible for the activity.

- How will the events in Armenia affect the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict?

These questions will be in the focus of the next Minsk Dialogue briefing.

Speakers

Anahit Shirinyan – Academy Associate, Chatham House (Armenia – UK)

Alexey Tokarev – Senior Research Fellow, Institute for International Studies, MGIMO-University (Russia)

Andrei Rusakovich – Associate Professor, Belarusian State University; Chairman of the Board, Foreign Policy and Security Research Centre (Belarus)

Moderator

Yauheni Preiherman – Head, Minsk Dialogue Track-II Initiative, Belarus

A brief presentation of the project "From Situational Analysis to Foresight: Deepening the understanding of immediate and strategic futures in the EU's eastern neighbourhood" will be offered before the start of the discussion. The project is being implemented by the Minsk Dialogue Track-II Initiative in cooperation with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

*The results of the first session of the situational analysis within the framework of the project will be presented by **Dzianis Melyantsou** – Coordinator of the Belarus's Foreign Policy Programme of the Minsk Dialogue Track-II Initiative (Belarus).*