



Eastern Partnership at 10: *Results and ways forward*

Policy seminar

June 4, 2019 – Minsk, Belarus

- Organisers:** Minsk Dialogue Council on International Relations, the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Partner:** Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- Languages:** Russian and English (with simultaneous interpretation)
- Format:** Expert seminar followed by a public evening discussion
- Participants:** Acting and former diplomats, academics and policy experts (by invitation only)
- Outcome:** Non-paper with key findings and conclusions

May 2019 marks the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative, which was launched to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union, its Member States and six Eastern neighbour countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Proclaimed as a “more ambitious partnership” in the Prague Declaration, the EaP’s evolution has taken place against the background of dramatic developments in some Eastern Partner states and within the EU. Moreover, the state of regional security and global strategic stability has also deteriorated since 2009 and confronted the EaP with multiple new challenges.

Consecutive biennial Eastern Partnership summits tried to respond to those challenges by stressing cooperation and adopting innovative approaches. For example, the latest summit in Brussels approved the results-oriented framework of the 20 Deliverables for 2020 and a streamlined architecture for the multilateral cooperation. Yet, many stakeholders argue that the EaP needs further reforms. And at times, reform ideas differ fundamentally. Whereas some stakeholders suggest that the EaP should be split into two tracks, others promote more inclusivity and oppose any dividing lines.

The seminar will take stock of the Eastern Partnership’s first decade by assessing its successes and failures, mapping the progress and efficiency of the 2020 agenda, and discussing its potential

in a new geopolitical environment. It will gather a group of diplomats and leading experts from the EU and partner countries.

The first part of the seminar will be on-the-record and open to media representatives, whereas the second part will be held under the Chatham House Rule. In the evening, a public panel discussion will take place with a view to reaching out to a broader foreign policy community in Minsk (MPs, university professors and students, journalists, and NGO representatives). The discussion will be followed by a networking reception.

Programme

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| 9.30-10.00 | Registration |
| 10.00-10.30 | Welcome remarks
<i>Open to the media</i>

Viorel Mosanu
<i>Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Belarus</i>

Andrea Wiktorin
<i>Head of Delegation, Ambassador, Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Belarus</i>

Jakob Wöllenstein
<i>Director Country Office Belarus, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany</i>

Yauheni Preiherman
<i>Director, Minsk Dialogue Council on International Relations, Belarus</i> |
| 10.30-11.00 | Opening statements
<i>Open to the media</i>

Vladimir Makei
<i>Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus</i>

Adriana Stanescu
<i>Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership, Director General for the Eastern Neighbourhood, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania</i> |
| 11.00-12.30 | Session 1. Prague-Warsaw-Vilnius-Riga-Brussels: Assessing the evolution of the Eastern Partnership.
<i>Open to the media</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How different is the EaP-2019 from the EaP-2009? |

- Lessons learned: what have been the main successes and failures of the EaP?
- Does the EaP-6 framework remain relevant?

Signe Burgstaller

Ambassador at Large, Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Jacek Multanowski

Ambassador at Large, Eastern Partnership Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

Mikheil Janelidze (TBC)

Founding Partner and Chairman, EGE; former Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Georgia

Vlad Kulminski

Executive Director, Institute for Strategic Initiatives; former Political Advisor to the Prime Minister of Moldova, Moldova

Dzianis Melyantsou

Programme Coordinator, Minsk Dialogue Council on International Relations, Belarus

Moderator

Yauheni Preiherman

Director, Minsk Dialogue Council on International Relations, Belarus

12.30-13.30

Lunch

13.30-15.00

Session 2. Towards 2020: are we delivering on the deliverables?

Under the Chatham House Rule

- Mapping the progress on the 2020 agenda: what has been achieved and what needs to be done?
- Has the new streamlined architecture for multilateral cooperation improved the efficiency and results of the EaP?

Victor Boikov

Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Andrei Bushilo

Director-General for Europe and Northern America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Hennadiy Maksak

Head, Ukrainian Prism Foreign Policy Council; Head, Ukrainian National Civil Society Platform, Ukraine

Farhad Mammadov

Consultant, Successful Strategies; Director, Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan (2012-2019), Azerbaijan

Yauheni Zadrutski

Advisor, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research, Belarus

Moderator

Viktar Shadurski

Dean, Faculty of International Relations, Belarusian State University

15.00-15.30

Coffee break

15.30-17.00

Session 3. Another 10 years? What role for the Eastern Partnership in a turbulent Europe?

Under the Chatham House Rule

- Will the EaP remain relevant post-2020? If so, what objectives, cooperation principles and modus operandi should it prioritise?
- Can the EaP contribute to regional security by managing geopolitical competition and promoting confidence-building and security cooperation beyond dividing lines?
- How ambitious can the EaP realistically be?

Radoslav Darski

Deputy Head of the Division for the Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation and the OSCE, European External Action Service

Tevan Poghosyan

Advisor to the President of Armenia; Director, International Center for Human Development, Armenia

Markus Knauf

Deputy Head of the Division of "EU External Relations", Department of European Affairs, Federal Chancellery, Germany

Gheorghe Magheru

Ambassador (ret), Member of the Scientific Council, New Strategy Center, Romania

Andrei Kazakevich

Director, Institute of Political Studies "Political Sphere", Belarus

Moderator

Jakob Wöllenstein

Director Country Office Belarus, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany

17.00-17.15

Concluding remarks

18.30-20.00

Evening public discussion. Brexit, EU Parliament elections, a new European Commission ... : What do political developments in the EU imply for the future of the Eastern Partnership?

Introductory remarks

Viorel Mosanu

Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Belarus

Yauheni Preiherman

Director, Minsk Dialogue Council on International Relations, Belarus

Special address

Valeriya Gubich

Student, Belarusian State University; winner of the essay competition on the future of the Eastern Partnership

Speakers

Hannes Hanso

Member of the European Parliament, Estonia

Jakov Devcic

Coordinator for European Policy, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Germany

Vlad Kulminski

Executive Director, Institute for Strategic Initiatives; former Political Advisor to the Prime Minister of Moldova, Moldova

Moderator

Jakob Wöllenstein

Director Country Office Belarus, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany

20.00-21.15

Networking reception