

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: GERMANY AND THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AFTER TEN YEARS



THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD REVISITED: WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Ten years ago, the European Union (EU) established the Eastern Partnership as part of its European Neighbourhood policy. Its aim was to foster a 'more ambitious partnership between the European Union and the partner countries', characterised by deeper bilateral engagement between the EU and the participating countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It also favoured multi-lateral cooperation among partner countries.

The policy of Eastern Partnership was also a response to the Georgian–Russian war in 2008. The idea, according to former President of the European Commission Romano Prodi, was to build up a 'ring of friends' around the EU. Ten years later, the results are mixed and the region of the Eastern Partnership has become more diverse. Three countries – Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – have signed an Association Agreement with the EU, including a Deep and Comprehensive Trade Agreement. Armenia and Belarus are members of the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union. Armenia has also signed a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership agreement with the EU, while Azerbaijan has not aligned itself thus far.

In other words, the Eastern Partnership has generated different outcomes and the six countries differ vastly in their domestic political trajectories, orientations and ambitions towards the EU. The war in and around Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea by Russia and the still unresolved conflicts in Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia (Abkhazia and South Ossetia) are proof that Europe as a whole is still far from establishing a stable, prosperous and secure environment. Quite the contrary, serious divisions within the EU itself are only exacerbating the crisis.

The Eastern Partnership, the EU's five guiding principles concerning Russia and the EU's Central Asia strategy together comprise the European Eastern Policy. The key question to be discussed with regard to the Eastern Partnership is what kind of policy could bring Europe closer to the goal once hoped for, namely a 'shared commitment to stability, security and prosperity on the part of the European Union, the partner countries and indeed the entire European continent'.

23 SEPTEMBER 2019

VENUE

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Berlin
Conference Hall
Hiroshimastraße 28
10785 Berlin

The working languages of the event will be German, Russian and English. Translation will be provided.

REGISTRATION

Please register by e-mail: Kerstin.Richter@fes.de
by **13 September 2019**.



Auswärtiges Amt

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**



PROGRAMME

14.00 • OPENING REMARKS

Michael Meier, Head of the Department for International Dialogue at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Germany

14.15 • KEYNOTE

Dirk Wiese, Coordinator for Intersocietal Cooperation with Russia, Central Asia and the Eastern Partnership Countries at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

14.45–16.15 • PANEL 1

THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AFTER TEN YEARS – WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

What has been achieved with regard to socio-economic development and political transformation in the past ten years? What lessons have been learned? Which actors have played an important role? What are the remaining challenges and opportunities?

Esther Ademmer, Interim Professor at Kiel University and Researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Germany

Tatsiana Karatkevich, Co-Chair of the Civic Campaign 'Tell the Truth', Belarus

Serhij Leshchenko, Journalist and former Member of Parliament, Ukraine

CHAIR: **Reinhard Krumm**, Director of the FES Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe

16.15–16.45 • COFFEE BREAK

16.45–18.15 • PANEL 2

WHAT LIES AHEAD? CONCRETE STEPS TOWARDS STABILITY AND PROSPERITY

Germany will hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union from July to December 2020. How can Germany contribute to sustainable socio-economic development in the Eastern Partnership countries? How should EU policy be shaped for the future? In particular, what needs to be done in the fields of education, employment and social policies to achieve prosperity and stability?

Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Special Representative for the Eastern Partnership Countries at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Tamar Khulordava, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, Georgia

Mikayel Zolyan, Member of Parliament and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Armenia

CHAIR: **Franziska Smolnik**, Deputy Head of Research Division Eastern Europe/Eurasia at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Germany

18.15–18.30 • MAIN TAKEAWAYS

Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Special Representative for the Eastern Partnership Countries at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

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

CHAIR: **Kristin Linke**, Department of Central and Eastern Europe at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Germany

18.30 • INFORMAL GET TOGETHER



**FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG
CONFERENCE HALL**
Hiroshimastr. 28, 10785 Berlin

HOW TO FIND US BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Bus Line 100: stop at Lützowplatz, **Bus Line M 29:** stop at Hiroshimasteg, **Bus Line 142:** stop at Philharmonie, **Bus Line 200:** stop at Tiergartenstrasse

Please be aware that there are no parking facilities for visitors at FES.

Please contact us if you have any questions concerning accessibility for people with impairments / disabilities.

CONCEPT / ORGANISATION:

Kristin Linke
FES, Department for Central and Eastern Europe,
Kristin.Linke@fes.de

Kerstin Richter

FES, Department for Central and Eastern Europe,
Kerstin.Richter@fes.de
Tel.: +49 (30) 26935 7750

DESIGN:

Andrea Schmidt • Typografie/im/Kontext



Auswärtiges Amt

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**