

International conference

“EU Global Strategy and Central Asia: Vision and Instruments”

Rīga, Latvia

1 April 2016

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
K.Valdemāra iela 3, Rīga

8.30-9.00

Coffee and registration

9.00-9.05 Opening Remarks

- Andris Sprūds, Director, Latvian Institute of International Affairs

9.05-9.30 Keynote Addresses

- Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
- Roman Vassilenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

9.30-10.50 Panel 1: EU Global Strategy and Central Asia – Perspectives from Europe

The EU Global Strategy will determine the external perspective and the actions of the EU for several years. Central Asia has been one of many external action vectors for the Union. However, Central Asia often has not received the consideration it would deserve taking into account its regional and global significance. In 2015, Central Asia was placed back on the “active agenda” of the EU with the review of the EU Central Asia Strategy and the re-establishment of the EU Special Representative for Central Asia as some of the highlights. How can the EU sustain this positive momentum and how to translate it in more practical terms? What is the vision and instruments of the EU and its member states towards Central Asia? What should be its place and role in the new EU Global Strategy?

Moderator: Kārlis Bukovskis, Latvian Institute of International Affairs

- Peter Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia
- Eduards Stiprais, Under-Secretary of State, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
- Nicu Popescu, Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies
- Peer Teschendorf, Regional Director for Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

10.50-11.05 Coffee break



11.05-12.25 Panel 2: Perspectives from Central Asia – the EU’s Current and Future Role in the Region

Central Asia is often considered as a relatively homogenous region, even though it is not. It comprises different states and different societies. Often, discord rather than cooperation takes the upper hand. The pivotal place of the region, risks emanating from it and opportunities it provides, attracts various external actors with visions that do not always match one another. The EU is only one of the global players in the region. How is the EU perceived in Central Asia and what is expected from it? In which issue areas should the EU focus its cooperation efforts with the Central Asian countries and which areas have the highest potential for mutual benefits?

Moderator: Māris Andžāns, Latvian Institute of International Affairs

- Asein Isaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to the Kingdom of Belgium
- Zilola Karimova, Leading Researcher of the Coordination and Analytical Center of International Cooperation and Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Nargis Kassenova, Professor at the KIMEP University, Kazakhstan
- Parviz Mullojanov, Chairman of the OSI Tajikistan Board, Senior Adviser to International Alert, Tajikistan Office

12.25-12.40 Coffee break

12.40-14.00 Panel 3: Role of the EU in Central Asia in the Regional and Global Context

During different eras, Central Asia has attracted attention from various external powers. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia still remains a key actor. At the same time, the U.S. has played a significant role, in particular by its military engagement in Afghanistan and the consequences it has had in a wider regional perspective. In recent years, the role of China in the economic sector has grown remarkably and it is expected to grow further. How is the role of the EU in Central Asia perceived by other global players? What are the prospects for both discord and cooperation between the EU and other players in this region? If and how can Central Asia bring the EU and other global players, China in particular, closer?

Moderator: Andris Sprūds, Latvian Institute of International Affairs

- Grace Shelton, Director of the Office of Central Asian Affairs, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State of the United States of America
- Jiang Shixue, Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Science
- Andrei Kortunov, Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council
- Raffaello Pantucci, Director of International Security Studies at the Royal United Services Institute, The United Kingdom

14.00 Concluding remarks

Lunch

