

Latvian European Union Pre-Presidency Conference
MOVING THE UNION FORWARD:
Involvement, Growth, Sustainability

December 4, 2014, 09:00-18:40
Tallink Hotel Riga, Elizabetes 24

Program

- 09:00 **Opening**
Andris Sprūds, Latvian Institute of International Affairs
Priorities of the Latvian EU Presidency
Inga Skujiņa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
Keynote Speeches
Lolita Čigāne, Saeima [Parliament] of the Republic of Latvia
Jaap de Zwaan, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands, TEPSA Board
Frank Suder, Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Germany
Andris Kužnieks, European Commission Representation in Latvia
- 09:55 **TEPSA Recommendations to the Latvian Presidency**
Michal Kořan, Institute of International Relations (IIR) Prague, Czech Republic
- 10:10 **Panel I. Citizens' Concerns in a Stronger EU: the Sustainability of Institutional and Economic Developments**
What is one main political and one main economic challenge that the European Union is facing on the eve of Latvia's Presidency of the Council of the EU? What are the solutions to these problems and what should be the role of Latvia as the Presidency in addressing these tasks? What is expected of the Latvian Presidency?
- Chair: Kārlis Bukovskis**, Latvian Institute of International Affairs
Lolita Čigāne, Saeima [Parliament] of the Republic of Latvia
Loukas Tsoukalis, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Greece
Adriaan Schout, Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael', the Netherlands
Ramunas Vilpišauskas, Institute of International Relations and Political Sciences, Lithuania
Visnja Samardzija, Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), Croatia

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Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President, European Commission (Euro & Social Dialogue) – recorded address, 5-10 minutes (tbc)

11:40 *Coffee break*

12:00 **Panel II. Towards a Common Voice in the International Arena: Transatlantic Partnership, Development Cooperation, International Trade, and Security**

We are currently witnessing growing external and internal demands on the European Union to assume a more significant role in world affairs. The first question is: What are the EU's strategic priorities or "areas of operation"? Then: What resources can it commit, and what will the gains be from becoming – possibly – not only an economic superpower but a political one? Thirdly: Will the EU manage to develop not a 29th but a single foreign policy? And finally: What steps should be taken during the next months?

Chair: **Gunilla Herolf**, Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences, Sweden, TEPSA Board
Andris Piebalgs, former European Commissioner for Development, Latvia
Federico Steinberg, Real Instituto Elcano de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos, Spain
Andres Kasekamp, Foreign Policy Institute, Estonia
Hanna Ojanen, University of Tampere, Finland, TEPSA Board
Gianni Bonvicini, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy

13:00 *Parallel press briefing (until 13:30)*

13:30 *Buffet lunch*

14:30 **Parallel Panels III:**

Panel III A. Towards the Riga Summit: Eastern Partnership as a Community of Values or Interests?

The foundations and direction of the Eastern Partnership are now being reconsidered, not least because of the events in Ukraine. What future developments can the EU introduce on its own side and what can we expect from our partners? How does the Sakharov vision of values (such as human rights, freedom, and democracy) go together with the immediate needs of security and economic development? Can we expect ever greater convergence between the visions of development of the EU and its Eastern neighbors?

This discussion is supported by the European Parliament Information Office in Latvia and is dedicated to the annual Sakharov Prize.

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Chair: **Andris Sprūds**, Latvian Institute of International Affairs
Linus Kojala, East Europe Studies Centre, Lithuania
Doris Wydra, Salzburg Centre of European Union Studies, Austria
Irina Kuzņecova, Foundation for an Open Society DOTS, Latvia
Juris Poikāns, Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership, Latvia
Marta Rībele, European Parliament Information Office in Latvia
Fabrizio Tassinari, Institute for International Studies, Denmark



Panel III B. The European Energy Policy: Will the EU Speak with One Voice on Energy Issues?

Energy security has long been a priority of the European Union as a whole and of Latvia in particular. Now it has acquired new urgency due to the conflict in Ukraine. What are the alternative ways of securing energy supplies, including their costs, and benefits? What else is needed to reassure those EU members who are heavily dependent on Russia, in particular, those in the Baltic Sea Region? How can the EU's Common Energy Policy be further improved, and what can we do to help our neighbors? What is the aim of the envisaged Energy Union? And what should the next steps be?

Chair: **Juris Ozoliņš**, Energy Expert, Latvia
Jaroslav Neverovič, former Energy Minister of Lithuania
Marjan Svetličič, Centre of International Relations (University of Ljubljana), Slovenia
Andras Inotai, Institute for World Economics, Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
Mirja Schröder, Universität zu Köln, Germany

16:00 *Coffee break*

16:20 **Parallel Panels IV:**

Panel IV A. Going Beyond the Eastern Partnership: Central Asia as a Priority of the Latvian EU Presidency

Over the last few years Central Asia came back on the EU's map of world politics. To a great extent this was driven by Latvia's efforts. The upcoming presidency plans to focus on such aspects as security and stability, border management, economic development, transit and transportation networks, and education. The EU's Central Asia strategy will also be reviewed. Why is this region increasingly important for the EU, and on which sectors of cooperation should we focus? What are the main challenges to overcome? How do we get not only EU members on board but also major international players?

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Chair: **Sabina Lange**, European Institute of Public Administration, the Netherlands
Katrin Böttger, Institut für Europäische Politik, Germany
Igors Apokins, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Latvia
Neil John Melvin, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden

Panel IV B. The Digital Market – A Driver for Promoting Growth and Jobs?

The Digital Single Market is possibly the best opportunity to further develop the EU's Single Market and kick start economic growth. In the new European Commission, this is the responsibility of one Vice-President, and an additional Commissioner is responsible for the Digital Economy & Society. This priority for the upcoming Latvian Presidency is very timely, but what must be done to promote digital convergence in the Union? Are there any challenges for truly converting it into a driver for growth and jobs, and how can these issues be overcome? What can we learn from Latvia's own experience?

Chair: **Reinis Zitmanis**, Digital Champion of Latvia, CEO at Itero.eu Digital Marketing Agency, Latvia

Iain Begg, London School of Economics and Political Science, the United Kingdom, TEPSA Board

Arnis Daugulis, Deputy State Secretary on ICT, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia

Signe Bāliņa, Latvian Information and Communications Technology Association (LIKTA)

Jānis Treijs, Reverta, Latvian Open Technologies Association

17:50 **Concluding Remarks**

Wolfgang Wessels, TEPSA Board and THESEUS Chairperson

Andris Sprūds, Latvian Institute of International Affairs

18:00 **THESEUS Award Ceremony**

18:40 *Conference concludes*

Rapporteurs:

Andris Čegodajevs, **Elina Stungrevica**, **Rihards Bambals**, **Annija Emersone**, **Katrīna Pētersone**, Latvian Institute of International Affairs

Lelde Čukure, University of Cologne / Maastricht University

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