

Think
Visegrad
V4 Think-Tank Platform



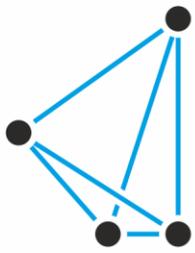
EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in cooperation with Centre for European Policy Studies and European Policy Institutes Network, invites you to the international conference in the framework of the Think Visegrad in Brussels project:

Security in Europe from a Visegrád viewpoint: strengthening fundamentals, but rethinking perspectives?

December 9 2016

Visegrád Four (V4) leaders have often described security issues as those on which substantial progress could make the EU seem more concrete for its citizens. Faced with a variety of challenges, ranging from the spill over effects of instability in the Middle East, which have in part triggered the migration crisis and sparked tensions between Central European capitals and the EU, to the troubling resurgence of Russia and its hybrid warfare, Central Europe now finds itself at a 'crossroads of crisis' that demands far greater reassurance for its sceptical populations.

In this context, Central Europe has a unique contribution to make in balancing out the commitments it made to NATO at both the Wales and Warsaw Summits, and its newly assumed position of driving support for further cooperation within the EU on issues of defence. The current French-German-Italian push for a 'European Defence Union' may run against some entrenched Visegrád Four interests, especially the 'NATO first' approach, and in this context it is interesting to hear all four regional heads of state discuss their role in the reinforcement of the EU's role on security issues. The geopolitical context is therefore propitious for Central Europe to speak with a more decisive voice. Yet the question remains: how will NATO and the European Defence Union be used to underpin their new role in the EU and highlight their foreign and security policy priorities?



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9-9h30 Registration and coffee

9h30-9h35 Welcome remarks

Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head of EU FP Unit, CEPS

9h35–11h Panel 1 – The V4 in the a post-BREXIT strategic & geopolitical framework

The European Union Global Strategy and the deliverables of the Warsaw NATO Summit largely defined the contours of European security, but they have now been thrown into doubt by the 'Brexit' referendum. At the same time, the forthcoming US presidential elections also provide Central Europe with an opportunity to redefine its engagement with Washington, but also to carve out a greater role for itself in the European security architecture, notably in balancing the challenges from the Southern and Eastern neighbourhoods.

The growing energy independence of Central and Eastern Europe also signals a potential shift in regional power dynamics. Are there any points of tension, related to security issues, where expectations between Central Europe and the EU or NATO do not match and should be addressed urgently, especially in the context of new expectations for a stronger EU role in security issues? How do the external aspects of the migration flow into Europe influence this balance, and how will they play out in both the Visegrád security architecture and the perception of Visegrád outside the region?

Speakers:

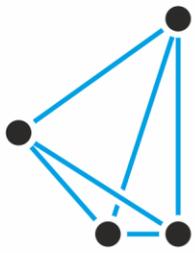
Amb. David Konecký, Permanent Representative to the PSC, Czech Republic

Botond Feledy, Senior Fellow, Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy

Moderator:

Tereza Novotná, Senior Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

10h30-11h Coffee break



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11h-12h30 Panel 2 – The role of partnerships and neighbourhood policy in Central European security

Enlargement, both in NATO and in the EU, remains a key agenda point for Central Europe, whose leaders frame the importance of this process as a security issue, in that it increases European security and its ability to protect itself from any threat. The future accession of Montenegro to NATO represents a step in this direction, and the Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia and Ukraine will also remain on the table in years to come. Yet these issues are more often than not divisive among NATO Allies and EU member states, especially in the context of an increasingly inward-looking Europe. Should Central Europe continue to pursue an ambitious enlargement agenda, even at the risk of being at odds with Europe's mainstream? What new arguments, or difficulties, does the post-BREXIT era bring for this agenda? How can Central Europe play a role in projecting stability in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries? What role can Visegrád play in diminishing the external aspects of the migration influx by working with origin countries, and what role will the Visegrád group carve out for itself on this agenda?

Speakers:

Nicu Popescu, Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies (TBC)

Tomasz Żornaczuk, Head of Central Europe Programme, Polish Institute of International Affairs

Tomáš A.Nagy, Research Fellow, GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Moderator:

Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head of EU FP Unit, CEPS

12h30-12h45 Closing remarks

Tereza Novotná, Senior Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

12h45 Lunch