

Think  
Visegrad  
V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

2016/03

Think Visegrad in Brussels

## Editorial



Dear readers,

I am happy to share with you the third newsletter of the Think Visegrad in Brussels project (TVB). With the project just reaching the half-time of its duration, it is a good opportunity to sum up what it achieved and what's still in the pipeline. In that respect, we are honoured to organize a roundtable of V4 EU Ambassadors and Brussels-based think-tanks in cooperation with the Polish Permanent Representation to the EU on 24 October 2016. This private meeting is a unique opportunity for a discussion on topical issues and on the V4 agenda for the EU. Fostering a two-way exchange, TVB has hosted two researchers that came to Brussels from our member think-tanks in Poland and Slovakia to deliver EU policy analysis enriched by insights from the policy-makers themselves. Dr. Tomasz Stępniewski examined the EU's Eastern Partnership policy and you'll find the summary of his paper in this newsletter. Dr. Vladimír Bilčík focused on the EU Council Presidency after the Brexit vote and we will bring you the gist of his analysis in the following issue. This newsletter presents two more think-tanks participating in the TVB, namely The Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID) from Hungary and The Institute of International Relations from the Czech Republic.

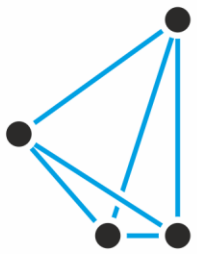
I hope you will enjoy the reading and as always, I remain at your disposal for your questions and comments about the project.

Kind Regards  
Zuzana Pickova  
Head of EUROPEUM Brussels Office



## In this Issue:

- TVB Organizes High-level Roundtable on 'Visegrad about the Future of the EU'
- Eastern Partnership Needs Revisiting According to Analysis
- Introduction of Think Visegrad in Brussels' Core Member Think-tanks:
  - The Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)
  - The Institute of International Relations Prague (IIR)



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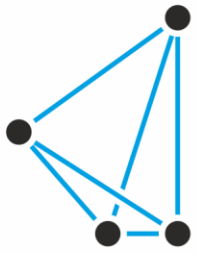
## TVB Organizes High-level Roundtable on 'Visegrad about the Future of the EU'

On Monday 24 October 2016, TVB brings together the Ambassadors of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia and established Brussels-based think-tanks at a roundtable discussion at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels. Ambassadors Jarosław Starzyk, Martin Povejšil, Olivér Várhelyi, and Peter Javorčík will meet with the representatives of the European Policy Centre, CEPS, Bruegel, German Marshall Fund, Wilfried Martens Centre, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, SWP and the think-tanks of the European Commission, European Parliament and others, to discuss topical issues and identify positive agenda of the V4 for the EU. The topics will include the course of the European integration after the British referendum, security and defense cooperation, migration, single market and trade policy and the EU in the world. In order to allow for an open exchange in a small setting, this event is private.

## Eastern Partnership Needs Revisiting According to Analysis

In September, Europeum Brussels' Office hosted Dr. Tomasz Stępniewski from The Society of the Institute of East-Central Europe (TIESW) for a week-long research stay. 'I wanted to find out how convergent my views were as a researcher of EU's eastern policy with the views expressed by the EU officials themselves,' explained his motivation Dr. Stępniewski. 'The fellowship enabled me to meet EU policy-makers and analysts of Brussels' think-tanks in person and gain a first-hand insight into their perspective on both the EU's eastern policy and the eastern neighbourhood,' appreciated Dr. Stępniewski. Drawing on several meetings, he wrote a policy paper providing a strategic assessment of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) project through the lens of the V4.

In his paper, Stępniewski argues that seven years after the introduction of the EaP, its achievements, objectives and possibilities need to be revisited. Such need has become even more pressing in the run-up to the EaP summit planned to take place in 2017, where a change of both the approach and narrative will be strong symbols that need to be delivered. Moreover, the predicament of EaP's countries has been pushed to the background. As a consequence, the V4 ought to speak more about the issue of EaP's states and the Russo-Ukrainian conflict in Donbas. The full analysis will be published online at [www.europeum.org](http://www.europeum.org).



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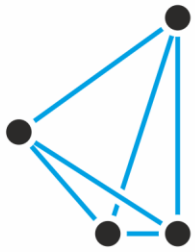
## Introduction of Think Visegrad in Brussels' Core Member Think-tanks:

Think Visegrad in Brussels is a platform for cooperation of eight core think-tanks, two from each of the Visegrad Countries. In the newsletter nr. 2, we introduced the Slovak SFPA and the Polish TIESW. The subsequent issues will briefly introduce all of the members.

### **The Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)**

CEID is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental and non-partisan think-tank, based in Budapest, Hungary. It was founded in 2001 with the objective of promoting the Euro-Atlantic dialogue. It analyses EU and NATO policies and their effect on Hungary, and carries out projects in and related to the post-Soviet countries focused on sharing experience from NATO and the EU with the future potential candidates. It organizes a series of diverse projects, round tables, conferences and offers publications to support foreign-policy decision-making and public discourse in Hungary and in the Central European region. Among the Hungarian think-tanks, CEID has currently the widest network of foreign and security policy partners from Central and Eastern Europe. Annually it runs six to ten own and further ten to fifteen partnership projects. As an organisation occupying a pro-European stance, it regularly organises debates on the most pressing European issue. In October 2016, CEID launched its European Cafe series with the participation of leading Hungarian and European experts. The first debate on 20. October entitled 'Where is the EU heading after Brexit and the Hungarian quota referendum?' featured Birgit Sippel, Member of the European Parliament and Júlia Király, professor at IBS Budapest and former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Hungary.

Please find more information on CEID at <http://www.ceid.hu>.



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## The Institute of International Relations Prague (IIR)

IIR is an independent public research institution which conducts academic research in the larger field of international relations, which includes European studies, security studies, area studies and other related disciplines. The IIR has been the leading academic institution for the study of international relations in the Czech Republic since 1957 and it is also an active member of several international research networks. In its IR research, it sets national benchmarks for the quality of scientific research in international relations. The IIR also includes two centres - the Centre for European Security (<http://www.iir.cz/en/static/centre-for-european-security>) and the Centre for International Law (<http://www.iir.cz/en/static/centre-for-international-law>). As an independent institution originally founded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the IIR also provides policy analysis and recommendations. It serves as a hub for academics, policy makers and the general public, stimulating expert and public debates on the Czech foreign policy, European affairs and global issues. The IIR also publishes a number of academic journals and books, and it offers a joint PhD programme in International Relations and European Studies. The IIR holds conferences and seminars every year, including on the EU and European policies. Among them, there are two great annual events: the Prague European Summit (<http://praguesummit.eu>) and the International Symposium (<http://iir.cz/en/static/international-symposium>).

For more information on IIR, please go to <http://www.iir.cz>.

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