

NEWSLETTER

October 2024/2

New Café Evropa Podcast | Publications - Transport Poverty and Presidential Elections in Moldova

Welcome to the second October newsletter!

Over the past two weeks, our researchers have been **commenting on current events in the media**, in particular **EU migration policy, which was one of the main topics of the just concluded European Council summit**. But they also focused on the **EU's defence capabilities**, the composition of the new European Commission and support for Ukraine.

In October, we also hosted **several conferences** and other events. In the second week the EUROPEUM Institute in cooperation with the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Economics and Business in Prague, prepared a conference: **The next 20 years of the Czech Republic in the European Union**. The day after, we also started a three-day conference **RESILIENT EUROPE**, which we co-organised with **Centre for Informed Society and Association for International Affairs**. We also invited the **media to a brunch on the topic of emission allowances and ETS2**.

On Thursday, October 17, three more events took place: **the conference Circularity in the Czech automotive industry: opportunities and obstacles** was co-organised with the Institute of Circular Economy INCIEN, the **panel debate A wind of change? The role of Central Europe and the next EU political cycle**, hosted by the **Brussels office of EUROPEUM Institute**, and another **regional debate Café Evropa**, this time in Semily.

Today, we also have another **episode of the Café Evropa podcast**, Viktor Daněk invited the Director General of the Fire Rescue Corps of the Czech Republic, **Lieutenant General Vladimír Vlček**, who has experience in helping during the earthquake and tsunami in Japan or during the humanitarian crisis in Jordan. **How can the Czech Republic get involved in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and help in disasters?** And how do Czech firefighters work abroad?

Our website also features several publications by EUROPEUM researchers and associate research fellows. For example, we published reports on the **further enlargement of the European Union to include Ukraine and the Western Balkans**, on **transport poverty and on emission allowances**. Our non-resident associate research fellow **Hugo Blewett-Mundy** also published an article on the **upcoming presidential elections in Moldova**, which will determine the future direction of the country. In her Policy Paper, researcher **Silke Maes** looked at the **challenges facing cross-border telework**. More information can be found in the newsletter below.

We wish you much success in the second half of October,

EUROPEUM Institute Team

FIR Annual Conference - The next 20 years of the Czech Republic in the EU - a never-ending story of catching up with Europe?



On Monday, October 7, the University of Economics and Business in Prague hosted the **annual conference of the Faculty of International Relations**, the main topic of which was a **reflection on twenty years of Czech membership in the EU and the outlook for the next two decades**.

One of the panels during the conference dealt with the **2004 EU enlargement as a possible lesson for European integration and future enlargement**. The speakers on this panel included **Jana Juzová**, Senior Research Fellow at EUROPEUM Institute and coordinator of the REWEU project.



EUROPEUM Institute's Communication Team interns **Robin Pleslová** and **Helena Le** also participated in the panel Czech "Return to Europe": 20 years since the EU's great enlargement, during which they **presented their student project on the benefits of the EU for young people**.

An International Conference RESILIENT EUROPE



On 8-10 October, **the RESILIENT EUROPE conference** took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the buildings around Prague Castle, organised by EUROPEUM Institute together with **Centre for Informed Society and Association for International Affairs**. The main theme of the three-day event was **the security of Europe and the resilience of its democracy, particularly in relation to strategic communication**, countering disinformation and coordinated action against Russia. The conference was officially opened by the **Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Lipavský**.

Brunch with media



On Wednesday October 9, EUROPEUM Institute in cooperation with Climate Facts, 2050 Institute, People in Need, Sound of Science, Association for International Affairs, Greenpeace, Centre for Transport and Energy and DUHA organized a media brunch **"Emission Allowances for Households: Everything you wanted to know about ETS2 and were afraid to ask"**. A press release from the event in Czech, including research materials, can be found [here](#).

Conference | Circularity in the Czech automotive industry: opportunities and obstacles



On Thursday October 17, speakers and guests of the conference on the **current state of the Czech automotive industry in comparison with global competitors**, organised by EUROPEUM Institute together with Institute for Circular Economy INCIEN, gathered at the Hybernská Campus. The **panel debate on the production and recycling of batteries for electric vehicles** was also attended by EUROPEUM Institute **analyst Filip Křenek**. A press release from the event is in preparation and can be found later on our website.

Debate in Brussels | A wind of change? The role of Central Europe and the next EU political cycle



A **panel discussion on the challenges facing the post-election EU** took place in Brussels on Thursday October 17 under **Brussels office of EUROPEUM Institute**. The event was moderated by EUROPEUM Institute Research Fellow **Silke Maes**. One of the speakers was **Žiga Faktor**, Deputy Director and Head of the EUROPEUM Brussels Office.

Café Evropa | 20 years in the EU: What has membership given and taken away from Semily?



As part of the **Café Evropa regional debates**, this time we headed to Semily, where, in cooperation with the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic, on Thursday October 17 we organised a **discussion on the evaluation of the Czech Republic's 20 years in the EU**. Panelists and guests also debated the **Migration Pact, the Green Deal and the impact of European subsidies on the development of the town**.

Café Evropa podcast



Podcast about EU mechanism during disasters

Through the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, which involves 37 countries, not only in Europe, the Czech Republic has the opportunity to join the assistance on a regular basis – **but it can also request it**. This was the case, for example, in the recent devastating floods in the Czech Republic or the fires in Hřensko. **How does it all work?** How long will it take for aid to arrive?



Listen to the new episode of the Café Evropa podcast. Viktor Daněk invited the **Director General of the Czech Fire and Rescue Service, Lieutenant General Vladimír Vlček**, who has experience of helping in the earthquake and tsunami in Japan or during the humanitarian crisis in Jordan. Among other things, you will learn **how Czech firefighters work abroad** and how their foreign experience helps them during crisis at home.

Find the full episode on Spotify and Youtube!

LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

New publications

Report: **Moldova votes 2024: A choice between Russia and the EU**



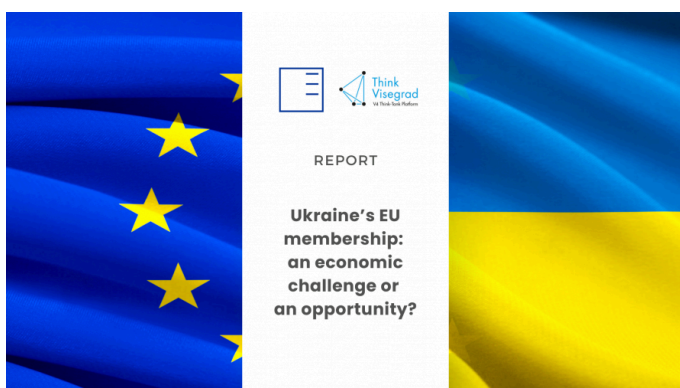
Moldova stands at a critical juncture that will determine its position within Europe. **In the elections on Sunday, the incumbent president Maia Sandu is seeking a second term and a positive result in the EU accession referendum to reaffirm her country's path towards Europe.** But the hybrid threat facing Moldova from Russia will not dissipate, particularly as next year's pivotal parliamentary elections approach in the tiny former Soviet republic. **Hugo Blewett-Mundy**, a non-resident associate research fellow from EUROPEUM, **analyses the current situation in Moldova** and provides an outlook for the country in 2025. Read the Report [here](#).

Policy Paper: **Navigating the Digital Workforce Frontier**



Teleworking has increased since the pandemic, with **almost one in four employees in the EU working partly from home in 2023 and 75% wanting to continue.** While teleworking within the Member States is relatively easy, cross-border teleworking still faces administrative barriers and costs, especially for SMEs. **Silke Maes from EUROPEUM Institute** explores why cross-border teleworking is difficult, why regulation is not a priority and how to adapt tax and labour law to the digital era. Read the Policy Paper [here](#).

Report: Ukraine's EU membership - an economic challenge or an opportunity?



On September 26th, EUROPEUM's Brussels Office organized an expert discussion titled "Ukraine's EU membership: an economic challenge or an opportunity?" The debate focused on the potential economic impacts of Ukraine's accession to the Union, including the EU budget, sectoral policies, energy or critical raw materials. It also evaluated the opportunities for Central European countries and their private sector to strengthen the ties between the two regions. Read the full report [here](#).

Report: Making enlargement work again - Supporting Western Balkans through the experiences of Central and Eastern Europe



On September 12th, EUROPEUM's Brussels Office organized a public conference titled "Making enlargement work again: Supporting Western Balkans through the experiences of Central and Eastern Europe". Following a keynote speech by H.E. Bálint Ódor, the panel discussions dwelled on the 2004 enlargement, its impacts on the EU and the lessons learned from the process through the perspective of current EU accession of the countries of Western Balkans. Read the full report [here](#).

Factsheet: Transport poverty - definition, primary data of Czech households and possible solutions



Already 3% of households in the Czech Republic are at risk of transport poverty, and this situation could worsen in a few years' time. Indeed, with the introduction of the ETS2, the emissions trading scheme for households, which extends emissions trading to road transport and local heating of buildings, fuel prices are expected to rise from 2027. This will have an impact on household budgets. Find the factsheet by EUROPEUM researcher Rebeka Hengalová [here](#).

Factsheet: Emission allowances for households - What is ETS2 and how to use it to our advantage



The extension of the **emissions trading system for local heating and road transport**, the so-called ETS2, is due to come into effect in 2027. ETS2 now **needs to be adopted into Czech legislation under the Emissions Trading Act**. Find basic facts and answers to questions that the Czech public often asks in the factsheet [here](#).

In the media

- ČRo Radiožurnál | Can we expect a significant shift in the EU's migration policy from the Brussels summit? ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČRo Plus | One big European stock exchange? The ultimate nonsense, like moving to Mars the day after tomorrow ([Filip Křenek](#))
- Neolivní.cz | Why take Super Mario seriously ([Viktor Daněk](#), [Filip Křenek](#))
- Právo | The Czech Republic still can't play high Brussels politics and it won't get any better ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Euractiv.cz | European defense is not in good shape, new commissioner can help ([Zuzana Krulichová](#))
- Ekonomický deník | How should support for air transport work? The European Commission has launched a review of the rules ([Filip Křenek](#))
- TV Noe | The role of Jozef Síkela as EU Commissioner for International Partnerships ([Filip Křenek](#))
- Hospodářské noviny | Let's keep our no and think about how to build Wall Street in Europe ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Hospodářské noviny | It is a betrayal, Babiš rejects the EU migration pact. His allies say it will limit migration ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- STVR | EU and Tunisia after elections ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- ČT24 | New Secretary General Rutte assures Ukraine of NATO support ([Danielle Piatkiewicz](#))
- iDnes.cz | Europeans were driven to vote by inflation. Another reason applies to Czechs, survey finds ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Český rozhlas | End discrimination against Roma children, says the European Commission to the Czech Republic ([Viktor Daněk](#))



Co-funded by
the European Union