



## NEWSLETTER

**April 2024/1**

### **New podcast Café Europe: From Prague by Train | Debates about the EU and NATO**

Welcome to the first April newsletter!

Over the past 14 days, experts from the EUROPEUM Institute have spoken in the media discussing various topics shaping current affairs. For example, Kristína Chlebáková commented on the first round of Slovak elections for Lithuanian public radio LRT, or listen to discussions about the upcoming European elections with Viktor Daňek on ČT24 and Martin Vokálek on TV Nova. Another commentary was provided by Rebeka Hengalová in a report of TV Nova focusing on where the Czech Republic utilizes funds from European funds.

The twelfth episode of our Café Europe podcast titled "From Prague by Train: Explore Europe by Rail" has also been released. This episode focuses on the possibilities of train connections from the Czech Republic, their expansion, and affordability. The topics are addressed by Michal Zlatkovský, who has traveled tens of thousands of kilometers across Europe by train. More information about the podcast can be found below in the newsletter.

The EUROPEUM Institute also co-organized two discussions on EU and NATO in Ostrava and Prague at the University of Economics. Learn more in our newsletter.

Sincerely,  
EUROPEUM Institute team

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## Debates about the EU and NATO



### EUROPEUM in Ostrava and Prague!

In Ostrava, on Wednesday, April 3, a debate on the importance of NATO membership, its commitments and associated benefits, as well as the functioning of the organization itself, took place. The guest was Petr Luňák, Deputy Head of Section at the NATO Public Diplomacy Division. The discussion was moderated by Alexandra Visnerova, Senior Project Manager at the EUROPEUM Institute. The debate was organized in cooperation with the US Embassy in the Czech Republic.

On Thursday, April 4, a discussion took place at the Prague University of Economics and Business about the anniversary of the EU's major enlargement 20 years ago and the EU's readiness for further enlargement. The guests of the debate were Eva Horelová, Deputy Head of the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic, and Bertie Ahern, former Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister). You can replay the debate in Prague on our [Facebook page](#).

[Watch the debate](#)

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## Café Evropa podcast



## #12 - From Prague by Train: Explore Europe by Rail

We would like to remind you of the latest episode of the Café Europe podcast, which focuses on the topic "From Prague by Train: Explore Europe by Rail." The railway network connecting the Czech Republic with neighboring countries offers travelers a wide range of transportation options, whether traveling to neighboring states or to more distant destinations such as Croatia, Switzerland, Budapest, or Amsterdam. Additionally, as of March 25, 2024, the night train European Sleeper from Prague to Brussels is available, expanding the offering of night routes. The trend of increasing popularity of train travel in Europe is confirmed by data from the television station Euronews, which recorded a 12% increase in searches for cross-border train connections in 2022 compared to the pre-COVID year of 2019. Because of the fact that train services are not as generously subsidized as flights, many still consider this form of transportation luxurious.

In the new podcast, Michal Zlatkovský, an experienced traveler and expert in European train travel, shares tips and tricks on how to travel by train efficiently and cost-effectively. The questions were asked by Jolana Humpálová from Voxpot. Listen on [Spotify](#) or watch on [YouTube](#).

[Listen to podcast](#)

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### In the media

- TV Nova | Czech Republic drew the most money from EU funds for transport ([Rebeka Hengalová](#))
  - TN.cz | Ursula von der Leyen and Pfizergate ([Žiga Faktor](#))
  - ČT24 | Candidates for the European Parliament elections ([Viktor Daněk](#))
  - ČRo Plus | European leaders meet on the EU strategic agenda ([Viktor Daněk](#))
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- e15 | Enlargement of the Schengen area to include Romania and Bulgaria ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- iRozhlas.cz | Fossil fuel boilers are not banned by the European Union ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- TV Nova | Strengthening of sanctions against Russia's allies ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- TV Nova | European elections: Defense, security and domestic issues dominate amongst Czech voters ([Martin Vokálek](#))
- LRT | Slovakia voted in the first round of presidential elections ([Kristína Chlebáková](#))
- 168 hodin | Czech and Slovak relations at freezing point ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- EUobserver | Why Mette Frederiksen should be next EU Council President ([Hugo Blewett-Mundy](#))



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