

NEWSLETTER

May 2024/3

New Café Evropa Podcast: How Do We Perceive Security in the Czech Republic? | Influence Ranking of Members of European Parliament

Welcome to the last May newsletter!

EUROPEUM Institute experts have been commenting on a wide range of European topics in the media over the last 14 days. Kristína Chlebáková and Jana Juzová discussed the impact of the **shooting of Prime Minister Robert Fico** on the future of Slovakia. In addition, as in the previous two-week period, the upcoming **European Parliament elections** featured heavily. Viktor Daněk focused on the spread of disinformation and euroscepticism in podcast **TEĎ NAOZAJ!**, while Vít Havelka told TN.cz that **up to a third of voters do not know EU Commissioner Věra Jourová**.

This week we released sixteenth episode of Café Evropa podcast titled **"Security: how do we perceive it in the Czech Republic?"** In the episode, hosts Sarah Komarová and Michaela Onuferová discuss the attitude of Czech citizens towards the country's security. According to the Eurobarometer opinion poll, defence and EU security are priority topics for 45 percent of Czechs, while the EU average is significantly lower at 31 percent. **Do we stand out or do we perceive it so strongly because of the region we live in?**

We also continue with the Café Evropa regional debates. On 21st May we went to Boskovice. And today, 31st May, we also took part in the national scout meeting Obrok 2024 in Valeč with a **debate on the European Parliament elections**.

As part of the **RevivEU** project, we held two public recordings of the Talking EUROPE(UM) podcast. The first debate focused on the changes brought by the **Russian invasion in Ukraine**. The second opened the topic of the **economic future of the European Union**.

Ahead of the upcoming European elections, EUROPEUM Institute has prepared a **ranking of MEPs' influence**. This was based on a survey of almost 100 experts in European politics, who were asked to evaluate the influence of current Czech MEPs. At the end of the month, Jana Juzová and Žiga Faktor also wrote the **EUROPEUM Institute's opinion on the National Convention roundtable**. Read more about these activities in the newsletter.

Best regards,

The EUROPEUM Institute team



#16 - Security: How Do We Perceive It in the Czech Republic?

According to the Eurobarometer survey, **defense and EU security are priority topics for 45 percent of Czechs, significantly more than the European average of 31 percent.** Are we an outlier, or do we perceive it so strongly because of the region we live in?

On the other hand, **trust in the military is declining.** Only 62 percent of Czechs trust the military, the lowest level since 2008. Why is the military facing decreasing support, and are security topics becoming tiresome for people?

In a new podcast, Jolana Humpálová also talked with the guests about **active reserves**, which are called up in cases of natural disasters. In addition to military drill, there is also theory involved – for example, protection against weapons of mass destruction. People from IT, students, businessmen or doctors apply for them. **How long does the training take and how demanding is it?** Which professions does the army lack? And then what is the job of the active reserves?

Our invitation was accepted by **Sarah Komarová** from STEM and active reserve member **Michaela Onuferová.**



[Listen to podcast](#)



As part of the Café Evropa regional debates, this time we headed to Boskovice. **The debate 20 years of the Czech Republic in the EU - what membership gave and took away from Boskovice** brought topics such as the Migration pact, European subsidies and more. The invitation was accepted by the mayor of the town **Jana Syrovátková**, EU analyst from the Association for International Affairs **Vendula Kazlauskas** and native of Boskovice **Tomáš Kostecký**, deputy director of the Institute of Sociology of the CAS.

On the last day of May, we also held a debate at the nationwide scout meeting Obrok 2024, where EUROPEUM Institute analyst Vít Havelka discussed **the main topics of this year's European Parliament elections**. The event took place in the grounds of the Valeč Castle.



During May, we also held two debates within the **RevivEU project**. In one of them, we discussed what the Russian war in Ukraine has changed with our guests **Viktor Daňek**, Deputy Director of EUROPEUM Institute, and **Zuzana Pavelková** from the Refugee Aid Organisation.



In another, we talked about **the economic future of Europe** with sociologist **Martin Buchtík** from STEM, **Petr Janský** from the Institute of Economic Studies at the Charles University and researcher **Klára Votavová** from EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy.

You can listen to both debates **as further episodes of the Talking EUROPE(UM) podcast**, available under the button below.

[Listen to podcast](#)

New research papers



How to improve the EU enlargement process? How to ensure that the democratising effect of the accession process continues in the long term after the eventual accession to the EU? And are EU institutional reforms a necessary condition for EU enlargement? Answers to these and other questions are offered by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy's contribution to the **National Convention on the EU's roundtable** on Balkans, Turkey or Ukraine: the future of enlargement policy in the context of institutional settings. Read more [here](#).



EUROPEUM Institute organised a **survey among selected experts and stakeholders** in European politics to **evaluate the performance of current Czech MEPs**. The performance of MEPs is difficult to evaluate because there is no completely objective set of criteria that would clearly show this. Therefore, EUROPEUM approached diplomats, officials, academics and other experts from the EU policy environment to compile its own ranking. Read more [here](#).

In the media

- MF Dnes | Battle for the European Commissioners ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- TV Nova | External Border Protection ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČT24 | EU elections ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Delo | Tense atmosphere in Slovakia after the attack on the Prime Minister ([Kristína Chlebáková](#))
- The Hill | The threat of Russian nationalism looms over Europe ([Hugo Blewett-Mundy](#))
- Timpul Prezent | European borders, EU enlargement and growing polarization in Slovakia ([Jana Juzová](#))
- Newsroom ČT24 | How journalists work in Brussels ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- e15 | Slovak government toughens up after attack on Fico. Violent acts may increase, experts warn ([Kristína Chlebáková](#))
- TV Nova | How to maintain competitiveness of the European Union ([Filip Křenek](#))
- Hospodářské noviny | Who has the biggest influence in Brussels? EUROPEUM presents the ranking of Czech MEPs ([Vít Havelka](#))

-
- A2 | Cooperation of the Visegrad Group ([Klára Votavová](#))
 - TV Nova | Analysis of Czech MEPs. What influence do they have on European issues? ([Vít Havelka](#))
 - TN.cz | Candidates' debate for the post of European Commission chief ([Martin Vokálek](#))
 - RTVS | Does von der Leyen have a clear opponent after the Spitzenkandidaten debate? ([Viktor Daněk](#))
 - Teď naozaj! | EU elections: Disinformation a euroscepticism ([Viktor Daněk](#))
 - TN.cz | Up to a third of Czech voters do not know the EU Commissioner Věra Jourová ([Vít Havelka](#))
 - ČT24 | Representatives of two factions absent from the Spitzenkandidaten debate ([Viktor Daněk](#))
 - TN.cz | Migration Pact: A yay or nay? Public opinion is divided ([Viktor Daněk](#))
 - TN.cz | Recognition of diplomas from Member States still not working in the EU ([Zuzana Krulichová](#))
 - iRozhlas.cz | Automobile companies are on board with the Green Deal, it is only politicians who want to scrap it ([Kateřina Davidová](#))



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy
Staroměstské náměstí 4/1, 11 000
Praha CZ

For more information on data protection, please follow [this link](#).