

# NEWSLETTER

June 2024/1

## Prague European Summit 2024 | Election Night | New episode of Café Evropa podcast

Welcome to the first newsletter of June!

The biggest event of the year, the **Prague European Summit**, is over. The two-day conference attracted over 400 participants, 65% of whom came from outside the Czech Republic. The guest of honour was the President of Slovakia, **Zuzana Čaputová**, who received the Vision for Europe Award from the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Jan Lipavský**. The invitation was also accepted by **Martin Dvořák**, Minister for European Affairs, **Jozef Síkela**, Minister of Industry and Trade, and the newly elected MEP **Danuše Nerudová**. Foreign guests included **Anna Lührmann**, German Minister of State for Europe and Climate.

On the second Sunday in June we held an **Election Night** awaiting the results of the European Parliament elections. Guests listened to speakers in two panels and also comments from other EU countries. We also released another episode of the **Café Evropa podcast**, which was also on the election. **Viktor Daněk** and **Jolana Humpálová** talked, for example, about why Czechs are not attracted to these elections or how Czech MEPs have performed.

Other projects continued as well, with **Café Evropa's regional debates** with moderator Igor Blahušík and guests **Anna Urbanová** and **Vít Havelka** heading to the grounds of Valeč Castle for the Obrok 2024 Scout Festival. **Alexandra Visnerova** and **Petr Luňák** headed to Ústí nad Labem, where they described to attendants the benefits that the Czech Republic has enjoyed from a **quarter of a century of NATO membership**.

Despite the busy schedule, our experts found time to answer questions from the media. The main topic was of course the European Parliament elections. They talked about the likely composition of the new European Parliament or the strengthening of the far right in Europe. You can read more in the newsletter.

Our experts were not left behind, **Jana Juzová** in her new article focuses on **Serbia and its balancing** act between joining the European Union and the alliance with Russia. **Silke Maes** explores the potential of **cross-border telework in the digital economy**, which has become more common after the covid-19 pandemic, in her new policy paper.

Best Regards

EUROPEUM Institute team

## Prague European Summit 2024

On 13 and 14 June 2024, the 10th anniversary **Prague European Summit** took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was devoted to **discussing the priorities for the European Union** in the next five years after the European Parliament elections, specifically in the areas of further support for Ukraine, security and a new strategy towards Russia, or economic issues such as strengthening European competitiveness, the future of international trade or energy security.

The first day was opened by the **Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Lipavský** presenting the Vision for Europe Award to the **President of Slovakia Zuzana Čaputová**. In her address, she warned against the growing hate speech on social media, which she said is increasingly spilling over into everyday reality. ***"Calling for the responsibility of the owners of social platforms and striving for responsible management of social media is not a call for censorship, although some try to present it as such. However, I call for strengthening the democratic framework to protect everyone's freedom, including in the social networking environment,"*** Čaputová said.

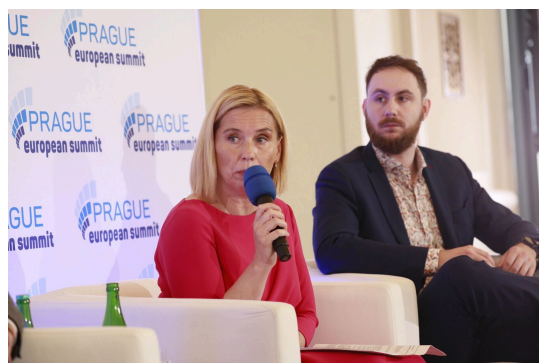
In his speech, the chief of Czech diplomacy pointed out that the EU can only be a respected global actor if it takes care of its own continent and responds flexibly to new challenges. ***"Europe's future, our security and prosperity depend on how we manage to counter Russia's aggression in Ukraine and its increasingly aggressive actions against the West,"*** Lipavský concluded.

In the afternoon of the first day of the conference, the **Minister of Industry and Trade Jozef Síkela** also spoke. He presented the key priorities that the future European Commission should focus on in the field of the economy, and which, according to him, will play a key role in determining Europe's position in the global economy. ***"We need to build a strong position in the field of modern technologies focused on processes that are now affecting our economy, such as decarbonisation, digitalisation or the emergence of artificial intelligence. That is why we believe in the need for technology neutrality to support all low-carbon technologies, including nuclear energy. Nuclear energy must be part of the Green Deal,"*** added Síkela.

Friday's day began with an opening speech by **Martin Dvořák, Minister for European Affairs**, who said the European Union must cooperate not only militarily but also to defend itself against cyber attacks from Russia. He sees expansion towards the Western Balkans and beyond as crucial. He then spoke about this topic in a panel together with the **German Minister of State for Europe and Climate, Anna Lührmann**. After another panel and discussions, the programme concluded with a debate with **Danuše Nerudová** and members of the **Future European Leaders Forum**.

The Prague European Summit is one of the largest international conferences in the Czech Republic focusing on foreign policy issues. It is organised by EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and Institute of International Relations in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and with the support of the Representation of the European Commission and the Hanns Seidel Foundation. The event is under the patronage of the Czech President Petr Pavel, the Office of the Government and the Minister for European Affairs, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Confederation of Industry and Transport of the Czech Republic.





Více informací o letošním ročníku **Prague European Summit** najdete [zde](#).

Záznamy panelů a projevy řečníků najdete [Facebooku konference zde](#).

**Café Evropa podcast**



## #17 - What the European Parliament elections will bring

In the last episode of the **Café Evropa podcast**, **Viktor Daněk** from EUROPEUM Institute and **Jolana Humpálová** from Voxpot focused on the debate on the new composition of the European Parliament after the June elections. They also talked about its powers, the importance of this year's elections, and how Czech MEPs have performed.



Who should be the next Czech MEP? And why have the Czechs not been interested in the European elections so far? How can we increase interest in European issues? Find the answers in the podcast. Listen here:

[Listen to podcast](#)

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## EUROPEUM Institute Events

### Café Evropa Debate | Election Night | What has NATO membership given to the Czech Republic? | Prague Climate Academy

Café Evropa  
Debaty: Volby do Evropského parlamentu  
pátek 31. 5. 2024, 15:00  
areál zámku Valeč  
HOSTĚ  
Anna Urbanová, redaktorka Českého rozhlasu a spolumoderátorka podcastu Bruselské chlebíčky  
Tereza Masopustová, analytička projektu České zájmy v EU



On Friday, 31 May, as part of the Café Evropa regional debates, we talked about **the European Parliament elections** at the Scout Festival Obrok 2024. **Anna Urbanová**, editor of Czech Radio and co-host of the Bruselské chlebíčky podcast, and **Vít Havelka**, senior researcher at EUROPEUM Institute, mentioned the importance of these elections and the values of the candidates.



Together with the **Office of the European Parliament in the Czech Republic** and the **Institute of Empirical Research STEM**, we co-organised an **Election Night on the results of the European Parliament elections**. The two debates featured speakers such as former MEP **Pavel Telička**, **Vendula Kazlauskas** from AMO, **Jaroslav Zajíček**, Director of the Department of the Foreign Office of the President, and **Aneta Zachová**, Editor-in-Chief of Euractiv.cz.



Another debate on the **25th anniversary of the Czech Republic's** accession to NATO was held in Ústí nad Labem. **Petr Luňák** from the NATO Public Diplomacy Department spoke about the benefits of membership in this Alliance. The debate was moderated by **Alexandra Visnerova** from EUROPEUM Institute.



On 3 June, the fourth **Prague Climate Academy workshop** took place at the British Embassy in Prague. This time it focused on the climate in Prague and the increasingly frequent heat waves in cities. In addition to commenting on the current situation and the future outlook, the experts also showed the participants good examples from practice. More information can be found [here](#).

## New research papers



**Serbia: Dilemma between joining Europe and alliance with Russia.** Serbia's ambiguous relationship with Russia and the West is thus increasingly coming to the fore in 2023. The Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), in power since 2012, and President Aleksandar Vučić are responsible for the continued democratic decline and incoherence with EU foreign policy during Serbia's long EU accession process, bringing the situation closer to a breaking point in Serbia's relations with the EU. More is described by EUROPEUM Senior Fellow **Jana Juzová** in her article for the European Institute of the Mediterranean. Read more [here](#).



**It will remain, but in what form? Exploring the potential of cross-border teleworking in the digital economy.** The rapid expansion of teleworking, fuelled by digitalisation, has disrupted the system based on physical presence in the workplace in EU countries. Especially since the pandemic, teleworking has become increasingly common. Our researcher **Silke Maes** addressed this topic in her policy paper, highlighting the challenges but also the opportunities that teleworking presents for cross-border coordination. Read more [here](#).

## In the media

- Euractiv | Ursula von der Leyen faces election challenges ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Aktuálně.cz | Von der Leyen is almost certain to secure a second nomination, but she may face challenges in the European Parliament ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- TN.cz | Possible changes in European subsidies ([Klára Votavová](#))
- Joj24 | Post-election bargaining within the European Parliament and the potential of the far right ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- TN.cz | Brussels will deal with the enlargement of the Union. Among the candidates are Turkey or Ukraine ([Jana Juzová](#))
- Ekonomický deník | Europe's dependence on imports from China is growing ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- TN.cz | Development of renewable energy sources ([Rebeka Hengalová](#))
- Hospodářské noviny | Sooner or later the Green Deal will hit our wallets and politicians are exploiting that fear. But it can't be stopped anymore ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- RTVS | The Last Parliamentary Term in the European Parliament ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- Střepiny | The rise of the far right in the European elections ([Martin Vokálek](#))
- CNN Prima News | The most influential Czech MEPs. Who has the best attendance and who really influences politics? ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČRo Plus | New Far-Right Political Group? Giorgia Meloni Will Impact Post-Election Status Quo ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČTK | The necessity to adapt cities to the increasing heatwaves ([EUROPEUM](#))
- Czech Radio | The battle for EU leadership will start after the elections ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- CNN Prima News | Myths about the European Union: How misinformation threatens our values and how to counter it? ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČT24 | The European Parliament has faced one of its most difficult periods. How did it cope with the challenges? ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- TN. cz | How does the EU protect consumers? ([Klára Votavová](#))
- ČTK | Far-right parties will get stronger after the EU elections, but can they unite? ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- RTVS | Political Groups in the European Parliament ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- Horizont ČT24 | Immigration centre in Albania ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- TV Nova | Why should we care about the European elections and vote? ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Sestry.eu | European Parliament Elections: forecasts, threats, expectations ([Martin Vokálek](#))
- ČT24 | The European Parliament elections begin ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- TN.cz | What threatens the European Union? ([Martin Vokálek](#))
- TN.cz | How does the Czech public view climate change and the development of renewable energy sources? ([Rebeka Hengalová](#))

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- ČRo Plus | This year's European Parliament elections are crucial ([Viktor Daněk](#))
  - ČT24 | The European Union is in a state of unity, despite differences among some member countries ([Žiga Faktor](#))
  - Deník N | Leaders of parliamentary parties debated about candidates for the European Commission ([Martin Vokálek](#))
  - TN.cz | European elections and the functioning of the European Parliament ([Martin Vokálek](#))
  - e15 | Green Deal will not end after the EU elections. It needs to be brought back down to earth and wrapped in more attractive paper ([Filip Křenek](#))
  - ČT24 | Low turnout of Czech voters in European elections ([Martin Vokálek](#))
  - Novinky.cz | How to interpret the Euro election results ([Viktor Daněk](#))
  - Seznam Zprávy | People experience a multicrisis, success of the far right could be

greater ([Martin Vokálek](#))

- Rádio Expres | Political turnaround in the EU: Populists strengthen and changes in France and Belgium ([Filip Křenek](#))
- Seznam Zprávy | The European Union remains on the green path ([Kateřina Davidová](#))



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

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