

NEWSLETTER

November 2024/2

Transatlantic Policy Forum | New episode of the Café Evropa podcast | Publications on Transatlantic Cooperation and EU Competitiveness

Welcome to the second November newsletter!

Since the beginning of the month, our researchers have been **commenting in the media** on the **US elections** and the grilling of the new **Czech Commissioner** Jozef Síkela in the European Parliament. The ongoing climate change conference, **COP 29**, has also been a topic.

We have also held several debates in the past two weeks. **Viktor Daněk**, Deputy Director of the EUROPEUM Institute, spoke with students from JDI from University of Economics and Business and The Polish Forum of Young Diplomats about the **20 years of the Czech Republic and Poland in the EU**. The topic of EU membership was also discussed at regional Café Evropa debates in Hranice and Litoměřice. Other debates focused on the **election results in Georgia and Moldova** and the **impact of EU enlargement on democracy**.

In mid-November, the **Transatlantic Policy Forum** held a two-day conference. Experts gathered at the Czernin Palace to discuss issues such as **Ukraine's post-war reconstruction, its accession to the European Union and transatlantic relations**. The conference was preceded by **Transatlantic Evening Talks** on the shaping of relations between Europe and North America, as well as a discussion at the **American Center** on the world's **super-election year and its impact on the integrity of elections**.

How are the new **MEPs' assistants living in Brussels?** What do they have to do during the working day? In the **new episode of Café Evropa podcast**, moderator Jolana Humpálová talks about this with **Markéta Plesníková** and **Adam Trunečka**, who share their experiences from their first quarter of a year as assistants in the European Parliament.

Our website also features several **new publications**. Our researchers dealt with issues of **transatlantic cooperation** or **the recipe for a competitive Europe**.

We wish you a peaceful rest of November,

EUROPEUM Institute team

TAPF | Transatlantic Evening Talks and Transatlantic Policy Forum



The two-day **Transatlantic Policy Forum conference**, organised by EUROPEUM Institute in cooperation with the **Atlantic Council, Visegrad Fund and the American Embassy in Prague**, took place in Prague on **14 and 15 November**. Guests from the Czech Republic and abroad discussed several topics at the Cernin Palace, including assistance to Ukraine in its post-war reconstruction and its future accession to the European Union. Experts also discussed the impact of the US presidential election results on transatlantic relations with the European Union, as well as US-China relations, collective security and the role of international trade in building mutual relations.



The main TAPF discussions were preceded by a series of five **Transatlantic Evening Talks**, where participants could expand their knowledge of transatlantic relations through discussions with experts and gain insight into the complex dynamics that shape relations between Europe and North America.

The Transatlantic Policy Forum is the leading closed policy conference in Central Europe, organised for the seventh year by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy.

Debate: Democracy in action: How a super-election year will reflect on the integrity of elections



The Transatlantic Policy Forum on Thursday, November 14 at the America's Center opened with a discussion on the **"super election year."** Elections were held this year not only for the European Parliament, but also in key regions such as Taiwan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Indonesia and India.

Globsec Senior Research Fellow **Katarína Klingová**, Atlantic Council Nonresident Senior Fellow **Rachel Rizzo**, and Microsoft Government Affairs Specialist **Victoria Sarmiento Herrero** accepted the invitation.

Debate: Elections in Moldova and Georgia: What are the implications for the EU and NATO?



The recent elections in Moldova and Georgia not only have **major local implications, but may significantly affect the relations of both countries with the European Union and NATO.** **Kateřina Fuksová and Adrian Brisku** from the Institute of International Studies at Charles University accepted the invitation to the debate, which took place on Wednesday 13 November at the Freevent in Prague's Letná district. **Tomasz Krzysztof Zduńczyk** came from the University of Warsaw.

An important question of the debate was not only what direction countries will take, but also **how this direction will affect European and global security.**

Impact on EU enlargement and democracy - case studies from V4 media



On Wednesday 13 November, a **debate on EU enlargement and democracy** took place in Prague. The debate summarised a study from four countries focusing on the **V4 mainstream media**.

Guests included **Magda Jakubowska**, Vice President of the Res Publica Foundation, **Miroslava Pisklová**, Research Fellow at the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, and **Dorka Takácsy**, Visiting Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The debate was moderated by **Oszkár Roginer-Hofmeister**, Project Coordinator and Analyst at EUROPEUM Institute.

Debate: Reflecting on 20 Years of EU Membership



On Friday 8 November, EUROPEUM Institute Deputy Director **Viktor Daněk** debated with students from the **Junior Diplomat Initiative** from the University of Economics and Business in Prague and **The Polish Forum of Young Diplomats** (Forum Młodych Dyplomatów) from Poland.

During the discussion, the participants **compared the experience of Czech and Polish membership in the European Union** and also addressed the **political situation in Poland** and its impact on the perception of the EU by Polish citizens.

Commented stream of Jozef Sikela's grilling in the European Parliament

On Wednesday 6 November, **EUROPEUM Institute** in cooperation with **the European Parliament Office in the Czech Republic** organised a **commented stream of the hearing of the Czech candidate for European Commissioner Jozef Síkela**. In the Europe Experience building on Národní 10, we watched his opening remarks before the committee in the European Parliament, followed by EUROPEUM Institute's Deputy Director **Viktor Daněk** commenting on **Síkela's vision for the International Partnership and Global Gateway** portfolio, as well as the first round of questions from MEPs.



Café Evropa regional debates



As part of the **Café Evropa series of regional debates**, we headed to **Hranice** on November 5 and **Litoměřice** on November 9.

Both debates focused on the topic of **20 years in the EU**. In **Hranice**, former Czech Radio foreign correspondent in Brussels **Viktor Daněk** and former Permanent Representative to the EU **Milena Vicenová** discussed the topic of **migration, the situation in Slovakia and Hungary, and the (mis)communication of EU events to Czech citizens by politicians**.

The debate in **Litoměřice** was held in cooperation with the **European Youth Parliament**. The discussion focused on the **right to vote from the age of 16, the introduction of the Euro and the interests of Czech citizens in European issues**. The invitation was accepted by **Martin Vokálek**, Executive Director of EUROPEUM Institute, **Hana Martínková**, Advisor to the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and **Eliška Tomalová**, a student from the Department of European Studies at Charles University.



We are planning further discussions as part of the project - come to **Starý Plzenec** on 19 November or to **Žďár nad Sázavou** on 21 November. See more information [here](#).

Café Evropa podcast



A new episode of the podcast

How are the assistants of the new MEPs living in Brussels? This is what **Jolana Humpálová** talks about with **Adam Trunečka** and **Markéta Plesníková** in the new episode of Café Evropa. Both have completed a quarter of a year in the teams of new MEPs – how do they feel in the so-called „EU bubble“? What do they have to do during a normal working day? What tasks do they get?

[Listen to the podcast here](#)

Public podcast recording - Will traditional media survive the 21st century?

Café Evropa
PŘEŽIJÍ TRADIČNÍ MÉDIA 21. STOLETÍ?
A jsou ještě vůbec pro mladou generaci?
Přijďte na živé natáčení podcastu v rámci Korza Národní!

Neděle 17. listopadu, 18:45
Zažijte Evropu
Národní 10, 110 00 Nové Město

Johana Bázlerová
autorka Instagramu Jsem v obraze

Jiří Kubík
bývalý šéfredaktor Seznam Zprávy

Andrea Procházková
bývalá zástupkyně šéfredaktora Respektu

Join us for a live discussion with our guests **on the Café Evropa podcast** and celebrate 35 years of free speech. Catch a glimpse of the celebrations at **Korzo Národní!**

The guests will be **Johana Bázlerová**, author of the Instagram profile Jsem v obraze, **Jiří Kubík**, former editor-in-chief of Seznam Zprávy and **Andrea Procházková**, former deputy editor-in-chief of Respekt.

You can find more information on **Facebook event**.

New publications

Policy Paper: Transatlantic transitions: Strategies for 2025 and Beyond



The "Transatlantic Policy Forum 2024 Backgrounder" outlines **key strategic challenges** and **policy directions for transatlantic relations as the US presidential election approaches**. It addresses anticipated issues of **transatlantic cooperation**, including NATO and EU enlargement, the response to the war in Ukraine, security in Central and Eastern Europe, and growing geopolitical tensions with China.

The publication emphasizes the need for the **US and Europe to strengthen** their alliance to confront challenges such as **threats to the integrity of elections, a multipolar trading system, and authoritarian influences**.

Read the full report [here](#).

Policy Paper: Trade, money, power: a recipe for a green and competitive Europe?



Europe stands at a crossroads and must navigate a complex environment where **economic competitiveness, energy security** and **climate goals intersect**. The EU, which in the past has been an advocate of open trade, is now facing **increasing pressure from high energy costs, dependence on raw materials** and **competition from clean technologies**.

Central European countries such as the **Czech Republic play a key role** in this effort as they push for open markets while facing economic and energy dependence and vulnerability.

Read the full report [here](#).

Report: A wind of change? Role of Central Europe and the next EU political cycle



As the EU **enters the next political cycle**, the role of Central European countries within the bloc seems to be accelerating. Not only have Poland, the Czech Republic or Slovenia gained **ambitious portfolios of commissioners**, but the region is also playing an important role in supporting Ukraine and, more broadly, in shaping the EU's political priorities for the next term.

Yet the representation of these countries in the EU **institutions is still insufficient**, while the latest Letta and Draghi reports hardly included voices from the eastern part of the EU in their research.

This debate, hosted by the EUROPEUM Institute's Brussels office, summarised the **latest developments at EU level** and looked at the current Hungarian and upcoming Polish EU presidencies and their possible implications for the Union.

Read the full report [here](#).

In the media

- ČT24 | Kaja Kallas to take over EU diplomacy ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČRo Plus | Trump prefers bilateral relations with equals, will push EU aside ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Seznam Zprávy | Between money and human rights. Jozef Sikel defends himself before MEPs ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- IOM | European strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific ([Zuzana Krulichová](#))
- ČRo Plus | COP 29 has started. How will the re-election of President Donald Trump affect it? ([Rebeka Hengalová](#))
- TN Nova | Trump may speed up the creation of the new European Commission. Even controversial candidates passed ([Martin Vokálek](#))
- Euractiv.cz | Sikel has been grilled. He didn't have it easy, the International Partnership has a number of contradictory tasks ([Filip Křenek](#))
- ČT24 | The impact of the election result in the United States on relations with the EU ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- ČT24 | Jozef Síkela succeeds in front of MEPs ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- Hospodářské noviny | Síkela will be a European Commissioner if he doesn't mess up. What could MEPs "sink" him for? ([Žiga Faktor](#))
- iDnes | Síkela passed in Brussels. But he doesn't know the projects in Africa ([Zuzana Krulichová](#))
- Ekonomický deník | European carmakers won't get support for postponing emission targets from Transport Commissioner-designate Tzitzikostas ([Filip Křenek](#))
- STVR | The European Union must prepare for multiple scenarios ([Danielle Piatkiewicz](#))
- ČT24 | The first hearings of the candidates for European Commissioner will begin on Monday ([Martin Vokálek](#))