

Public Roundtable

Unity and disunity in Europe: New approaches to European cooperation and integration?

The European Union, the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partners in wider Europe

An event organised in the framework
of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

29 October 2018, 18h00-20h10

Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Favoritenstraße 15a, Vienna

The European Union (EU), its Eastern partners and the Western Balkans all share a vital interest in ensuring peace and comprehensive security in Europe as a primary condition for their stability, prosperity and development. To advance this shared interest, the EU relies on different sets of external policies promoting cooperation and / or integration in wider Europe, regardless of the finalité of the process. From Tbilisi to Pristina, from Minsk to Belgrade, the challenges faced by the EU and its partners are very different. But they also show a number of commonalities.

Almost thirty years after the Charter of Paris for a new Europe and in the context of Brexit, the challenge of unity, integration and cooperation in wider Europe remains more topical than ever. This public roundtable, building on both the “Eastern Partnership Reflection Forum” and “Western Balkans Reflection Forum” initiatives, will seek to advance a wider, strategic reflection on the EU’s external approach across its neighbourhoods. How much commonality is there in the EU’s approach towards its Eastern and Western Balkan partners? What can the EU achieve in its changing neighbourhoods, considering its internal fragilities? What is at stake for the EU in the wider geopolitical context? What lessons can be drawn from the EU’s experience in both fields?

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17h45: *Registration*

18h00: Opening

- Emil Brix, Director, Vienna School of International Studies, Vienna
- Magda Stumvoll, Programme Coordinator and Research Fellow, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna

18h15: Keynotes

- Werner Fasslabend, President, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, Vienna
- Thomas Greminger, Secretary General, Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, Vienna

18h35: Panel discussion

- Luiza Bialasiewicz, Professor, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam
- Srđan Cvijić, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society European Policy Institute, Brussels
- Christophe Hillion, Research Professor, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Oslo
- Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, President of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome

Moderation: Hannes Swoboda, President, International Institute for Peace (IIP), Vienna

20h00: A Perspective from the region

- Daniela Morari, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau

20h10: *End of the event*

[Registration](#) is compulsory

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