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Internal, External, and Public Perspectives on the Eastern Partnership After the 2017 Summit

The 5th Annual Tallinn Conference on the Eastern Partnership

Organizers: Estonian Center of Eastern Partnership and European Commission Representation in Tallinn

CONFERENCE:

Friday, 2 March 2018

8:30–9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00–9:10 Introductory Remarks:
Jaan Reinhold, Director, Estonian Center of Eastern Partnership

9:10–9:20 Welcoming Remarks:
H.E. Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia

9:20–11:00 Panel I: A View from Inside: Building on the 2017 EaP Summit

Building upon the achievements of the Prague, Warsaw, Vilnius, and Riga events, the 2017 EaP Summit—held under the Estonian presidency of the EU Council—brought the Eastern Partnership to the heart of Europe in Brussels, incorporating a wide range of stakeholders' perspectives from key "side events" such as the EaP Business Forum, EaP Civil Society Conference, EaP Media Forum, and others. Will it lead to lasting reforms, both in the institutional structure of the Eastern Partnership and in partner countries more generally? Can the EaP serve as an economic and technical cooperation platform while also contributing to the deeper political integration of interested states?





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Keynote/Moderation:

Katarína Matheriová, Deputy Director-General, DG NEAR, European Commission

Panelists:

Sven Mikser, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Estonia

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ukraine

Oleg Kravchenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Belarus

Georgi Panayotov, Special Coordinator on the Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Bulgaria

Thomas Buchsbaum, Special Envoy on the Eastern Partnership, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria

11.00-11.30 **Coffee break**

11.30-13.00 Panel II: A View from Outside: The Present and Future of the Eastern Partnership

To those from European Union and partner countries already familiar with the 20 Deliverables or the cross-cutting priorities, for example, the benefits of the Eastern Partnership are obvious. But how is the initiative perceived from outside? Is it still seen primarily as a geopolitical initiative? Is engagement with the EaP fundamentally incompatible with membership in the Eurasian Economic Union, or with partnership with Russia? How is it viewed from North America, especially in relation to the region's relations with the North Atlantic alliance?

Moderator:

Balász Jarábik, Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow, Carnegie Endowment

Panelists:

Jorgan Andrews, Director, Office of Eastern European Affairs, United States Department of State

Kevin Rex, Director, Eastern Europe and Eurasia Division, Global Affairs Canada

Andrey Kortunov, Director-General, Russia International Affairs Council

Jakub Godzimirski, Research Professor, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

13.00-14:00 **Lunch**





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14:00–15.45 Panel III: An Uncomfortable Truth: Media and the Shaping of Public Opinion in EU and EaP Countries

The Eastern Partnership is not, as Estonia has long stressed, a one-way street; both EaP and EU countries have much to learn from each other in many areas. One key area is in media and public opinion. In this session, presentations by Ukrainian experts as well as specialists from Estonia and elsewhere will draw on their varied real-world experience both to demonstrate the crucial importance of efficient, well-targeted strategic messaging in ensuring an open and resilient public media space as well as to identify what concrete steps European countries and institutions – both inside and outside the EU – can take to improve it.

Moderator:

Raul Rebane, communications and media consultant, Estonia

Panelists:

Darius Skusevičius, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Lithuania

Oleksiy Makukhin, Director, Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group, Ukrainian Crisis Media Center

Nataliia Popovych, Deputy Board Chair, Ukrainian Crisis Media Center

Liubov Tsybulska, Deputy Director, Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group, Ukrainian Crisis Media Center

Jakub Kalenský, Member, Stratcom East Task Force, EEAS

Jarmo Mäkelä, Senior Diplomatic Correspondence (ret.), Finnish Broadcasting Company

15.45–16.15 Conclusions and Closing Remarks

Jana Kobzová, Head of Policy, Rasmussen Global

Paavo Palk, Deputy Head, European Commission Representation in Estonia

