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Common Challenges, Common Solutions: the Past, Present, and Future of the Eastern Partnership

The 6th Annual Tallinn Conference on the Eastern Partnership

February 8, 2019. Swissôtel, Tallinn, Estonia

The 6th annual Tallinn Conference on the Eastern Partnership will take place on **Friday, February 8, 2019 at 8:30-16:15**. Organized by the Estonian Center of Eastern Partnership (www.eceap.eu) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and marking the tenth anniversary of the EU's Eastern Partnership policy, the one-day event - held at the **Swissôtel Tallinn**.

Ten years ago, the Eastern Partnership was launched at the historic Prague Summit. Over the past decade, it has resulted in many positive achievements despite the geopolitical and economical challenges. To evaluate these achievements and take stock of current progress - while looking forward to how the relationship between the EU and the partner countries can develop and progress after 2020 - we will gather a select group of high-level representatives of all three parties involved in the initiative: Member States, partner countries and EU institutions. Incorporating a wide range of perspectives from key stakeholders, the conference will also look in more detail at two topics described by acute challenges but also great potential for further cooperation: fighting corruption and developing local media.

February 8

8:30 Registration and coffee

Mr. Johannes Tralla, *Correspondent, Estonian Public Broadcasting – moderator of the day*

9:00 Introduction and welcome words

Mr. Jaan Reinhold, *Director of the Estonian Center of Eastern Partnership (ECEAP)*

Mr. Keit Kasemets, *Head of the European Commission Representation in Estonia*





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9:05 Opening remarks

Mr. Teodor-Viorel Meleşcanu, *Minister of Foreign Affairs, Romania (tbc)*

Mr. Sven Mikser, *Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia*

9:30 Panel 1: A Decade of Evolution: Evaluating the Past Ten Years of the EaP

Since its beginnings as a joint Polish-Swedish initiative in 2009, the Eastern Partnership has clearly broadened and grown over the ensuing decade. But has it accomplished its objectives in putting the region more squarely on a path towards European integration, or has its impact been only incremental in nature? Considering accomplishments such as the visa liberalization/facilitation and AA/DCFTA agreements, panelists will assess the level of performance and relevance of the EaP to date.

Speakers:

- **Representative of Poland** (*tbc*)
- **Ms. Anna-Karin Eneström**, *Political director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden*
- **Mr. Zohrab Mnatsakanyan**, *Minister of Foreign Affairs, Armenia*
- **Ms. Hanna Hopko**, *Head of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Ukraine (tbc)*

Moderator: **Ms. Riina Kionka**, *Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of the European Council*

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Parallel panels

From the outset, the EaP initiative has sought to promote lasting political and economic reforms as well as respect for the rule of law in partner countries in order not only to foster deeper integration, but to improve the lives of ordinary citizens of EaP countries. To this end, two areas have proven to be uniquely stubborn obstacles - and accordingly, presented opportunities for Estonia and other EU member states to share their experience and expertise in overcoming them: developing regional media and fighting corruption.



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2a: Europe Begins at Home: Developing Regional Media in EaP Countries

The AA/DCFTA agreements and overall increase in EU attention and funding to the Eastern Partnership countries have undeniably brought with them significant benefits - but so long as the focus is primarily on national capitals and on younger, educated, English-speaking people, the full potential of these initiatives will likely never be reached. Accordingly, ECEAP and its partners have worked together to increase the capacity and ensure the continued development of regional media sources - the most trusted by average people, and the channels most able to explain and communicate the benefits and challenges of European integration. What have the specific challenges to date been on this effort, and how can Western countries continue the cooperation with media most effectively?

Speakers:

- **Mr. Andrey Evchenko**, *Editor-in-chief, Internet publication „Kramatorsk Post“, Ukraine*
- **Ms. Galina Petriashvili**, *Journalist and media expert, Gender Media Caucasus, Georgia*
- **Representative of US media** (*tbc*)
- **Mr. Artur Aukon**, *Journalist, Estonian Public Broadcasting (ERR), Radio 4*

Moderator: **Mr. Hannes Rumm**, *Media expert, ECEAP (tbc)*

2b: Securing Democracy: Fighting Corruption in EaP Countries

By seeping into every aspect of public life, corruption is not merely an issue of domestic politics, but presents a fundamental threat to national security and prosperity of countries both inside and outside the EU. Affecting everything from how neighborhoods are protected and borders secured to how criminals are punished, and roads and schools constructed, corruption is a uniquely important challenge given its ability to undermine a country's very statehood from within. With its partners, Estonia has worked to increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures; but what can be done in the future, especially to overcome pervasive myths and influence public attitudes?



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Speakers:

- **Colonel Levan Machavariani**, *Deputy Director, Patrol Police Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia*
- **Mr. Gizo Uglava**, *First Deputy Director, National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU)*
- **Ms. Karolina MacLachlan**, *Regional Programme Manager – Europe, Conflict & Insecurity program, Transparency International's*

Moderator: **Mr. Eerik Heldna**, *Anti-corruption expert, ECEAP*

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Panel 3: What Lies Ahead: The Future of the EaP after 2020

In recent years, the focus on tangible deliverables with concrete impact on the lives of citizens both in the EU and in the partner countries - combined with a renewed focus on concluding or implementing bilateral agreements - has led to considerable advancements in the structure and impact of the Eastern Partnership. But what lies ahead after 2020? Are more changes to the institutional structure of the EaP needed, or do the best possibilities for viable future cooperation lie elsewhere? And most importantly, how to keep ambition in the future of EaP – both from partner's as well as from the side of EU.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Dirk Wiese**, *Member of the Bundestag; Coordinator for Intersocietal Cooperation with Russia, Central Asia and the Eastern Partnership countries*
- **Ms. Audrone Perkauskiene**, *Head of Division, European External Action Service (EEAS)*
- **Ms. Jana Kobzová**, *Strategy Director, Rasmussen Global*
- **Mr. Mikheil Janelidze**, *former Vice Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Georgia*
- **Mr. Urmas Paet**, *Member of the European Parliament, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia*





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Moderator: **Ms. Elena Korosteleva**, *Professor of International Politics and Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics, University of Kent at Canterbury*

15:30 Conclusions and Closing Remarks

Mr. Stanislav Secrieru, *Senior Policy Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies*

Mr. Lawrence Meredith, *Director, Neighbourhood East, DG Near (tbc)*

H.E. Jüri Ratas, *Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia*

16:15 Farewell & Departure

