



Minsk Dialogue 2015

The EU, Russia and the Shared Neighbourhood: Bridging the Divide

PROGRAMME

Friday, 27 March

9.00-9.30

Registration

9.30

Conference begins

9.30-10.00

Welcoming remarks

(Open to the press)

Uladzimir Makey – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Yauheni Preiherman – Policy Director, Centre for Analytical Initiatives, Discussion and Analytical Society *Liberal Club*, Belarus

Yaraslau Kryvoi – Founder, Ostrogorski Centre; Editor-in-Chief, Belarus Digest, UK-Belarus

10.00-11.30

**Session 1. Reviewing the European Neighbourhood Policy:
What Reform Options are on the Table?**

(Open to the press)

Speaker

Maira Mora – Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to the Republic of Belarus

Discussants

Arkady Moshes – Programme Director, EU Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia Programme, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland

Wojciech Konończuk – Head, Department for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, Centre for Eastern Studies, Poland

Andrei Rusakovich – Chairman of the Board, Foreign Policy and Security Research Center, Belarus

Andrei Skryba – Researcher, Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies, Higher School of Economics, Russia

Chair

Yaraslau Kryvoi – Founder, Ostrogorski Centre; Editor-in-Chief, Belarus Digest, UK-Belarus

11.30-12.00

Coffee break

12.00-13.30

Session 2. **What Caused the Regional Divide?**

Discussants

Balázs Jarábik – Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Associate Fellow, Central European Policy Institute, Slovakia-Lithuania

Rasim Musabekov – Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan

Oleh Rybachuk – Chairman and Co-Founder, Centre UA, Ukraine

Dmitry Suslov – Deputy Director, Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies, Higher School of Economics, Russia

Chair

James Nixey – Head, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House, UK

13.30-14.30

Lunch

14.30-16.00

Session 3. **The Eurasian Economic Union: Legitimate Grouping or Veil for Revanchism?**

Discussants

Slawomir Dębski – Director, Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding, Poland

Sergey Markedonov – Associate Professor, Russian State University for the Humanities, Russia

Ian Bond – Director of Foreign Policy, Centre for European Reform, UK

Mikayel Zolyan – Analyst, Regional Studies Centre, Armenia

Chair

Arkady Moshes – Programme Director, EU Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia Programme, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland

16.00-16.30

Coffee break

16.30-18.00

Session 4. **The Future of the Eastern Partnership: Is Reform Necessary?**

Discussants

James Nixey – Head, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House, UK

Giorgi Badridze – Senior Fellow, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, Georgia

Dzianis Melyantsou – Senior Analyst, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies, Lithuania-Belarus

Hennadiy Maksak – President, Polissia Foundation of International and Regional Studies, Ukraine

Chair

Viktar Shadursky – Dean, Department of International Relations, Belarusian State University, Belarus

Saturday, 28 March

9.30-11.00

Session 5. **The European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union: Looking for Common Denominators**

Discussants

Sergey Utkin – Head, Department of Strategic Assessment, Centre for Situation Analysis, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

Vladimir Fesenko – Chairman of Board, PENTA Centre, Ukraine

Jacek Giedrojć – Founding Partner, Warsaw Equity Group; President, Foundation for Liberal Education, Poland

Victoria Bucataru – Research and Programs Director, Foreign Policy Association of Moldova, Moldova

Chair

Sławomir Dębski – Director, Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding, Poland

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-13.00

Session 6. Round Table: **The Minsk Dialogue Network: Ideas for Future Cooperation**

Chair

Yauheni Preiherman – Policy Director, Centre for Analytical Initiatives, Discussion and Analytical Society *Liberal Club*, Belarus

Conference adjourns