

U.S.-CENTRAL EUROPE STRATEGY FORUM

October 26-27, 2011 • Prague, Czech Republic

Czernin Palace
Loretánské náměstí 101/5

Hotel Savoy Prague
Keplerova 218/6

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Conference Overview

A. Wess Mitchell, President, Center for European Policy Analysis
Hall of Mirrors, Czernin Palace

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Opening Keynote

H.E. Alexandr Vondra, Minister of Defense, Czech Republic

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Panel I: Europe's Troubled Southern and Eastern Peripheries: What Can Central Europe Contribute?

Moderator: **Jiří Schneider**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

- **Matthew Kaminski**, Member of the Editorial Board, *The Wall Street Journal*
- **Edward Lucas**, International Editor, *The Economist*
- **Katarzyna Pisarska**, Director, European Academy for Diplomacy
- **Péter Sztáray**, Political Director, Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Recent events in Belarus, Ukraine, the Middle East and North Africa have forced Western policymakers to reevaluate traditional policy paradigms for how to approach Europe's eastern and southern neighborhoods. As the European Union (EU) and United States seek to regain initiative and leverage the soft power of Western values, a niche has developed for Central European states to share their experiences. What lessons from Central Europe's democratic transition in the 1990s are applicable for the fledgling democracies on the EU's periphery? How can Central European states play an active role in the Middle East and North Africa, while keeping the EU focused on important initiatives in the East? How can Central Europeans help to ensure that the limited resources available for the European Neighborhood Policy are efficiently utilized and its instruments effectively applied?

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Coffee Break**

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Panel II: Belarus on the Brink: Planning for Life After Lukashenka**

Moderator: **Roland Freudenstein**, Deputy Director and Head of Research, Centre for European Studies

- **James Kirchick**, Contributing Editor, *The New Republic*
- **Jana Kobzová**, Wider Europe Program Coordinator, European Council on Foreign Relations
- **Dzianis Melyantsou**, Senior Analyst, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies
- First respondent: **Peter B. Doran**, Senior Policy Analyst, CEPA

As the international community prepares to mark the one-year anniversary of the violent December 2010 crackdown on civil society and opposition forces inside Belarus, the regime of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka must contend with a crippling shortage of foreign currency, enduring signs of popular discontent and sustained international sanctions against state-owned companies and key government officials. International solidarity following the crackdown was strong, but how successful have the United States and the EU been in their efforts to bolster civil society and pro-democracy forces on the ground inside Belarus? What developments can be expected over the next 12 to 24 months? How likely is a transition to a post-Lukashenka government and are Belarusian pro-democracy forces and the international community prepared for such a scenario?

12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Walk to Hotel Savoy**

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch: Central Europe's Place in the 21st Century War of Ideas**

Restaurant Hradčany, Hotel Savoy

Keynote: **Steven W. Korn**, President and CEO, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*

Moderator: **Jakub J. Grygiel**, Senior Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University – SAIS; CEPA Senior Fellow

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Walk to Czernin Palace**

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Panel III: Energy Security: Shale, Nuclear and Interconnectors – New Playing Field or Latest Flame-Out?**

Hall of Mirrors, Czernin Palace

Moderator: **Andrew A. Michta**, Director and Senior Transatlantic Scholar, German Marshall Fund Warsaw Office

- **Anita Orbán**, Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security, Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Alan Riley**, Associate Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies
- **Vladimir Socor**, Senior Fellow, Jamestown Foundation

Greater energy security is a longstanding European goal, but it is of particular importance for Central European states, which are highly dependent on single-source imports of oil and gas and thus most exposed to energy disruptions. What is the potential of recent regional efforts — exploration of Polish shale gas, Czech modernization and expansion of the nuclear sector, and plans for developing North-South gas interconnectors — to transform the Central European energy market? How effective have EU policies been in diversifying the broader European energy space through initiatives such as the Third Energy Package and ownership unbundling? What specific steps can the United States take to assist its Central European allies in shoring up their access to diverse upstream sources and multiple transit routes?

3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Comments by Jiří Schneider**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

4:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. **Free Time in Prague**

6:15 p.m. **Meet in Hotel Savoy Lobby for Dinner Departure**

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Dinner at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence** (Business Attire)

Doktora Zikmunda Wintra 181/3

Host: **H.E. Norman L. Eisen**, U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic

Thursday, October 27, 2011

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Panel IV: The EU After Greece: Toward a Two-Tiered Europe?**

Hall of Mirrors, Czernin Palace

Moderator: **Jaroslav Kurfürst**, General Director, Europe Section, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- **István Balogh**, Junior Research Fellow, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs
- **Marcin Piatkowski**, Senior Economist, World Bank, Warsaw
- **Jan Techau**, Director, Carnegie Europe, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- First respondent: **Robert Kron**, Research Analyst, CEPA

The lingering threat of a Greek default to the integrity of the Euro and the ongoing struggle of European leaders to reach an effective solution for the EU's economic troubles has led to one of the gravest crisis of confidence in EU's history. Many in Brussels have called for some version of a fiscal union of Euro-zone members as a necessary step for stabilizing the European economy and calming foreign markets, a move some Central Europeans feel would be divisive. How likely is it that the EU will move toward a two-tiered structure with a more closely integrated Euro-zone core and peripheral member states lagging behind? What political and economic implications would such a development have for the EU, and particularly for Central Europe? What would the repercussions be for U.S.-EU relations, especially in the economic realm?

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Coffee Break**

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Panel V: Where is U.S. Foreign Policy Headed, and What Future for its Alliances?**

Moderator: **Jakub J. Grygiel**, Senior Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University – SAIS; CEPA Senior Fellow

- **Ian Brzezinski**, Senior Fellow, International Security Program, Atlantic Council
- **Elbridge Colby**, Research Analyst, Center for Naval Analyses
- **David W. Hamon**, Director, Office of Strategic Research and Dialogues, Strategy and Plans Enterprise, Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- **Jim Thomas**, Vice President and Director of Studies, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

The global financial crisis dealt a painful blow to the U.S. economy, accelerating the rise of Asia, inaugurating a new era of austerity in the West and fueling concerns about the ability of the United States to maintain its role as leader of the international economic and security order. In the capitals of U.S. allies, there are growing doubts that the United States will be able — or willing — to sustain its responsibilities to a far-flung alliance network in the face of resource constraints at home and geopolitical competition abroad. How is the new era of

fiscal austerity likely to affect America's view of, and commitment to, U.S. alliances over time? What strategic value do alliances with countries like the Czech Republic and its neighbors hold to the United States in a multipolar world — will it be higher, lower or equal to their previous value? What options are available to the United States for maintaining its global alliances under conditions of fiscal austerity?

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Walk to Hotel Savoy

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Closing Lunch – Ambassadorial Roundtable

Restaurant Hradčany, Hotel Savoy

Moderator: **A. Wess Mitchell**, President, Center for European Policy Analysis

- **Victor Ashe**, Former U.S. Ambassador to Poland
- **Richard W. Graber**, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic
- **Janusz Reiter**, Former Ambassador of Poland to the United States

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Closing Comments

A. Wess Mitchell, President, Center for European Policy Analysis

Jakub J. Grygiel, Senior Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University – SAIS; CEPA Senior Fellow

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Jakub J. Grygiel

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Former U.S. Ambassador to Poland

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Vice Dean and Associate Professor, Masaryk University

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