

Let us cordially invite you on behalf of the organizers to a two-day series of events, which will take place on 26th – 27th October in Prague.

**In Search of Central European Security:
Responding to New Regional Security Challenges**
26th – 27th October

Venue: The Czernin Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic,
Loretánské nám. 5, Prague 1

Working language:

The main working language of all the events is English (the other languages that will be used are noted in the programme).

Hosting organisations:

[Institute of International Relations Prague](#) & [European Values Think-tank](#)

Donors:

- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Prague
- International Visegrad Fund
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

26th October 2015

More Union in European Defence

A Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Report of Task Force CEPS-FES

The EU has lived through years of uncoordinated cuts in defence spending which have eroded Europe's role as a security actor in what is now a multipolar world. And it is quite obvious that member states could achieve much more value for money than the €190 billion that they spend to keep up 28 national armies, comprising roughly 1.5 million service personnel.

The report is a record of the deliberations over several months between high-level experts in the field of European security and defence, coordinated by Javier Solana. The Task Force (TF) parts from the notion that the Treaty of Lisbon demands and permits a great deal more in terms of our common security and defence activities. The report aims to provide member states and the EU institutions with a narrative to strengthen defence cooperation. It suggests policy actions to further the EU's strategic, institutional, capabilities, and resources cooperation in the field of defence. Ultimately, in the view of the Task Force experts, further integration should amount to a 'European Defence Union' (EDU).

Venue: The Mirror Hall, the Czernin Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Loretánské nám. 5, Prague 1

Working language: ENG/CZE/DE, simultaneous translation will be provided

Hosting organisation: Institute of International Relations Prague

Donor: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Prague

15:00 – 15:30 Registration

15:30 – 15:40 Welcome Remarks

- **Anne Seyfferth**, Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in the Czech and Slovak Republics, Prague
- **Benjamin Tallis**, Co-ordinator of the Centre for European Security of the IIR Prague

15:40 – 16:30 Presentation of the Report of Task Force CEPS-FES

- **Hans-Peter Bartels**, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces, German Bundestag / Member of the Task Force group
- **Steven Blockmans**, Head of EU Foreign Policy, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels

16:30 – 17:30 Comments by Czech Experts and a Subsequent Discussion

- **Ondřej Ditrych**, Assistant Professor, the Institute of Political Studies, Charles University in Prague
- **Tomáš Szunyog**, Director of the Security Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Moderated by: Uwe Optenhögel, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, EU Office; Member of the Task Force group

27th October

Germany and the V4 Countries:

Cooperation in the Security and Defence Area

The conference will focus on the assessment of the German-V4 co-operation in security and defence. It will explore the scope for future collaborative efforts, pinpoint shortcomings that beset the existing formats, and provide guidance on possible remedies, covering both bilateral and multilateral (regional) aspects of defence cooperation, and in particular initiatives conducted in the CSDP framework.

Venue: The Czernin Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic,
Loretánské nám. 5, Prague 1

Working language: English

Hosting organisation: [Institute of International Relations Prague](#)

Donor: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Partner: [European Values Think-tank](#), Prague Czech Republic

Program

08:30 – 9:00 Registration

09:00 – 9:15 Welcome Remarks

- **Petr Kratochvíl**, Director of the Institute of International Relations Prague

9:15 – 10:45 Panel I: **The Political Dialogue between Germany and the V4 Countries**

Chair: **Benjamin Tallis**, Co-ordinator of the Centre for European Security of the IIR

- **Vladimír Bilčík**, Head of EU Program, Slovak Foreign Policy Association
- **Anna-Lena Kirch**, Research Assistant, the German Marshall Fund of the United States
- **Lucia Najšlová**, Editor in Chief, *V4 Revue*; Researcher, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague
- **Eugeniusz Smolar**, Expert, Centre for International Relations, Warsaw

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 13:00 Panel II: **The V4-German Partnership in European Defence**

Chair: **Michal Šimečka**, Research Fellow, Institute of International Relations Prague

- **Justyna Gotkowska**, Senior Fellow, Department for Germany and Northern Europe, Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw
- **Marian Majer**, Head of the Security and Defence Policy Programme, Central European Policy Institute, Bratislava
- **Henning Riecke**, Head of the Transatlantic Relations Program, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin

13:00 – 14:00 Buffet lunch

14:15 – 15:45 Panel III: **The V4-German Co-operation on Research and Development in the Defence Area and Arms Production**

Chair: (tbd)

- **Tamás Csiki**, Research Fellow, Center for Strategic and Defense Studies in Budapest
- **Jakub Hodinář**, Director of Industry Cooperation Division, Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic
- **Vilém Kolín**, Policy Officer Strategic Foresight in the European Synergies & Innovation Directorate, European Defence Agency (EDA), Brussels

15:45 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 18:00 The European Values Think-tank presents the following public debate:



EUROPEAN VALUES
Opinions & Context

How Do Visegrad Countries React to an Abrupt Change of the Security Environment?

Opening remarks: **Martin Stropnický**, Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic (confirmed)

Discussants:

- **Péter Krekó**, Director at the Political Capital Institute
- **Roderick Parkes**, EU Programme Coordinator at PISM
- **Oliver Tamminga**, Senior Fellow for International Security, SWP

Moderated by: **Jakub Janda**, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and Publication, European Values Think-tank

18:00 Closing Remarks

- **Benjamin Tallis**, Co-ordinator of the Centre for European Security of the IIR Prague