



# PROGRAM

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Venue: Czernin Palace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Loretánské náměstí 5, Prague 1

23 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

23 SEPTEMBER 2019

09:15 – 09:45 **Opening Remarks**  
GREAT HALL

*Ondřej Ditrych* - Director of the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

*Aleš Chmelař* - Deputy Foreign Minister for European Issues

*Alica Kizeková* – Program Chair of the International Symposium, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia.

09:45 – 10:30 **Keynote Speech: How Much Multilateralism Is Right, and How Do We Know? Lessons from Visegrad's Many Experiences**  
GREAT HALL

*Rick Fawn* - Professor of International Relations at the University of St Andrews in the UK.

10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**

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10:45 – 12:30  
GREAT HALL

### The V4 in the EU: Successful Interest Group, or an Odd Bunch of Trouble-makers?

Since 2015, the Visegrad Group has been in an awkward position within and vis-à-vis the European Union. On the one hand, political coordination within the group has increased. Likewise, its visibility with regard to other partners, as well as the general public, within and beyond Central Europe has also risen. On the other hand, however, this is to a large extent due to its record of criticising or even blocking mainstream positions on a range of agendas: migration and asylum, rule of law and climate change. The panel will discuss the role of the "new" V4 within the EU, with a particular focus on how coherent and successful the group has been.

- What are the key achievements and failures of the V4 within the EU since 2015?
- On what topics do the V4 countries agree and where do they differ?
- What are the most important opportunities and risks connected to the V4 cooperation, as seen from each of the member states?

SPEAKERS: *Jakub Eberle* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia  
*Tomáš Strážay* - Director, the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Slovakia  
*Sándor Gyula Nagy* - Deputy Director of Research, the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary  
*Pavλίna Janebová* - Deputy Research Director, the Association for International Affairs, Czechia  
*Tomasz Żornaczuk* - Research Fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs, Poland

10:45 – 12:30  
MIRROR HALL

### Multilateralism and Asia: Measuring Rewards and Risks in the Era of the Belt and Road Initiative. *Roundtable*

A distinguished roundtable of Asia experts will meet to share their thoughts on multilateral cooperation through various frameworks and in relation to China's activities under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

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Their reflections will focus on local interactions in the Czech Republic, and within the regional collaboration of the 16+1 (17+1); there will also be an examination of EU-China relations, and the specific cases of Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The discussion will uncover ongoing changes and prospects for global governance in certain areas, such as energy or Arctic policies. The panelists will tap into their expertise and latest findings and will also attempt to answer the following questions:

- What are the rewards and risks of participating in the China-led multilateral cooperation and are there consequences for not embracing the visions of certain countries or organizations?
- Do regional collaborative frameworks require reforms and if so, how likely are the participating states to find an agreeable consensus?
- What is the role for the selected country/multilateral framework in fostering multilateral cooperation, considering the broader context, in an area of joint interests?

**SPEAKERS:** *Alica Kizeková* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations, Prague, Czechia  
*Alfred Gerstl* - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow, the Department of Asian Studies, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czechia  
*Bruno Hellendorff* - Joint Research Fellow, the Egmont Institute and European Policy Centre, Belgium  
*Rudolf Fürst* - Head of the Centre for EU-Asia Relations, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia  
*Alan Chong* - Associate Professor and Acting Head, the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, NTU RSIS, Singapore  
*Gaye Christoffersen* - Resident Professor of International Politics, Johns Hopkins University, SAIS, Nanjing Center, China  
*Pushpa Thambipillai* - Associate Fellow, the ISEAS-Yusuf Ishak Institute, Singapore

10:45 – 12:30  
MUSIC HALL

[The EU Policies of Central and Eastern European States:  
A Mezinárodní vztahy / Czech Journal of International  
Relations Workshop](#)

*Jan Daniel* - Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

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As new EU initiatives are introduced in areas spanning from defence to development, member states' approaches to them and their preferences are as variable as ever. Where do the Central and Eastern European (CEE) states see themselves in the future EU, what kind of EU do they want, and how do they want to achieve it? The panel seeks to explore how the European policies of the CEE states are formed on the national level as well as in interaction with their sub-regional and regional partners.

12:30 – 13:30

### Buffet Lunch

13:30 – 14:00

GREAT HALL

### Special Talk: The Value of Economic Diplomacy

SPEAKERS:

*Alica Kizeková* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations, Prague, Czechia

*Martin Tlapa* - Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

14:00 – 15:30

GREAT HALL

### Re-Making the World Trade Order: A Challenge for Europe?

The world trade order is undergoing a rapid transformation. This transformation challenges those European (small and large) open economies which have been its long-term promoters as members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and/or the European Union (EU).

However, the WTO-based order found itself in an institutional inertia by the mid-2000s. The multilateral free trade agreements such as the CETA and TTIP aimed at resolving this inertia. Negotiating them made the EU trade policy one of the main frontrunners in this asymmetric deepening of trade and investment relations. Since the mid-2010s, the liberal trade order has, however, been openly questioned by a range of protectionist challenges. Besides the unilateral threats of import tariffs, real bilateral trade wars, and Brexit contradictions, a long-awaited reform of the WTO is under discussion.

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- What is the likely course of WTO reform? Can the reform debate remedy the current state of its inertia and rising protectionism or, if it fails, reinforce them?
- What role is Europe (with or without the UK) likely to play in the reform debate and the broader remaking of the world trade order?
- Can the principle of multilateralism be saved? If so, can it coexist with alternative visions of regulated global trade?

SPEAKERS:

*Daniel Šítera* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

*Arne Melchior* - Senior Research Fellow, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway

*Vilém Semerák* - Senior Lecturer, the Institute of Economic Studies, Charles University, Czechia

*Juraj Sipko* - Director of the Institute of Economic Research, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia

*Tereza Novotná* - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Free University Berlin, Germany

14:00 – 15:30  
MIRROR HALL

### Opportunities for Change in the EU-Western Balkans Relations

The matrix of relations between the EU and the Western Balkans is getting more and more complex and complicated. Some even argue that a full-fledged accession of all the Western Balkan countries to the EU is the only fantasy that will remain unfulfilled. This panel aims to take stock of the situation and focus on the current opportunities to move EU enlargement and integration forward.

The questions addressed in the panel are:

- Should the EU devote more attention to the reconciliation process in the Western Balkans and what tools does it have at its disposal?
- What instruments does the international community possess to stabilize the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina?
- Should we pursue the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue as a comprehensive settlement to be achieved as soon as possible or as a long-term process of normalisation?
- What are the implications of the Prespa Agreement between Greece and North Macedonia for the process of EU enlargement?

SPEAKERS: *Jakub Eberle* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

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*Tomáš Dopita - Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia*

*James Ker-Lindsay - Visiting Professor, the European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK*

*Ioannis Armakolas - Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics of South East Europe, the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia*

*Jana Juzová - Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czechia*

14:00 – 15:30

MUSIC HALL

### **Africa and Europe in the Global Architecture: Emerging Partnerships, or Post-colonial Business as Usual?**

New markets and increased migration have raised the interest in Czechia's relations with Africa, yet it remains focused on bilateral trade and development cooperation in this regard. While the Czech financial contribution to the EU's aid for Africa exceeds its whole bilateral cooperation and the political and economic framework is decided in Brussels, there is a lack of public and expert debate on the Czech positions on, and contributions to, policy-making in the EU and other international organisations. At a time of increasing geopolitical competition, population growth and the climate crisis in Africa, this panel aims at depicting the state of EU-Africa relations, assessing Africa's global standing and drawing on new ideas for the future of Czech foreign policy towards Africa.

- How has Africa's position in the global architecture changed in the last decade?
- Where are the ongoing negotiations on the budget for the EU's future external policy instrument (NDICI) and the future framework for EU-Africa relations (post-Cotonou) heading?
- Is the African Union closing the gap between the countries north and south of the Sahara?

**SPEAKERS:** Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

*Tereza Němečková - Deputy Head, the Department of International Business, Metropolitan University Prague, Czechia*

*Niels Keijzer - Researcher, the German Development Institute, Germany*

*Tighisti Amare - Assistant Head, the Africa Programme at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK*

*Imane Hmiddou - École de Gouvernance et d'Économie de Rabat, Morocco*

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23 SEPTEMBER 2019

15:30 – 15:45

### Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15

GREAT HALL

### Global Perspectives on Multilateralism

Fostering and maintaining a world order based on multilateral decisionmaking and diplomacy is not only in the interest of small states, which thereby receive a voice in global affairs, but should also be a crucial interest of powerful states, which gain legitimacy for their actions and the compliance of smaller states through it if they respect and follow rules set up by multilateral institutions. Multilateralism also decreases the costs of actions for all actors by pooling resources – a crucial aspect especially as the world faces environmental and security challenges that require large investments and inter-state coordination.

SPEAKERS: *Jan Hornát* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia  
*Alan Chong* - Associate Professor and Acting Head, the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, NTU RSIS, Singapore  
*John Cloud* - Professor, the National Security Department, the U.S. Naval War College, USA  
*Mats Braun* - Associate Professor and Head of the Department of International Relations and European Studies, Metropolitan University Prague, Czechia  
*Joseph Siracusa* - Professor of Human Security and International Diplomacy, the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University, Australia

15:45 – 17:15

MIRROR HALL

### Book Launch: The Politics of Recognition and Engagement: EU Member State Relations with Kosovo

This will be is an exclusive presentation of a new well-researched and conceptually innovative edited volume on EU member state relations with Kosovo. While there is a tendency to think of EU states in terms of two distinct groups - those that have recognised Kosovo and those that have not - the picture is more complex. Taking into account also the quality and scope of their engagement with Kosovo, there are four broad categories of member states that can be distinguished: the strong and weak recognisers and the soft and hard non-recognisers.

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The editors and chapter authors will introduce the origins and development of the research project, the conceptual ideas in the book, broad insights from the chapters, and briefly also the chapters about the Czech Republic, Greece and the UK.

SPEAKERS: *Tomáš Dopita* - Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia  
*Ioannis Armakolas* - Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics of South East Europe, the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia  
*James Ker-Lindsay* - Visiting Professor, the European Institute, London School of Economics & Political Science, UK

18:30

**The V4 and the UK: Potential for Stronger Co-operation in the Western Balkans**

*Evening Talk at the British Embassy Prague*  
*By Invitation Only*



24 SEPTEMBER 2019

9:15 – 10:45

GREAT HALL

## Security and Multilateralism: How to Meet New Challenges Effectively

Recent years have witnessed several individualistic, self-interested actions in international politics that have shaped the current security environment to a large extent. Yet they were more than once met with a multilateral response. The annexation of Crimea led to the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) and the refocusing of NATO on deterrence again. Brexit similarly contributed to a more profound security and defense integration within the EU as illustrated, for example, by PESCO. Can we expect a corresponding response in the case of the INF treaty or the Chinese engagement all over the world? Even more importantly, we might need to pay more attention to redefining multilateralism itself. Smaller states often have very few options besides multilateral cooperation, but new challenges and threats particularly affecting the security of all the major players might require a different approach altogether. New challenges might thus lead to new forms of multilateralism and new exclusive bargains that would only be between the great powers.

- Are we going back in time to a period when self-interested power politics prevailed over multilateral cooperation?
- Do great powers respect each other and to what extent is great power leadership still a necessary condition of multilateralism?
- Is multilateralism just the wishful thinking of less powerful states, or an indispensable approach to many new security challenges?

SPEAKERS: *Matúš Halás* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia  
*Jan Jireš* - Defence Counsellor, the Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to NATO in Brussels  
*John Cloud* - Professor, the National Security Department, the U.S. Naval War College, USA  
*Werner Fasslabend* - President, the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, Austria  
*Magdalena Jakubowska* - Vice President and Director of Operations, Res Publica, Poland

10:45 – 11:00

## Coffee Break

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## 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

11:00 – 12:30

GREAT HALL

### Multilateralism as Viewed by Politicians

#### *Debate*

SPEAKERS: *Alica Kizeková* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia  
*Alexandr Vondra* - ODS  
*Jan Lipavský* - Piráti  
*Radek Vondráček* - ANO  
*Jan Hamáček* - ČSSD  
*Václav Hampl* - KDÚ-ČSL

11:00 – 12:30

MIRROR HALL

### New Technology as an Enabler of Global Governance in Space

Technological advances are allowing humanity to launch new mega-constellations of thousands of satellites, send rockets into the Earth's orbit and beyond, explore valuable resources in space, and probe the deepest parts of the universe. Yet, these technologies are not exclusively owned by the growing list of space-faring nations; they also belong to non-state actors. Secondly, they bring about new challenges, from increasingly crowded and messy orbit paths around the Earth to unclarity about the legality of space resource utilization to ethical questions about human expansion and exploration.

- What type of governance will such technological advances, the increasing power of non-state actors, and the growing number of space-faring countries bring?
- Will advanced space technology provide new means for great power competition or unlock new forms of global governance in the spatially unconstrained domain?

SPEAKERS: *Petr Boháček* - Chair, the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University, Czechia  
*Pete Worden* - Chairman, the Breakthrough Prize Foundation, USA  
*Joan Johnson-Freese* - Professor, National Security Affairs, Naval War College, Newport, USA  
*Nikola Schmidt* - Researcher and Lecturer, the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University, Czechia

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24 SEPTEMBER 2019

11:00 – 12:30  
MUSIC HALL

### Rebuilding Syria: Actors, Politics, Approaches

The debates on possible strategies for rebuilding Syria have been going on for some time, yet several recent events on both domestic and international levels have given a renewed urgency to the agenda. As the Syrian regime forcibly reinstated its control over major parts of the country, the political transition, and the conditions required by the EU for its engagement in reconstruction financing there, seem unlikely in the short term. The Russian efforts in regard to the broader range of actors mostly fell on deaf ears and other actors signaled their readiness to financially support the reconstruction, but the actual investments have been in most cases rather limited. At the same time, the humanitarian and economic situation in the country, as well as some neighbouring countries that host Syrian refugees, remains dire and in need of external support.

The panel will primarily focus on the following questions:

- What are the most pressing needs inside the country? What form of assistance would currently be needed the most?
- What is the state of the discussion on rebuilding Syria on the international stage? Could we observe any changes in the positions of key players?
- What would be the most productive form of engagement for smaller European states, such as the Czech Republic?

SPEAKERS:

*Jan Daniel* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

*Muriel Asseburg* - Senior Fellow at SWP, the German Institute for International & Security Affairs, Germany

*Petr Hladík* - Director of the Department of the Middle East and North Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*Petr Kostohryz* - Member of the board, People in Need, Czechia

*Lenka Manja Filípek* - Humanitarian Practitioner with field experience from Turkey, Syria and Palestine, Czechia

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24 SEPTEMBER 2019

11:00 – 12:30  
ORIENT HALL

### Open Digital Science in the Study of International Politics?

The study of international politics has been politically influential, but its knowledge-structure has been fragmented along national lines. Also, most of the underlying data are not published and cannot be re-used, built on, or corrected. Hence, it is nearly impossible to even think about the reproduction, falsification, or functional interconnection of the otherwise valuable research. The study of international politics thus comes across with an inherently undermined scientific status. It is well-known that state secret services, global corporations, and electoral advisors engage in extensive scientific data gathering, storage, and analysis to serve their goals and needs. Perhaps the time is ripe for the study of international politics to do likewise.

This workshop will reflect on the possibilities of advanced digital data management in the study of international politics. We will discuss the following questions:

- Where does the study of international politics stand in comparison with other scientific fields and the study of humanities?
- How can we make the research data in our field more findable, accessible, and interoperable for ourselves as well as for the audiences we hope to inform, i.e. policy and decision makers, students, and the media?
- Are there any methods, utilities, or applications that seem to be useful for the purposes of the digital study of international politics? What are the funding opportunities?

SPEAKERS: *Tomas Dopita* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

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## 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

12:30 – 12:45  
GREAT HALL

### Closing Remarks

*Alica Kizeková* - Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations, Prague, Czechia

12:45 – 14:00

### Buffet Lunch

15:30 –  
ONWARDS

### The Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe: Searching for an Effective Mechanism for Solving Long-Term Conflicts

A special side event; more details can be found here:

[http://bit.ly/OSCE\\_debate](http://bit.ly/OSCE_debate)

To attend, please register at [registrace@iir.cz](mailto:registrace@iir.cz) until 20.9.

**Public Transport Information:** To get to the Slovak Institute (Nám. Republiky 3, 110 00, Prague 1), please take tram number 22 from the Pohořelec stop to the Malostranská stop and then change to tram number 15 and get off at the Náměstí Republiky stop.

#### SPEAKERS:

*Matúš Halás* - Chair, Senior Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

*Peter Weiss* - Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Prague

*Marek Varga* - Head of the Political–Military Dimension and Conflicts Unit, the Department of Political and Security Affairs, Directorate General for the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, Slovakia

*Ivo Šrámek* - Ambassador, the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations, the OSCE and Other International Organizations in Vienna, Czechia

*Míla O'Sullivan* - Researcher, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia

# Program Partners:

I>INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic



Australian Embassy



## Contacts:

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The program is subject to change.

You can find the speakers' bios using this QR code

