



Institut pro evropskou politiku
EUROPEUM
Institute for European Policy



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Embassy of the Republic of Latvia
in Prague

EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

and

Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in the Czech Republic

kindly invite you to the seminar:

“Does the solidarity matter?”

Solidarity in the EU external relations

Tuesday, May 19, 15:00–17:00

**European House, Jungmannova 24
110 00 Praha 1**

Speakers

Aldis Austers, Board Member, European Latvian Association

Martin Ehl, Journalist, Hospodářské noviny

Ivo Šlosarčík, Researcher, EUROPEUM

Karel Svoboda, Researcher, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Moderator

Vladimír Bartovic, Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

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As the crisis in Ukraine has unfolded, politicians, institutions and experts have all highlighted that European solidarity is the strongest weapon of support to Ukraine and to deter Russian aggression. However, for 28 countries with different sets of priorities and historical experiences, the active exercise of solidarity has proven to be a challenging task. A heavy price of this was paid with the annexation of the territory of a European Union neighboring country, an event few expected to be possible in the 21st century.

After this, it seems that the EU and NATO were able to foster successful first steps of solidarity, but the question remains: Is European solidarity durable, in regards to the Ukraine crisis? Is it possible to create long-term solidarity, and is the solidarity of consensus even necessary? How do current levels of solidarity affect important foreign policy issues such as the Ukraine crisis, the recognition of Kosovo and Palestine, existing and future common European Union missions in Africa, or fighting the Islamic State group? Does solidarity matter in solving these issues? Can we make a case for solidarity to be regionally divided, or perhaps, to be showcased only in specific cases such as economics, and most importantly sanctions, but not, for example, in military issues?

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