

REPORT

The future of the Cohesion Policy in the new Multiannual Financial Framework: Perspectives from Central Europe

Thursday 26th of October 2017, 9:30 – 11:30
Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU

- **The Permanent Representatives of the four Visegrad countries met on Thursday October 26 to discuss the future of the Cohesion policy in the new Multiannual Financial Framework. The event was organized by the Think Visegrad platform, in cooperation with the Hungarian Presidency of the Visegrad Group and the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU.**

The conversation was kicked off by opening statements by HE **Olivér Várhelyi** from the hosting Hungarian Representation to the EU, followed by HE **Martin Povejšil** from the Czech Republic, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires ad interim, **Sebastian Barkowski** from Poland and HE **Peter Javorčík** from Slovakia. The event was moderated by **Barbara Wieliczko**, who leads the Think Visegrad long term analysis on cohesion policy. More than 20 experts attended the event, mostly researchers from various Brussels-based think tanks and cohesion experts from the Permanent Representations. The event followed the Chatham House rule.

In the opening remarks, the Ambassadors assessed the state of play going into the negotiations of the new Multiannual Financial Framework and highlighted the importance of the Cohesion policy for each state. The debate then evolved around the priorities of the cohesion countries in the new period, as well as challenges which the new impetus on investment and overall lower contributions to the budget are expected to bring. In the end of the two-hour session, the floor was opened to all researchers and experts to pose their questions.