

Warsaw, March 10th 2015

We are pleased to invite you to the round-table meeting **“Diverging Paths? Visegrad countries’ attitudes towards Russia one year after the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.”** The meeting will be held on **Monday, March 30th, from 14:00 until 16:30, in the Institute of Public Affairs, in Szpitalna 5/22 street in Warsaw.**

Following the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, the EU Eastern policy has become the subject of a heated debate in many EU countries. The Member States differ not only in terms of their attitudes towards Russia and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, but also in their approach towards the EU’s engagement in the Eastern Partnership project as such. Differing opinions on Russia’s role in the events in Eastern Ukraine as well as the needed response from the EU towards Russia’s resurgence have also affected the cooperation within the Visegrad Group.

The aim of the round table is to analyse the positions taken by all V4 countries in regard to the developments in EU’s Eastern neighbourhood, in their domestic and international political contexts, as well as to discuss their implications for the present and future cooperation within the Visegrad Group and its impact on the EU foreign policy. The discussion will be preceded by four short presentations by the experts representing the four Visegrad countries:

- dr Alexander Duleba, Director and Senior Researcher in the Eastern Europe Programme, Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA), Slovakia
- dr Jacek Kucharczyk, President of the Executive Board, the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), Poland
- dr Sandor Gyula Nagy, the Academic Director at the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary
- Michal Vit, Research Fellow at the Institute for European Policy EUROPEUM, Czech Republic

Moderation: dr Agnieszka Łada, Head of the European Programme, the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA)

The round table is organised as part of the project “Visegrad in the EU – How Much Do We Matter?”, whose aim is to assess the impact of the V4 countries on the EU foreign policy. The project is a result of the cooperation of the Institute of Public Affairs with independent policy centres in the Czech Republic (Institute for European Policy EUROPEUM), Hungary (Institute for Foreign Policy and Trade, IFAT) and Slovakia (Slovak Foreign Policy Association, SFPA) and is supported by the International Visegrad Fund. The reports which have been developed within the project have looked at the role that the V4 countries played in shaping EU policies during their first ten years of membership in such areas as the EU Single Market, EU institutions, the Economic and Monetary Union, the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice as well as in the EU External Relations.

We would be honoured if you could participate in the discussion. The meeting will be held in English only. Please confirm your participation by 16.03.2015 by sending an email to maria.majkowska@isp.org.pl.

Yours sincerely,



Jacek Kucharczyk

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