

A Czech perspective for the future of the EU

Speakers bios & Programme

17:45	Registration
18:15 – 18:20	Welcome speech (Martin Michelot)
18:20 – 18:40	Keynote speech (Věra Jourová)
18:40 – 19:50	Panel Discussion
19:50 – 20:00	Final word (Martin Povejšil)
20:00 – 21:00	Glass of wine



Steven Blockmans

Head of EU Foreign Policy at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

Steven Blockmans is a senior research fellow and the head of the 'EU foreign policy' and 'politics and institutions' units of CEPS. His expertise lies at the crossroads of international and EU law and governance. He has published widely on the institutional structures for EU external action, the Union's role in global governance, norm promotion (inside out) and norm absorption (outside in), the EU enlargement policy, relations with neighbouring countries, Common Foreign and Security Policy, Common Security and Defence Policy, trade, development, and humanitarian aid. Steven is a Professor of EU External Relations Law and Governance at the University of Amsterdam and one of the founding members of the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER). Before joining CEPS, he was head of the department of research at the T.M.C. Asser Institute.



Jakub Dürr

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Issues, Czech Republic

Jakub Dürr was appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Issues on 1 June, 2016. He graduated from Palacký University in Olomouc in 1998. From 2002 to 2011, he pursued an academic career at Palacký University, serving first as a Senior Lecturer at Department of Political Science and European Studies and later as a Vice-Rector for Foreign Affairs. Between 2008 and 2009 he was briefly a Deputy Minister for European Affairs at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, before he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in 2011. He served as a Deputy Head of the Czech Permanent Representation to the EU from 2011 to 2016.



Věra Jourová

Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality at the European Commission

Věra Jourová studied Theory of Culture at Charles University and later continued at the Law Faculty of Charles University. In 1991, she was employed as a Deputy Director of the Civic Cultural Centre in Třebíč, where she worked on the integration of all cultural facilities into a single entity. She later worked as the Secretary of the City Council in Třebíč. From 2001 to 2003 she was a Head of the Regional Development Section of the Regional Office of the Vysočina Region. Then she worked as European Integration Deputy at the Ministry for Regional Development and in Euro grants since 2006. She was elected as a Deputy to the Czech Parliament in 2013 and served as a Minister for Regional Development from 29 January 2014 to 3 October 2014. She is a European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality since October 2014.



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Martin Michelot

Deputy Director of EUROPEUM, Institute for European Policy

Martin Michelot is the Deputy Director of the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in Prague, and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Paris office of German Marshall Fund of the United States. Michelot specializes in transatlantic security and NATO policy with a particular focus on regional security cooperation mechanisms in Europe, French foreign policy, and the development of EU defense mechanisms. Michelot also manages the high-level convening program Transatlantic Security and Future of NATO program for the German Marshall Fund. He is a graduate of Sciences Po Lyon, where he studied international relations. His previous experiences include the Brookings Institution and the French National Assembly, as parliamentary assistant. Michelot regularly teaches seminars at Sciences Po Lyon, Sciences Po Reims, the Ecole Centrale, and Charles University.



Filip Nerad

Permanent correspondent of the Czech Radio in Brussels

Historian by education, Filip Nerad spent ten years in the Czech press office, four years as a permanent correspondent in Germany. In 2015 he moved to Czech Radio as a European Union analyst. Since 2016 he has been acting as a permanent Czech Radio newsletter in Brussels and Benelux.



Martin Povejšil

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU

Ambassador Martin Povejšil took up the post of the Czech Permanent Representative to the EU on 3 September 2012. Prior to that, he served as the Czech Ambassador to NATO since August 2009. Dr. Povejšil was born in 1961. He graduated from the Palacký University in Olomouc with a doctorate in modern philology and linguistics. He joined the then Czechoslovak Foreign Service shortly after political changes in his country in 1990. Throughout his career, Ambassador Povejšil has held a variety of senior posts in the Czechoslovak and Czech Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as in diplomatic missions abroad. His professional portfolio has comprised development issues and bilateral relations as well as European and security affairs and multilateral diplomacy.



Pavel Svoboda

Pavel Svoboda, Member of European Parliament (European People's Party)

Pavel Svoboda graduated in law at the Charles University and in European law at the University of Social Sciences, Toulouse. He comes from an academic background; as a Professor of European law at the Law Faculty of Charles University, he has been following developments in EU law for the past 20 years. His former experience includes Attorney of Law, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe, and Minister and Chairman of the Legislative Council of the Czech Republic. He also served as a visiting Professor at the University of Social Sciences in Toulouse. He was elected as a member of the European Parliament in 2014, representing the Christian Democratic party in the EPP.



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