



Newsletter

Think Visegrad in Brussels

November 2025



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What is Think Visegrad?

Welcome to the **November edition** of the newsletter of Think Visegrad in Brussels. This issue traditionally presents activities and publications of the **Think Visegrad** in Brussels projects, the individual members of the **Think Visegrad** platform and informs about the upcoming events.

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Europe in November 2025:

EU Enlargement in Focus | The Peace Plan | COP | European Security

EU EU Enlargement in Focus

- *Brussels | 4 & 17 November 2025*
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina | 23 November 2025*

November was a big month for EU enlargement. Most importantly, the EU Commission published [annual individual country reports](#) on current candidate states to the EU.

Kaja Kallas, high representative and vice-president of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at the European Commission, highlighted **the progress and determination of Montenegro and Albania** – the frontrunners of the accession process as of now. She admitted the Union may see some additional members **by 2030**. This month, Albania opened the final negotiation cluster, meaning it managed to open all chapters in approximately one year.

Ukraine and **Moldova** were also praised by the EU, with Marta Kos, the Commissioner for EU Enlargement, noting that Moldova made incomparable progress in the past year alone. While there are plenty of hurdles for these two countries to overcome, it is clear that their accession is moving along.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina on November 23rd, the snap elections of Republika Srpska were won by Siniša Karan. Karan was elected after his ally and the previous president of Republika Srpska was barred from public office. Karan will finish his presidency in October 2026, when new elections will take place.

US UA RU The Peace Plan

19 November 2025 - now

The leaked contents of the **US-initiated 28-point peace plan** for Ukraine in mid-November have revitalised the discussion around the possibilities of cessation of the Russia-Ukraine war. It was heavily criticised by many European leaders, and by Ukraine itself. The plan, as proposed by President Trump, is viewed by European leaders as appeasement and as something which would ultimately leave Europe vulnerable to future attacks and aggression. Furthermore, if this version had been accepted, it would have meant the acceptance of the Russian occupation of multiple Ukrainian regions, dilution of the Ukrainian military, depletion of weapons and no possibility of NATO membership.

November 2025 was not the best month for Ukraine overall – besides the peace plan, the country is shouldering internal issues with corruption, energy instability due to bombardment of important infrastructure, and hard fighting at the frontlines.

The Russia-centric peace plan has been amended since then, but still remains to be a list of Russia's demands, rather than a comprehensive peace treaty. Despite the words of some US officials, no peace has been finalised by the end of the month.

BR COP30

📍 *Belém | 10 - 22 November 2025*

This year's COP summit, hosted by Brazil, finished with mixed feelings about its outcomes. For the first time, the **USA had no official delegation**. The summit mirrored the reality of international fragmentation and the increasingly divisive ways of tackling climate change. While one of the goals was to create roadmaps to cut off **fossil fuels** (backed up by over 80 states), differences in opinion, particularly from petrostates, eventually led nowhere in this field. Only a few countries made new commitments to **reduce emissions**, such as the EU and Brazil. The creation of a new fund for tropical forest conservation (**Tropical Forest Fund - TFF**) is an important development, but concrete commitments to stop deforestation of rainforests are still missing.

NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) were another priority, leading to a new target to triple finance for climate adaptation by 2035. Nevertheless, an agreement was not reached due to disagreements over the type of financing (loans or grants) and a lack of involvement from rich countries in Asia. Trade policies regarding climate change also resonated. During this year's COP, there were also initiatives and plans brought by non-state actors, such as cities, civil society, and the private sector - highlighting the need for cooperation across fields and positions to truly tackle the climate crisis.

EU European Security

📍 *Poland | 16 November 2025*

📍 *Moldova | 29 November 2025*

European security, and particularly the security of central and eastern European countries making up the border of the EU or NATO, continued to be challenged in November 2025.

In **Poland**, train tracks connecting Warsaw to Lublin and further to Ukraine have been badly damaged in an explosion. According to the Polish Prime Minister Tusk, this was **an act of sabotage** and a part of the Russian hybrid war. Poland also continues to defend its borders from what it identifies as another measure of hybrid warfare, and that is artificially created migration to its borders. This month, the country agreed to further fortify its border.

In **Moldova**, multiple violations of its airspace by Russian drones have been identified throughout this month. This is a recurring phenomenon in Moldova since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

In this **November edition**, and throughout the year, we will bring you analyses, insights, and expertise from top experts within the **Think Visegrad platform**, offering a Central European perspective on what lies ahead for the EU—from security and defence to economic shifts and digital transformation.

Stay with us and stay ahead of the key developments **shaping Europe in 2026!**

From Our Members: Selected Publications



Danielle Piatkiewicz

Advancing Together or Drifting Apart? Reassessing the Transatlantic Partnership in a New Global Order | Policy Paper

Jan Švec

Enforcement of the EU Regulation on Forced Labour and Systemic Risks of Forced Labour Risks in Xinjiang

Daria Zielińska

Looking inward: regional cooperation in Central Asia

Paulina Wankiewicz-Kłoczko

Short conscription period, big ambitions: Croatia reinstates compulsory military service

Karin Filkászová

Europe's Road to Readiness: Can the EU Move Fast Enough?

Peter Balík

GLOBSEC Competitiveness Tracker - Innovation and Digitalisation

Clément Steuer, Mahnoor Saleem

After the Kashmir Terror Attack and the May 2025 War: How Europe Can Contribute to Stability in South Asia

Pelin Ayan Musil

Why is Society Becoming so Divided? The ActEU Project Maps Distrust in Political Institutions and Explores Ways to Foster Reconciliation

Aleksandra Koziol

The New EU Defence Agenda: Moving Towards a Single Market for the Arms Sector

Łukasz Ogrodnik

Czechia, Slovakia and Hungary in the Face of Changing US Trade Policy

Filip Ilanković

Can Serbia Escape the Geopolitical Grip of Great Powers?

Ramachandra Byrappa

The French Crisis is Rooted in Something Deeper than Debt



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Reading Tips



📖 **Another Round of EU Enlargement: What are the economic and institutional must-haves for candidate countries to make accelerated enlargement possible?**

by Richard Grieveson et al.

The study outlines the **core requirements for stable EU accession**: export-driven growth, targeted FDI, and fiscally sustainable but growth-oriented policies. It highlights the need to address depopulation, low productivity, and poverty through stronger labour market measures. Most importantly, it stresses that improved governance and rule of law are essential to prevent post-accession instability. A focused set of these “must-have” reforms can support a smoother and more resilient enlargement process.

Released last month, in November.



🎥 **Life in the Shadow of War** by Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)

Thirty years after the Dayton Peace Agreement ended the Bosnian War, Bosnia and Herzegovina remains shaped by the legacy of Yugoslavia’s breakup. This documentary explores daily life in the country today, examining whether old divisions persist, how its uniquely complex administrative system functions, and what continued international oversight means for its sovereignty. It also delves into lingering tensions and asks how realistic the prospect of renewed conflict really is.

Our members on social media

[Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy](#)



[EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy](#)



[Center for Eastern Studies \(OSW\)](#)



[GLOBSEC Policy Institute](#)



[Hungarian Institute of International Affairs \(HIIA\)](#)



[Institute of International Relations Prague \(IIR\)](#)



[Slovak Foreign Policy Association \(SFPA\)](#)



[The Polish Institute of International Affairs \(PISM\)](#)



What is the Think Visegrad in Brussels project?

In the first half of 2016, the Think Visegrad platform members agreed on the idea proposed by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, to create **a common representation office in Brussels**. The main motivation for it is the need to encourage debate on **issues of common interest to the EU and the V4** and explain the positions of the V4 to a wide audience. We would like to project an image of constructive partners, to explain the dynamics of the debates within our regions and to highlight our active contributions to EU policy-making. With this view and with the aim to boost discussions specifically on the Czech Republic and the EU, EUROPEUM has opened its Brussels office in January 2016.

The project run in the second half of 2016 and consisted of many interesting and successful events. The second part of the project was approved in June 2017 and continued until the end of the year. Project has been continuously running since 2018.





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You can find more information about GDPR under [this link](#).

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