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September 2025

## Newsletter

# Think Visegrad in Brussels

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Welcome to the **September 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.

For more, follow us on [Facebook!](#)



**Europe in September 2025 : European Commission's Vote of No Confidence, EU-India Relations, "Drone Wall" Against Russia, Loan for Ukraine**



## EU Von der Leyen Faces Second No-Confidence Motion

📍 Brussels | 10 September 2025

The **far-right Patriots for Europe (Pfe)** has gathered enough signatures to launch a no-confidence motion against EU **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen**.

👉 It has been signed by 85 MEPs, exceeding the minimum threshold, and will therefore be **debated and voted on in October** 🗓️.

This motion will also be **supported by the Left**.

🗣️ *"This Commission and its President have failed on peace, on trade, on competitiveness, on migration"* – Pfe's first vice-president Kinga Gál

👉 With the support of liberal Renew Europe and centre-left Socialists and Democrats groups, **Ursula von der Leyen has already survived the first vote of no confidence** in July 2025, marking the **first time since 2014** that a Commission president has faced such a motion.

### ⚠️ Risks of the no-confidence motion

If the motion were to pass, it would mean not only the **removal of Ursula von der Leyen** but also the **dissolution of the entire European Commission** EU. This would trigger a lengthy political process to nominate and approve a new president and commissioners, likely **stalling EU decision-making for months**. It could also **weaken the EU's global standing** and **delay key policies**, including support for Ukraine and **ongoing budget negotiations** 🇪🇺.

## EU IN EU and India Launch a "New Strategic Agenda"

📍 Brussels | 16-17 September 2025

The European Commission and the EU High Representative have adopted a **Joint Communication on a 'New Strategic EU-India Agenda'**, marking a significant step forward in bilateral ties 🇪🇺.

As the world's largest democracy and a rising **economic superpower**, India IN is increasingly shaping global affairs—particularly as a leading voice of the so-called Global South.

🗣️ *"Closer EU-India cooperation is more important than ever."*

### 🏛️ A Five-Pillar Strategy

The new agenda lays out a comprehensive roadmap for deeper cooperation across a wide spectrum of fields:

- 🌱 Sustainable fuels & green hydrogen
- 🏗️ Critical raw materials
- 🛡️ Defense and security policy
- 🌍 Climate and energy partnerships
- 🔬 Innovation and technology

This framework paves the way for an **EU-India Leaders' Summit in early 2026**, where concrete initiatives are expected to be announced.

### RU The Russian Factor

Despite the growing partnership, **India's enduring ties with Russia** remain a sticking

point.

🗣️ *“Whether it’s possible to completely decouple India from Russia, considering their history as well, I don’t think we have illusions regarding this...”* – Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas.

India has long depended on Russian defense technology, but in recent years it has diversified its procurement, increasingly turning to the West:

### 🌐 **A Shifting Geopolitical Context**

Relations between India and the US have soured under President Donald Trump, who has introduced 50% tariffs on Indian goods.

*“Right now, India’s relations with the United States are at rock bottom... So India thinks that the European Union could be the biggest partner in the West,”* explained analyst Jorge Liboreiro.

### 🌐 **Outlook**

With the **US-India relationship fraying**, Brussels sees a window of opportunity to **strengthen ties with New Delhi**. But challenges remain: reconciling India’s Russian legacy, balancing its China pivot, and aligning interests on security and trade.

👉 All eyes now turn to the 2026 EU-India Summit, which could redefine Europe’s role in Asia.

## EU Pushes for a “Drone Wall” Against Russia

📍 *Brussels | 23 September 2025*

In the past month, **Russian aircraft have breached the airspace of four EU member states**, raising alarm across the bloc. In response, the European Commission has reaffirmed plans to establish a comprehensive drone defense system along the EU’s eastern borders 🇪🇺.

🗣️ *“Here, we see a clear pattern: Russia is testing European borders, probing our resolve, and undermining our security,”* an EU official stated.

### 🛩️ **What Is the Drone Wall?**

The initiative will integrate surveillance and defense technology across participating nations:

- Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
- Finland, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria
- Ukraine and Denmark

Notably, **Hungary and Slovakia** – despite sharing borders with Ukraine – are not part of the initial project. However, Brussels has left the door open for their participation at a later stage.

### 💰 **Financing Europe’s Defense**

To support the program, the Commission is launching a **€150 billion loan scheme for defense**. Tentatively, €44 billion is designated for Poland **PL**.

### 🌐 **The Transatlantic Context**

The EU’s most recent push comes in direct response to US President Donald Trump’s

The EU's accelerated push comes in direct response to US President Donald Trump's remarks that the US will no longer serve as the primary guarantor of European security. This shift underscores the EU's determination 🧡 to assume greater responsibility for its own defense in the face of escalating pressure from Moscow.

## EU Pushes Loan for Ukraine from Frozen Russian Assets

📍 Brussels | 26 September 2025

💰 The European Commission is advancing plans to **channel frozen Russian assets into a massive support package for Ukraine** 🇺🇦. Under the proposal, about **€176 billion** held by Euroclear would be used to create a €140 billion, **zero-interest "reparations loan"** for Kyiv. The funds are expected to be spent largely on reconstruction and European-made arms.

### 🔗 Euroclear Plan: Russia's Assets, Ukraine's Loan

The EU would transfer cash immobilized at Euroclear to the Commission, which would then issue the loan. Euroclear, meanwhile, would be tied to **reinvesting the funds** under a tailored contract 📄.

### 🗣️ Debate in the EU

Some EU states raised concerns about the legality and risk-sharing aspects of the scheme

- Finland, Sweden, and Estonia endorsed using the seized Russian funds to support Ukraine
- The Netherlands and France are open to the plan, but are stressing the legal and financial risks
- Russia denounced the move as a **"pure theft"**

💬 *"This is Russia's war. And it is Russia that should pay. It should not only be European taxpayers who bear the brunt."* – Ursula von der Leyen

In this **September 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 2025!**

## From our members: selected publications



OSW

CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES  
OSRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH



INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU  
INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY

PISM

PÓLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH  
THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**Krzysztof Dębiec**

**Parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic: Babiš on the verge of returning to power**

**Jacek Tarociński**

**Consequences of the discontinuation of the Baltic Security Initiative by the Trump administration**



**Alexandr Burilkov**

**Turning Ambition into Power – GLOBSEC Reflections on SOTEU 2025**

**Jakub Kubš**

**Vocepatru Network: A Russian-linked Influence Operation in Moldova**

**Imogen Wymer**

**The Internet and the Struggle Over Moldova's Political Future**

**Silke Maes**

**Evaluation Paper Series: Obstacles and Opportunities for Implementing the Platform Work Directive**

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PRAGUE

**Asya Metodieva**

**EU Digital Sovereignty in Central Europe: The Case of Czechia and Hungary**

**Asya Metodieva  
&  
Dimitar Keranov**

**China's Quiet Strategy in Bulgaria: Economic Appeal, Political Constraints**

**Sara Nowacka**

**The Transformation of Syria and Challenges for EU Policy in the Middle East**

**Anna Maria Dyner**

**Zapad 2025: Russia, Belarus Signalling Military Capacity Despite the War in Ukraine**



**Ramachandra Byrappa**

**German Multipolarity in the Twenty-First Century**

**Ruslan Bortnik**

**The UK-Germany Military Pact: Europe's New Security Paradigm or a Play Within NATO?**

**Future Events**



## 🇨🇪 Inside Digital Trade Regulation: Czechia and the Central European Context

📅 4 November 2025 at 16:00

📍 Nerudova 257/3, Malá Strana, 118 00 Praha 1

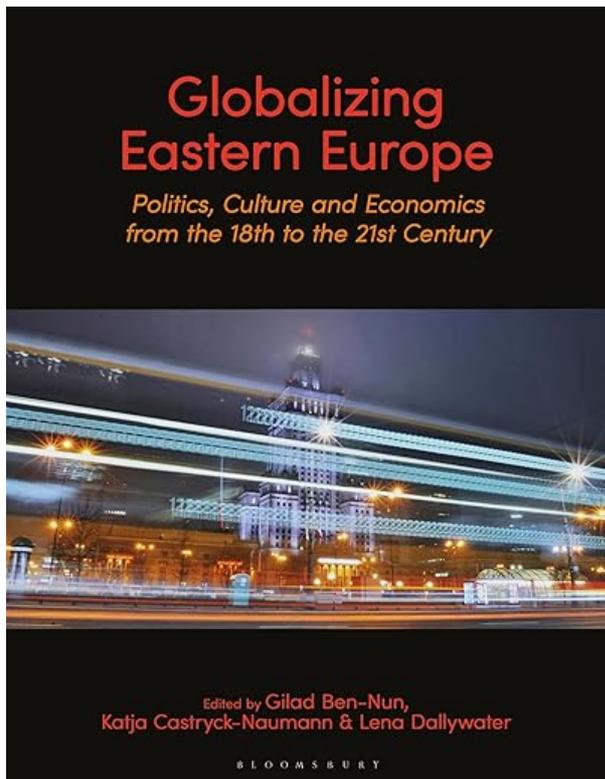
🌐 Language: English

How do digital rules shape trade and innovation in Central Europe? 🇨🇪

Join **Tomas Rogaler** as he explores how the **V4 countries** regulate their digital economies. Discover where these countries align, where they differ, and how smarter, more connected policies could boost innovation and cross-border digital business. A great event for anyone interested in the **future of digital trade, technology policy, and regional cooperation.**

[Learn More & Register](#)

## Reading Tips



### 📖 **Globalizing Eastern Europe: Politics, Culture and Economics from the 18th to the 21st Century** by Gilad Ben-Nun et al.

👉 *Globalizing Eastern Europe: Politics, Culture and Economics from the 18th to the 21st Century* challenges the view of Eastern Europe as peripheral, showing how the region has shaped—and been shaped by—the world. 🌐

Drawing on fresh research across politics, culture, and economics, it offers a compelling reimagining of Eastern Europe's global role.

📅 Released last month, in September.

[Learn More](#)

## 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.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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

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