



▶EUROPE AS A TASK

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 13 May 2025, Czernin Palace

#Task▶Europe

Pursuing Prosperity in a Shifting World.



›INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS PRAGUE



EUROPE AS A TASK

TUESDAY 13 MAY

CZERNIN PALACE

8:00—9:00

Registration

9:00—9:05

Words of Welcome

Main Hall

9:05—9:20

Keynote Speeches

Main Hall

Jan Lipavský, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

9:20—10:00

High-level Chat: Heading into the Post-Transatlantic Era? Navigating Europe's Global Role

Main Hall

Moderator:

Rikard Jozwiak

Europe editor, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

“We are left alone.” It is a sentence that many in Europe uttered in shock when Donald Trump attempted to pressure Ukraine to accept losses in the defence efforts against its aggressor and decided to wage a trade war against his closest allies and partners. Putting emotions aside, the transatlantic bond remains the strongest tie Europe has. In fact, the West has benefited and keeps profiting immensely from the transatlantic hegemony established on the ashes of war-torn Europe. It has endured for many years, even as we entered a multipolar world. However, the cracks that appeared in the past are now ripping us further apart, and scholars argue that we might be edging toward a new post-transatlantic era. How should Europe adapt to this new dynamic? Should we redefine our understanding of our role in the world? And what does it mean for the future of European integration?

Věra Jourová, Vice-Rector, Charles University, Former Vice-President for Values and Transparency, European Commission
Luuk van Middelaar, Director, Brussels Institute for Geopolitics

10:00—10:30

The Competitiveness Test: Can Europe Take the Lead? (A Presentation by POLITICO's Research & Analysis Division)

Main Hall

Competitiveness is no longer just a buzzword; it has become the backbone of the EU's economic agenda. As global pressures intensify, Europe faces a critical moment in which it has to strengthen its industrial base, secure its strategic autonomy, and ensure prosperity through sustainable growth. The question is no longer whether the EU should act, but how bold and coordinated that action must be.

This session sets the stage by unpacking the flagship initiatives that are redefining Europe's economic trajectory in the new mandate. These tools aim to close the productivity gap with the U.S., accelerate clean tech, and reduce dependency in critical sectors.



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But they also bring high-stakes trade-offs: can national funding fill the gap left by limited EU-level investment? Will loosening state aid rules distort the single market? Can regulatory simplification truly coexist with a wave of new legislation in the fields of AI, biotech, and energy? And critically, can competitiveness be reconciled with the Green Deal's climate goals? As the EU navigates this complex balancing act, this session frames the core tensions and strategic choices that will shape the continent's economic future.

10:30—11:00

Coffee Break

11:00—12:10

Main Hall

Moderator:

Filip Křenek, Project Coordinator and Analyst, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Fishbowl: Unlocking the Potential of the Single Market

With the recently unveiled Compass of Competitiveness, the European Union is trying to find its lost track. A core priority of von der Leyen's second Commission is to tear down existing barriers in the Single Market. Based on the recommendations of the Draghi and Letta reports, the Commission seems to be keenly listening to the feedback from businesses across the Union, which have been complaining for years about red tape and other obstacles that prevent growth. The Union's executive branch is now even contemplating unorthodox avenues to make life easier for companies, such as introducing a 28th regulatory regime that could potentially revolutionise the rules for crossborder expansions and unlock the potential of the largest integrated market in the world. However, there is still a long way to go before such ambitious plans can be made a reality.

Rebecca Christie, Senior Fellow, Bruegel

Štěpán Černý, Director-General of the European Section, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Vít Horký, Czech Founders VC & Ambassador of the Second Economic Transformation

Tomáš Juhás, Director of the Department for European Affairs and the Internal Market, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Apostolos Thomadakis, Head of Research, European Capital Markets Institute, CEPS

Gabriela Tschirkova, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission

Jaroslav Zajíček, Director of the Foreign Policy Department, Office of the President of the Czech Republic



EUROPE AS A TASK

TUESDAY 13 MAY

CZERNIN PALACE

11:00—12:10

Music Room

Moderator:

Martin Laryš

Deputy Research Director,
Institute of International
Relations Prague

Roundtable: Reconstruction of Ukraine

A staunch supporter of Ukraine, the European Union launched a new mechanism for the years 2024-2027 to continue assisting the country's economy and society, which are heavily affected by the war. This roundtable aims to hold a detailed and practical discussion about the concrete steps that Europe should now take in the reconstruction of Ukraine. With the pivotal focus on the new Ukraine Facility instrument, the participants discuss ways to use Pillar II to facilitate investment flows for rapid economic recovery and to rebuild vital infrastructure. What are the priority regions and industries that should be aimed at? How should the Facility be aligned with Ukraine's plans and strategies? And what roles and opportunities are there for European businesses and institutional partners?

Petra Gombalová Kyslingerová, Head of Division - Ukraine, EEAS

Jakub Mareš, Deputy Head of the Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and Central Asia Department, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Olha Mishkina, Deputy Head of the Division for Euro-Atlantic Integration and International Security, Office of the President of Ukraine

Iulian Romanyshyn, Senior Fellow and Lecturer, Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies, University of Bonn

Vilém Řehák, Manager for Development Financing, National Development Bank

David Stulík, Special Representative for the Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

12:15—13:30

Main Hall

Moderator:

Mats Braun

Director, Institute of
International Relations Prague

Fishbowl: Making European Defence European?

The relatively calm post-Cold War decades, during which Europe enjoyed the peace dividend, seem to be over, and European countries now painfully realise the truth of this assertion. The European Commission entered the discussions about increased defence spending with a White Paper on Defence, which aims to boost the effectiveness of investments into military capacities, and also with an unprecedented financial initiative. With fiscal flexibility and fresh money from loans, it wants to massively support the domestic defence industry. However, the Donald Trump administration is asking its European allies to do the exact opposite and buy more American products. Many EU member states might be tempted to buy favours. How will Europe solve this discord? Are the Commission's 'Buy European' plans realistic? Is there a way to keep the U.S. present in Europe, and what else should/can the EU do in the realm of defence?



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TUESDAY 13 MAY

CZERNIN PALACE

Minna Ålander, Associate Fellow, Chatham House Europe Programme

Benedetta Berti, Head of Policy Planning, Office of the Secretary-General, NATO

Guillaume de La Brosse, Head of Unit, Defence Policy & Innovation, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space, European Commission

Andreas Reckeweg Godfrey, Deputy Director for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Iulian Romanyshyn, Senior Fellow and Lecturer, Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies, University of Bonn

12:15—13:30
Music Room

Roundtable: Strengthening Sanctions Enforcement: Addressing Circumvention and Sector-Specific Challenges (in cooperation with the Center for an Informed Society)

Moderator:
Lukáš Kraus
Head of Analytical Unit, Lobbio

After more than three years of the unprecedented sanctions against Russia, their enforcement remains an unremitting challenge, particularly in the energy and finance sectors, and in the dual-use goods trade. In relation to this issue, this roundtable focuses on addressing loopholes, improving enforcement mechanisms and aligning priorities with EU and transatlantic partners. The participants discuss ways to boost the effectiveness of energy sanctions and how to curb financial flows and illicit trade networks with a focus on lessons learned from significant enforcement cases. The roundtable also assesses the impact of the new US administration and Poland's EU presidency on the future of the sanctions policy.

Adéla Kábrtová, Policy Officer, DG FISMA, European Commission

Soňa Černá, Senior Sanctions Policy Officer, International and National Sanctions Department, Financial Analytical Office

Alexander Kolyandr, Non-resident Senior Fellow, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Jana Matesová, Economist; Former Envoy of the Czech Republic to the World Bank

13:30—14:45

Lunch



EUROPE AS A TASK

TUESDAY 13 MAY

CZERNIN PALACE

14:45—15:55

Main Hall

Moderator:

Alice Rezková

Research Fellow, Association
for International Affairs

Fishbowl: Choosing the Lesser Evil: Finding European Response to the Trade War

With the high uncertainty caused by the aggressive trade policies of Donald Trump's administration, global markets are shaking in their core. For Europe, the timing could not be worse. As Europe is still not fully recovered from a difficult period of high inflation, and has new costly priorities in sight, Europe's key transatlantic ally only further increases the pressure the Old Continent faces. On the brink of a major trade war that seems to be on hold only temporarily, Europe must choose between the bad and the worse when weighing options on how to respond. Should the Anti-Coercion Instrument be triggered if the dispute escalates too far, or is there a way to de-escalate it? At the same time, China is looking for new markets to which it could redirect its industrial overcapacity, which has been heavily hit by US tariffs, with Europe being one possible destination. Can Europe afford to battle on multiple fronts? And what can the EU do to uphold a WTO rules-based trade order?

Laura von Daniels, Head of Research Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

David Müller, Director General of European Union and Foreign Trade Section, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Dan O'Brien, Chief Economist, Institute of International and European Affairs

Petr Pudil, Investor and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Draslovka

Georgina Wright, Special Adviser to the President and Senior Fellow, GMF

14:45—15:55

Music Room

Moderator:

Dita Charanzová

Senior Advisor, DGA Group

Roundtable: The EU's Evolving Global Role: Building Democratic Alliances with Latin America in an Increasingly Volatile World (in cooperation with FORUM 2000)

In a rapidly changing geopolitical environment marked by increased tensions with authoritarian powers and a reconfigured U.S. stance, the European Union faces new challenges in maintaining its role as a defender of democratic principles. The recent shift in U.S. foreign policy under the Trump administration, which includes a new position towards the war in Ukraine and the dismantling of USAID, has left a gap in global democracy support and raised doubts about the future of democracy. Focusing on the example of Latin America, this roundtable discussion explores concrete ways in which the EU can bolster and deepen its partnerships with democratic and democratising countries in regions such as Latin America in response to these developments, and thus advance its global leadership role for securing a safer and more prosperous world order.



EUROPE AS A TASK

TUESDAY 13 MAY

CZERNIN PALACE

16:00—17:10

Main Hall

Moderator:

Jan Volenec

Broadcast Journalist, Czech
Radio

16:00—17:10

Music Room

Moderator:

Pavína Žáková

Deputy Minister of European
Affairs, Office of the
Government of the Czech
Republic

17:15—19:00

María-Alejandra Aristeguieta, Director of Global Governance
Strategies, Vision360 Multitrack Diplomacy

Felix Fernández-Shaw, Director, Latin America and the Caribbean,
Relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories, European
Commission

Carlos Malamud, Senior Analyst, Royal Elcano Institute

Fishbowl: A Europe Fit for the Future: Young Leaders' Perspective

What does the future of Europe look like in the eyes of Generation Z?

This panel brings together emerging young leaders to share their
visions for a resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking Europe.
From tackling climate change and technological transformation
to defending democratic values and addressing mental health
challenges, today's youth are not just inheriting Europe's future. They
are actively shaping it. The discussion explores how young people
perceive current developments, what they see as key priorities for
the decades ahead, and how institutions can better include their
voices in policymaking.

Rozárie Haškovcová, Environmental Influencer

Jakub Kos, Studentská Hyberská; Díky, že můžem

Veronika Novotná, UN Youth Delegate

Prokop Válek, Prague Student Summit

Matěj Prokop, Cabinet of the Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth
and Sports

Roundtable: Guided by Foresight: Strategies for an Uncertain World (in cooperation with the Czech Priorities think-tank)

This session brings together foresight experts and practitioners
to explore how strategic foresight and forecasting can be more
effectively applied in policymaking. Drawing on practical examples
and success stories, the discussion focuses on the most promising
strategies for expanding the use of foresight to anticipate emerging
challenges and support medium and long-term planning across key
policy areas in the EU context.

Jaana Tapanainen-Thiess, Secretary General, Government
Foresight Group and Ministerial Foresight Panel, Prime Minister's
Office, Finland

Marek Havrda, Member of Regulatory Scrutiny Board, European
Commission

Emile Servan-Schreiber, CEO, Hypermind

Glass of Wine

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