



From a “Strategic Partnership” to a Strategic Problem? Whither EU-Russian relations

Friday 4.12.2015 at 9:00-16:00
At Restaurant Palace, Conference Hall
Eteläranta 10, 10th Floor, Helsinki

The conference is the final event of the ENURC project a joint project of FIIA, TEPSA in Brussels, CRPE in Bucharest, LIIA in Latvia, IEP in Berlin and UI in Stockholm. The project is co-financed by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union.

Dramatic changes in the European security environment resulting from the Ukraine crisis have cast a shadow over EU-Russia relations, which had been lacking a positive momentum also before. Russia's more assertive foreign policy and its demonstrated will to resort to military means to advance its interests in the EU's neighbourhoods calls for re-assessment of the overall relationship. Can stability and peace in Ukraine be achieved, and how to address the broader crisis of European security order? What are the prospects of economic relations affected by reciprocal sanctions? And what are the implications of the current political tensions and the new energy policy initiatives for the EU-Russia relations?

PROGRAMME

9:00 - 9:15 OPENING REMARKS

Wolfgang Wessels, Chairperson of TEPSA, Jean Monnet Chair for Political Science, University of Cologne

Teija Tiilikainen, Director, the Finnish Institute for International Affairs

9:15 - 10:45 SESSION 1: SECURITY RELATIONS

The crisis over Ukraine is part of a broader crisis of European security order, where EU and Russian perspectives are hard to reconcile. How does the EU address the deteriorated security environment? How to deal with the clash of Russian and EU goals in the shared neighborhood? What are the prospects for stability and peace in Ukraine?

Speakers:

Kai-Olaf Lang, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

David Cadier, Visiting Senior Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

Sir Andrew Wood, Associate Fellow, Chatham House

Chair:

Arkady Moshes, Programme Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

10:45 - 11:15 COFFEE BREAK



Co-funded by the
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11:15 - 12:45 SESSION II: ECONOMIC RELATIONS

EU-Russia economic relations are inevitably affected by the increased political tensions. The expectation that trade and economic interdependence contribute to peace, cooperative relations and perhaps even democratisation of Russia is challenged by the latest developments. What are the prospects of economic relations in the shadow of sanctions? What to expect from the EU-EEU (Eurasian Economic Union) relationship?

Speakers:

Susanne Oxenstierna, Deputy Research Director, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI)

Yulia Zhuchkova, Research Fellow, Tomsk State University

Tony van der Togt, Senior Research Fellow, Netherlands Institute of International Relations (Clingendael)

Chair:

Kristi Raik, Senior Research Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

12:45 - 14:15 LUNCH BREAK

14:15 - 15:45 SESSION III: ENERGY RELATIONS

Russia is the main supplier of fossil fuels to the European Union and is likely to retain its key role in the short and medium term. Can EU-Russia energy trade be reconciled with increasing political tensions? How should the EU address Russia's proposed infrastructural projects (Turkish Stream/Nord Stream II)? What are the viable options for diversifying EU energy suppliers?

Speakers:

Gerhard Mangott, University Professor of Political Science, University of Innsbruck

Katja Yafimava, Senior Research Fellow, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

András Deák, Research Fellow, Institute of World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (CEID)

Chair:

Marco Siddi, Senior Research Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

15:45 - 16:00 CLOSING REMARKS

Arkady Moshes, Programme Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

