



“What’s next after the Eastern Partnership? Prospects for EU Eastern enlargement”

May 29, 09:00-10:30

The Riga Summit will be a key moment for the future of the EaP and how the European Union will be seen by its neighboring countries. Described as a “survival summit” by Latvia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, EU will be facing a crucial dilemma: Push forward and deliver concrete results, especially to the three countries that have already signed Association Agreements, and, hence, exacerbate the relationship with Russia, or fail to provide a clear membership perspective and increase the possibility of alienating them?

The present lack of consensus on offering membership perspective to any of the EaP countries, combined with the growing level of mistrust and criticism towards the EaP initiative, requires setting up new approaches and review the current instruments. A more tailored approach should take the place of the current one size-fits-all when dealing with each of the countries and clear medium and long term prospects should be provided.

The opening session of EUROSAT, **“What’s next after the Eastern Partnership? Prospects for EU Eastern enlargement”** aims to discuss all these trends and approaches by bringing together high ranking officials and civil society experts on these key topics from countries such as Romania, Lithuania, Poland and high level representatives from the Eastern Partnership countries.

Moderator:

Cristian Ghinea, Director, Romanian Center for European Policies

Guests :

Valeriu Zgonea, President, Chamber of Deputies, Romania

Radu Podgoreanu, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

Cristian Preda, Member of the European Parliament

Andi Cristea, Member of the European Parliament

Andrew Rasbash, Adviser Directorate General European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement

Ana Birchall, Member of the Parliament, Chamber of Deputies, Romania

HE Iurie Reniță, Ambassador of Republic of Moldova in Romania

HE Ilia Giorgadze, Ambassador of Georgia in Romania

HE Botond Zakonyi, Ambassador of Hungary in Romania

HE Teofil Bauer, Ambassador of Ukraine in Romania

Andris Sprūds, Director Latvian Institute of International Affairs (Latvia)

Zsuzsanna Vegh, Researcher, Center for EU enlargement studies (Hungary)

Sergiy Gerasymchuk, Programs Director, Strategic and Security Studies Group (Ukraine)

Anna Bulakh, Researcher, International Centre for Defence and Security (Estonia)

Ghia Nodia, Director, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development (Georgia)

Tomas Cizik, Researcher, Center for European and North Atlantic Affairs (Slovakia)

The debate is organized within the „Eastern Neighbours and Russia: Close links with EU citizens-ENURC” – with the support of „Europe for citizens” programme of the European Union.