



TEPSA and IIR organise Pre-Presidency Conference before the Czech Presidency begins

*The May Conference will bring experts, policy-makers, civil society and
the wider public together to discuss the priorities of the upcoming
Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union*

PRAGUE, 19/05/2022: On 23-24 May, the Institute of International Relations and TEPSA will host policy-makers from the upcoming Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union to meet with key stakeholders and the wider public to discuss their priorities for the Czech Presidency for the second half of 2022.

Before every Council Presidency, the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) joins with its Member Institute in the relevant country to organise the Pre-Presidency Conference (PPC). PPCs have become a staple of the European political year ever since the first one, hosted to preview the Irish presidency of January-June 1975. Ahead of the conference, TEPSA will also present and discuss the recommendations for the Czech Presidency, which have been drafted by TEPSA researchers.

TEPSA Secretary-General Jim Cloos, until recently a senior official at the General Secretariat of the Council and looking back on a European career of 35 years, describes the value of Pre-Presidency Conferences as **“a perfect opportunity to bring together representatives of the TEPSA network and political decision-makers. This cross-fertilization is essential for a vibrant debate about Europe in the run-up to each Presidency. It allows our TEPSA members to make a difference”**.

For the Czech Pre-Presidency Conference, discussions will take place on the ongoing war in Ukraine, the evolution of cooperation in Central Europe, the Green Deal, the future of European integration, and more.

The conference is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and EUROPEUM, Institute for European Policy, and has received funding from the Central European Initiative and the Horizon 2020 funded ‘DiCE – Differentiation: Clustering Excellence’ project.

IIR Prague and TEPSA will host Czech officials, experts in various fields, national stakeholders, and the wider public to take part in the latest Pre-Presidency Conference and shape the future of Europe together.

The event will take place **in person** on **23-24 May**.

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