

PRAGUE TALKS



12 June 2017, Opero (Salvátorská 931/8, Praha)

16:00 – 18:00 Exploring the Nightmare Scenario: How Would the EU Break Up?

The specter of a full-blown break-up of the European Union is a recurrent theme in the political discourse of European crises. It was invoked at the height of the Eurozone crisis, during the migration crisis, in the aftermath of UK's Brexit referendum, and, most recently, in the context of French presidential elections. But what exactly would it entail? Could it unfold in a sudden and uncontrollable chain of events, or is a more drawn-out process of fragmentation and hollowing-out the greater risk? Would break-up of the Eurozone or the Schengen area necessarily lead to the demise of the EU as a whole? In such an event, which parts of the institutional and legal edifice are most likely to remain standing? What strategic and regional constellations – for example, a northern bloc around Germany – are likely to emerge in a post-breakup scenario?

Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head of EU Foreign Policy Unit, Centre for European Policy Studies

Roger Casale, Director, New Europeans AISBL

Chair: **Eric Maurice**, Editor-in-Chief, EUobserver

18:00 – 19:00 Glass of wine

PRAGUE TALKS



13 June 2017, ČSOB Inspirace (Jungmannovo náměstí 767, Praha)

16:00 – 18:00 **Turkey: An Indispensable Ally or a New Sick Man of Europe?**

The EU – Turkey relations are going through deep crisis, yet Turkey remains an important partner as a NATO ally and a linchpin in a volatile region. The agonizing accession talks between the EU and Turkey are a fertile ground for mutual acrimonies. On one side the EU, knowing that a majority of European population rejects Turkish EU membership, pretends that Turkey can become an EU member state, of course only after fulfilling a lengthy list of conditions. On the other side, Turkish government accuses the EU member states of islamophobia and neonacism, yet at the same time pretends that it wants to enter the club it openly despises. Can a healthy EU – Turkey relations be based on such hypocrisy and mutual pretention?

Turkey is often portrayed as an indispensable security partner in a volatile in a volatile region. But how can this partnership between Turkey and the West survive an ever-deepening gap in threat perceptions? Current Turkish government treats internal critics among politicians, academics or journalists as enemies of the state and treats them accordingly, while Western democracies fume about suppression of legitimate opposition and Turkish descent into authoritarianism. For us, the Kurds are a useful ally, while Turkey paints them as a mortal enemy. The latest Turkish military intervention in Syria highlights this threat perceptions gap and a divergence between what critics describe as neo-ottoman foreign policy of Turkey and Western interests in the region.

F. Stephen Larrabee, Senior Political Scientist, RAND Corporation, Distinguished Chair Emeritus in European Security

Prof. Dr. Meltem Müftüler-Bac, Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet chair, Sabanci University, Istanbul

Chair: **Chris Morris**, BBC

PRAGUE TALKS



14 June 2017, European House (Jungmannova 745/24, Praha)

16:00 – 18:00 Brexit – EU: Who Will Lose More?

The UK formally initiated the process of leaving the EU by triggering Article 50 in March 2017; at this point, this is the certainty that we have about the BREXIT debate that mobilizes European debates. Besides occasional temperature tests such as the EU requesting the UK pay the €60 billion exit bill or the UK retaining the benefits of the single market without its constraints, the respective set of core goals and/or conditions yet remain heavily discussed and politicized. How can we assume that talks will proceed from there? What are the identified objectives for the two sides?

Tim Oliver, Research Director, Brexit Analytics, Associate, LSE IDEAS

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group

Chair: **Michael Žantovský**, Former Ambassador to the UK, Director of Václav Havel's Library (tbc)