



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Wilton Park

Programme

The Eastern Partnership: moving ahead

Monday 14 – Tuesday 15 October 2013 | WP1284

Context

Cooperation between the EU and its Eastern European partners – the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia - is a crucial part of the Union's external relations. According to the "more reforms for more aid" doctrine, the closer partner countries move towards EU norms, the greater the opportunity for increasing political, economic and financial links with the Union.

In the run up to the Summit to be held by the Lithuanian Presidency of the European Union, in Vilnius in November, this conference will look at how the Eastern Partnership should develop so as to achieve its aims of promoting security, stability and prosperity in Europe's Neighbourhood and the development of more open economies, governments and societies.

Key policy issues

The conference will analyse the achievements of the partnership to date and the state of political and economic reform in participating countries. It will consider the future of the Eastern Partnership, what the European Union can do to reinforce it and how the Eastern Partnership should develop after the Summit. It will analyse how to support long term, substantial reform and whether conditionality – carrot/stick – is the right approach. It will look at the effectiveness of specific policy initiatives such as the future of deep and comprehensive free trade agreements. It will address how to combine support for progressive change with the pursuit of security, energy and commercial interests. It will also consider whether a lighter form of engagement is appropriate for countries whose commitment to reform appears ambiguous. Russian attitudes to the Eastern Partnership will be examined as well as the steps taken by Russia to establish a customs union and other forms of engagement with Eastern Partnership countries.

Goal and objectives

This conference will focus on the ways and means to foster effective implementation of initiatives agreed by European leaders at the Vilnius Summit and generate specific recommendations for the way forward. It will involve a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of civil society, to create a network that continues to engage on the issues discussed. It will produce a report highlighting the conclusions of the meeting.

In association with:

With support from:



The Project on
Transitional Democracies



Lithuanian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union 2013

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund
of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

B | S | T The Black Sea Trust
for Regional Cooperation
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND



Monday 14 October

1300-1430

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500-1515

Welcome and introduction

Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

1515-1645

1. The Eastern partnership: values and interests

How to combine support for change with safeguarding the EU's security, energy and commercial interests? What is the impact of other players in particular Russia and its policy towards the region?

David Lidington

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Linas Linkevičius

Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vilnius

Radoslaw Sikorski

Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Warsaw

Anne Applebaum

Director of Global Transitions, Legatum Institute, London

1645-1730

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. Priorities for reform: what needs to be done

How to support long term substantial reform? Is conditionality the most effective approach? How to achieve deep and comprehensive free trade agreements?

Bruce Jackson

President, Project on Transitional Democracies, Washington DC

Thomas Bagger

Head of Policy Planning, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Kostiantyn Yeliseiev

Ambassador, Head of Mission, Mission of Ukraine to the EU, Brussels

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Tuesday 15 October

0800-0845

Breakfast and checkout

0900-1030

3. Focus on governance, energy, trade

Presentations to plenary followed by working group discussion

i Energy

How can Europe diversify its energy supplies and create a single market for energy within the EU, given the lingering recession and frequent antagonism between Russia and the West? How to manage the Ukrainian GTS and other pipelines to help European objectives.

Alan Riley

Professor of Law, City Law School, City University, London

ii Trade

What is the value of the EU trading system for the Eastern partners? Can deep and comprehensive free trade agreements (DCFTA) be compatible with the Customs Union put forward by Russia. How to ensure the DCFTA bring real benefits to households in the Eastern Partnership countries?

Péter Balas

Deputy Director-General, Trade, Commission of Eastern Communities, European Commission, Brussels

iii Governance

How to target the right areas for reform. How to combine moving towards more open economies with assuring appropriate balance of power that includes not just holding legitimate elections but also providing guarantees for an independent press and judiciary?

Andrew Wilson

Reader in Ukraine Studies, University College, London

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

4. Working group discussion on governance, energy, trade

Led by:

i Energy

Alan Riley

ii Trade

Peter Balas

iii Governance

Andrew Wilson

1230-1400

Lunch

1400-1530

5. EU and regional perspectives

What are the achievements to date? What is the EU's current approach? How are changing attitudes likely to affect the partnership over the next decade?

Vasyl Filipchuk

Advisor to the Board, International Centre for Policy Studies, Kyiv

Tamar Beruchashvili

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tbilisi

Iulian Groza

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Chisinau

Péter Balas

Deputy Director-General, Trade, Commission of Eastern Communities, European Commission, Brussels

1530-1600

Tea/coffee

1600-1730

6. After Vilnius: where does the partnership go? How to take it forward

To draw together key points of the conference including how to bring about long term substantial reform; whether different forms of engagement are appropriate for the various countries and, if so, what form these can take.

To include feedback from working groups in session 4.

James Sherr

Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, The Royal Institute for International Affairs, London

Michael Leigh

Former Director General, European Commission; Senior Adviser, German Marshall Fund, Brussels

1730

Participants depart