

Think
Visegrad
V4 Think-Tank Platform

NEWSLETTER

2017/Summer

Think Visegrad in Brussels

Editorial



Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to share with you the first 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' newsletter of 2017. We are very happy that the project, first introduced last year, has been renewed in June to continue for another 6 months, until December 2017.

'Think Visegrad in Brussels' brings together eight think tanks from four Central European countries that agreed to join forces and open a representation in Brussels. Our common goal is to build bridges between researchers and experts from Central Europe and Brussels - creating platforms for open discussions about EU policies, priorities and challenges. We hope to enrich the debate both in member states and at the EU level.

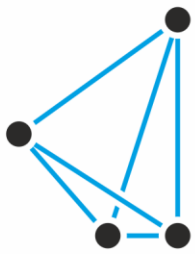
We believe this exchange is now more important than ever, as the Visegrad group is being too often simplified to the group of European "troublemakers". We want to present a constructive, research-based approach, ensure that the voices of Central Europe are heard in Brussels and contribute to the debate by policy proposals and recommendations.

This newsletter will be published regularly, bringing news not only about Think Visegrad activities in Brussels, but also about main events and publications of our members.

I wish you all a relaxing summer break and hope to see you at our events in Brussels!

Kind Regards
Zuzana Stuchlíková
Head of Brussels Office. EUROPEUM

 EUROPEUM
Brussels Office



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Think Visegrad platform

Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform is a network for structured dialog on issues of strategic regional importance. The network analyses key issues for the Visegrad Group (V4), and provides recommendations to the governments of V4 countries, the annual presidencies of the group, and the International Visegrad Fund. Think Visegrad covers thematic priorities of V4 including V4's internal cohesion, EU institutions and politics, the Western Balkans, relations with Eastern Partnership countries, development assistance, migration, security, energy security, environmental protection, energy security etc.

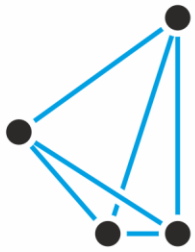
The formation of the network of V4 think-tanks was one of the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the Visegrad Group of 2011–2012. This idea reflected the long-term interest and willingness of Central European think tanks to enhance their cooperation within the Visegrad Group and to deepen its cohesion. Think Visegrad was established in 2012 by eight V4 research centres and institutes, and is funded by the International Visegrad Fund.

The project brings together all the members of the Think Visegrad network, namely:

- Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFP), Bratislava (main coordinator)
- Central European Policy Institute (CEPI), Bratislava
- Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw
- Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw
- Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest
- Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), Budapest
- EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague
- Institute of International Relations (IIR), Prague

What is the 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' project?

In the first half of 2016, the Think Visegrad platform members agreed on the idea proposed by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, to create a common representation office in Brussels. The main motivation for it is the need to encourage



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debate on issues of common interest to the EU and the V4 and explain the positions of the V4 to a wide audience. We would like to project an image of constructive partners, to explain the dynamics of the debates within our regions and to highlight our active contributions to EU policy-making. With this view and with the aim to boost discussions specifically on the Czech Republic and the EU, EUROPEUM has opened its Brussels office in January 2016.

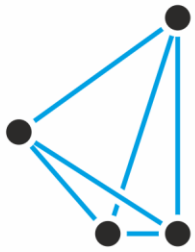
The pilot project run in the second half of 2016 and consisted of many interesting and successful events.

Past events:

- TVB organized two public debates in Brussels. The first conference was entitled 'The Visegrad Contribution to the EU Digital Single Market' and took place on 30. 11. 2016. It was organized in close cooperation with the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group and hosted by the Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU. The second conference took place on 9. 12. 2016 and was called 'Security in Europe from a Visegrad viewpoint: strengthening fundamentals, but rethinking perspectives?' The event in a round-table format was co-organized with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and the European Policy Institutes Network and hosted at CEPS premises.
- The roundtable with the title 'Visegrad about the Future of the EU' took place on 24. 10. 2016 and brought together the four Ambassadors to the European Union of the Visegrad Countries and twelve amongst the most prominent think-tanks in Brussels. It was hosted by the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU.
- The TVB Newsletter was one of the key communication tools aimed at a wide audience, with the objective to raise awareness about the Think Visegrad platform in mainly Brussels-based stakeholders. The Newsletter introduced the project and its members, including their presentation in each issue. Each issue summarized the gist of the TVB activities in the past and upcoming period, reporting on events and research fellowships. Four issues of the newsletter were sent over the period of the project.

Publications:

- Mr. Tomasz Stępniewski, The Society of the Institute of East-Central Europe (IESW). Paper title: The European Union and Eastern Partnership: Crises and Strategic Assessment
- Mr. Vladimír Bilčík, Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA). Paper title: The EU Council Presidency after the British referendum
- Ms. Zsuzsanna Csornai, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT). Paper title: The Changing Balance of Power in the EU after the British Referendum – V4 Capacities and Opportunities



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- Mr. Michal Koran, Institute of International Relations (IIR). Paper title: *Central Europe: The Death of Dreams?*

Upcoming events

Think Visegrad will organize two public events and two expert roundtables (by invitation only) in autumn 2017. We will send out invitations before every event, but you can already save a few dates!

Assessment of the Berlin process: Western Balkans in 2017

When: **October 18, 2017**

Where: **European Parliament**

In cooperation with MEP Eduard Kukan

Eastern Partnership

When: **October 24, 2017 (TBC)**

Where: **TBA**

EU and NATO relations in the light of PESCO

Expert debate, *by invitation only*

Cohesion policy after 2020: Central European Perspective

Expert debate, *by invitation only*

From our members

In this section, we will regularly inform you about the most interesting events and publications by our member institutes. More info to come soon!

 **EUROPEUM**
Brussels Office



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