

Think
Visegrad
V4 Think-Tank Platform

NEWSLETTER

2017/September-October

Think Visegrad in Brussels

Editorial



Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to share with you the second 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' newsletter of 2017. The project, renewed shortly before summer, has successfully moved into the implementation phase. Eight think tanks from the Central Europe, represented in Brussels by an office of the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, continues to closely cooperate on debating the important questions of the fall 2017.

We have organized our first event on October 18th, a conference in the European Parliament titled "Western Balkans Integration Process: State of Play in 2017". Four researchers from the Think Visegrad platform were joined by our co-organizer, MEP Eduard Kukan, Director- General of DG Near Christian Danielsson, 7 other MEPs, and more than 60 other distinguished guests for a fruitful debate about how the momentum gained in the fall of 2017 can influence the accession negotiations. You can read our report in this newsletter.

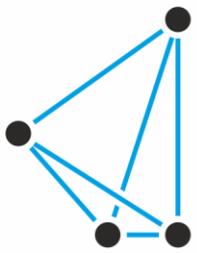
Our other event dealt with a topic that will most certainly be one of the most discussed in 2018 – Cohesion Policy under the new Multiannual Financial Framework. A closed roundtable took place with the presence of all four EU ambassadors of the Visegrad countries. In November, we will be looking forward to meeting you at our event dedicated to the Eastern Partnership, taking place one day before the Eastern Partnership summit.

I wish you all a nice and sunny autumn and hope to see you at our events in Brussels!

Zuzana Stuchlíková

Head of Brussels Office, EUROPEUM

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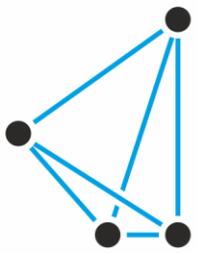
Think Visegrad platform

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 centers 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 SFPA), Bratislava (main coordinator)
- 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



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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 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.

The pilot project run in the second half of 2016 and the second part of the project was approved in June 2017 and will continue until the end of the year.

Past events

- The first conference of 2017, titled '[Western Balkans integration process: State of play in 2017](#)' took place on 18. 10. 2017 at the European Parliament. It was organized in close cooperation MEP Eduard Kukan (EPP) and with the presence of 7 MEPs, more than 60 guests and the Director General of DG Near Christian Danielsson, who closed the event. The report is available [here](#).
- The roundtable with the title '[The future of the Cohesion Policy in the new Multiannual Financial Framework: Perspectives from Central Europe](#)' took place on 26. 10. 2017 and brought together the four Ambassadors to the European Union of the Visegrad Countries and twenty experts amongst the most prominent think-tanks in Brussels. It was hosted by the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Hungary to the EU. The report is available [here](#).

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!

Quo Vadis Eastern Partnership? A retrospective look into the future

When: **November 23rd, 2017, 13:30 – 19:00**

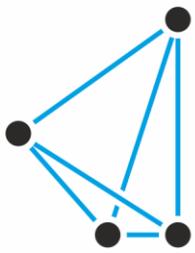
Where: European Endowment for Democracy, Rue de la Loi 34, 1000 Bruxelles

Partners: Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, SFP, EED, OSEPI

Registrations: Click [here](#) or contact us at brussels@europeum.org

PESCO: What role for the V4 in developing European Strategic Autonomy

Expert debate, *by invitation only*



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Public consultation by the European Commission:

Border and security

- Public consultation on improving cross-border access to electronic evidence in criminal matters (https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-improving-cross-border-access-electronic-evidence-criminal-matters_en)

Banking and financial services

- Public consultation on post-trade in a Capital Market Union: dismantling barriers and strategy for the future (https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/finance-2017-post-trade_en)
- Public consultation on transparency and fees in cross-border transactions in the EU (https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/finance-2017-cross-border-transactions-fees_en)

Climate actions

- Public consultation to support the evaluation of the European Environment Agency and its European Environment Information and Observation Network (https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-support-evaluation-european-environment-agency-and-its-european-environment-information-and-observation-network-0_en)

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