

# DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP ENLARGEMENT

a PASOS/IPA international think-tanks' and policymakers' conference

## CHALLENGES FOR EUROPE, CHALLENGES FOR THE POLISH EU PRESIDENCY

*Perspectives for EU policy-makers and democratic reformers  
in the Eastern Partners, the Balkans, and North Africa*

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# PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

## Morning plenary

Eastern Partnership and Enlargement during  
the Hungarian and Polish Presidencies

## Panel 1

Visa liberalisation in the Western Balkans  
and Eastern Partner countries  
– similarities and lessons to be learnt

## Panel 2

New Media: Catalyst for Democracy  
or a Tool of Dictators?

## Closing Plenary

European Neighbourhood Policy and Democratisation:  
Southern and Eastern dimension

09.00–09.30

## REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

09.30–09.50

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**Jacek Kucharczyk**

President of the Executive Board, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

09.50–10.20

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

**Krzysztof Stanowski**

Undersecretary of State for Development and Economic Cooperation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

moderator

**David Král**

Chair of the Board, PASOS/Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy,  
Czech Republic

10.20–10.50

## Q&A

10.50–11.10

## COFFEE BREAK

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11.10–13.00

## MORNING PLENARY

### Eastern Partnership and Enlargement during the Hungarian and Polish Presidencies

*Assessment and conclusions (reflecting the responsiveness of the EU to changing priorities and changing situations, e.g. Belarus, Azerbaijan), and the shift of focus from the East to the South. The perspective of the Western Balkans will be a particular focus concerning the future of the enlargement process.*

#### **Péter Balázs**

Director, Center for European Enlargement Studies,  
Central European University, Hungary

#### **Andrzej Cieszkowski**

Plenipotentiary for the Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

#### **Andrey Demidov**

Central European University, Hungary

#### **Jelena Milić**

Executive Director, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies, Serbia

#### **Borys Tarasyuk**

Member of Ukrainian Parliament, Our Ukraine – People Self Defence Block, Ukraine  
Co-President of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly

moderator

#### **Jeff Lovitt**

Executive Director, PASOS, Czech Republic

13.00–14.00

## LUNCH BREAK

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14.00–15.45

## TWO PARALLEL PANELS

### PANEL 1:

Visa liberalisation in the Western Balkans and EaP countries  
– similarities and lessons to be learnt

*The Polish EU Presidency will be key to the prospects for a roadmap for visa liberalisation being presented to Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia. The results of a PASOS project, Paving the Road towards Visa-free Travel between the Eastern Partnership countries and the EU, will outline the outstanding technical and political challenges (including obstacles posed by EU member-states), and the technical assistance and also advocacy work required to tip the balance in favour of visa liberalisation.*

#### **Nadya Dimitrova**

Migration and visa policy expert, European Institute, Bulgaria

#### **Beti Jaceva**

Head of Sector, Directorate for European Union,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Macedonia

#### **Piotr Kaźmierkiewicz**

Migration and visa policy expert, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

#### **Leonid Litra**

Deputy Director, Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) "Viitorul",  
Moldova

[moderator](#)

#### **Olga Stuzhinskaya**

Director, Office for a Democratic Belarus, Belgium

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14.00–15.45

## PANEL 2:

### New Media: Catalyst for Democracy or a Tool of Dictators?

*From Moldova to Iran, Azerbaijan, and North Africa, the internet and social media have been seen as important tools to communicate abuses by authoritarian governments, but also to enable democratic forces to link up and network with each other. At the same time, dictatorial regimes from Belarus to Iran have also become more adept at both blocking access to networks and at spreading government propaganda through pro-regime bloggers. What are the limits of the new media, and can authoritarian regimes hold back the freedom of expression unleashed by the internet?*

#### **Basem Fathy**

Program officer, Freedom House Office in Cairo, Egypt

#### **Rodger Potocki**

Director, Europe and Eurasia, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA

#### **Alek Tarkowski**

New media expert, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

#### **Iryna Vidanava**

Editor-in-Chief, 34 Multimedia Magazine, Belarus

moderator

#### **Agnieszka Łada**

Head of the European Programme, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

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16.15–18.00

## CLOSING PLENARY

### European Neighbourhood Policy and Democratisation: Southern and Eastern dimension

*Fall 2011 is yielding fruit sown during the Arab Spring. Elections in Tunisia and Egypt are expected to get the governments emerging after elections on the track to reform. Although Eastern Europe has not recently been in the news as a 'democracy champion', there, too, changes are underway. This panel will discuss how the European Union can contribute to modernisation and improvement of governance in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The speakers will scrutinise the expectations of changemakers in the EU's neighborhood and explore the EU's capacity to match them. The discussions also will focus on possible synergies that might exist between the EU's Eastern and Southern neighborhood policies, particularly in the engagement of civil society.*

#### **Nadine Abdalla**

Research Fellow, Arab Forum for Alternatives Studies, Egypt

#### **Nadia Diuk**

Vice President, Programmes - Europe & Eurasia, Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean,  
National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA

#### **Lucia Najšlová**

Senior Research Fellow,  
EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy/PASOS, Czech Republic

#### **Wolfgang Templin,**

Director Heinrich Böll Foundation, Poland

moderator

#### **Jacek Kucharczyk**

President of the Executive Board, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

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## ORGANISERS:

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PASOS is a network of 50 independent think-tanks spanning more than 27 countries in Europe and Central Asia. PASOS aims to promote and protect democracy, human rights and open society values – including the rule of law, good governance, and economic and social development – by supporting civil society organisations that individually and jointly foster public participation in public policy issues at the European Union level, in other European and global structures, and in the wider neighbourhood of Europe and Central Asia.

The PASOS members provide policy advice to the region's decision-makers and international organisations on issues as diverse as human rights, economic development, legal reform, management of governmental reforms, social policy, education, health, religion, international co-operation, small enterprise development, public participation and public sector management.

The international donor community has recognised this expertise and the network has provided input to projects sponsored by the EU, the United Nations, DFID, OSI, the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, and a host of international foundations and national governments.



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Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) is a leading Polish think tank and an independent centre for policy research and analysis, established in 1995. Our mission is to contribute to informed public debate on key Polish, European and global policy issues. Our main areas of study include European policy, social policy, civil society, migration and development policy as well as law and democratic institutions.

The IPA has a team of in-house researchers/policy analysts and an extensive network of associate experts from academia and other paths of life. We publish the results of our projects in research reports, policy papers and books, which are broadly disseminated among members of parliament, government officials and civil servants, academics, journalists and civil society activists. Every year the IPA hosts dozens of conferences, seminars, round tables, workshops and other events with the participation of key policy and opinion makers. Our experts regularly comment on current policy issues in printed and electronic media.

The IPA works with key international institutions such as European Commission and Parliament as well as OSCE, Council of Europe and Community of Democracies. We are active as members of many international networks and associations, including Policy Association for an Open Society PASOS and European Partnership for Democracy.

Support for the conference is provided by the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI) of Open Society Foundations, the Think Tank Fund of the Open Society Foundations, the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Warsaw, the US National Endowment for Democracy, Telekomunikacja Polska S.A. and the European Union: Support for organisations active at European level in the field of active European citizenship.



Robert Bosch Stiftung



Partner of the Polish EU Presidency



The policy briefs presented at the conference have been co-ordinated by PASOS, and prepared by the Institute of Public Affairs, Poland, the Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, and the Center for Policy Studies at Central European University, Hungary.



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