

Europe 1989-2019:

How to sustain the path towards Europe Whole and Free?



Photo: "Havel na Hrad!"
Pavel Hroch / Knihovna Václava Havla (Václav Havel Library)

20th November 2019

18:00 - 20:30 followed by a glass of wine

House of European History
Rue Belliard 135
1000 Brussels



Permanent Representation
of the Czech Republic
to the European Union



CZECH CENTRE
ČESKÉ CENTRUM



Embassy
of the Czech Republic
to the Kingdom of Belgium



HOUSE OF
EUROPEAN HISTORY

Václav Havel European Dialogues is an annual international conference held in Brussels that aims to initiate and stimulate a discussion about issues determining the direction of contemporary Europe while referring to the spiritual legacy of Václav Havel. One of Havel's key principles was civic engagement based on a sense of responsibility for the future of one's society and country. As a convinced European, he stressed the need to maintain the connection between the state and its institutions, and its people. For him politics was an ongoing, deeply meaningful dialogue comparable to a theatre piece.

The conference entitled "Europe 1989-2019: How to sustain the path towards Europe Whole and Free?" aims to summarise and analyse the transformation of Europe thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Velvet Revolution.

The event is held under the auspices of Věra Jourová, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality.

17:45 Registration

18:00 Opening of the Conference:

Jakub Dür, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU

Pavel Klucký, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium

Introduction by the Moderator of the Discussion:

Michael Žantovský, Executive Director of the Václav Havel Library

18:15 First Panel:

Věra Jourová / Marek Belka / Jamie Fly

Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Velvet Revolution, the first panel will summarise and analyse the transformation of Europe achieved so far. The dream of Europe "Whole and Free" seems to be fading away, despite the historic enlargements of NATO and the European Union. Besides Russia's coercive actions to prevent its neighbours from choosing this vision for themselves, there are new challenges stemming from the EU's internal developments, including Brexit. Are we able to act in the face of disinformation campaigns and the rise of third actors? Do both sides of the Atlantic and their population still share the same vision?

19:15 Second Panel:

Frans Timmermans / Alexandr Vondra / Nathalie Loiseau / Michal Šimečka

1989 was the Year of Europe, beyond any policy planner's dream. The second panel will explore whether 2019 brings a new momentum for the vision of 1989 and indicate the work that is still ahead of us. The new EU institutional cycle represents a new element in ongoing discussion on the future of the EU. How to sustain the path towards Europe Whole and Free? What lessons do the recent transformations of Central and Eastern European states offer? Does the EU remain united in its vision for the future? How can the EU better support the aspirations of countries striving to join?

Glass of wine



Jakub Dürr, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU

Jakub Dürr took up the post of the Czech Permanent Representative to the EU in September 2018. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs at the Foreign Ministry in Prague (2016-2018). His first post as Ambassador was also in Brussels, at COREPER I (2011-2016). Before he joined the foreign service, he held the position of Deputy Minister of Education for European Affairs in Prague (2008-2009). In the previous years he worked at the Palacký University in Olomouc as the Vice-Rector for External Relations and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Political Science and European Studies.



Pavel Klucký, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium

Professional career of Ambassador Pavel Klucký accumulates experience in the multilateral diplomacy dealing mostly with non-proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction and with the Middle East and North Africa issues. He served as the chairman of Zangger Committee and chairman of the EU Non Proliferation Working Group during the Czech Presidency of the EU Council (2009). He also worked as the Czech Ambassador to Algeria and Mali (2009-2013). Before being appointed to his current position in 2019, he served as the Director of Middle East and North Africa Department of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2014-2018).



Michael Žantovský, Executive Director of the Václav Havel Library

Michael Žantovský is executive director of the Václav Havel Library and a diplomat, politician, writer and translator. He is the Vice-President of the Aspen Institute Prague, member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, former Chairman of the Civic Democratic Alliance and senator of the Civic Democratic Alliance in the Parliament of the Czech Republic; former Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Kingdom, the United States and the State of Israel. He was also the spokesman of President Václav Havel and political director at the Office of the President of the Czech Republic. His biography of his long-time friend Václav Havel, *Havel: A Life*, was published in November 2014.



Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

Věra Jourová is currently European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before arriving to the European Commission, Ms. Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. Prior to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding, and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. She holds a Degree in Law and a Master's degree in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague. She is now Vice President-designate for Values and Transparency.



Marek Belka, Member of European Parliament

Marek Belka has served, among others, as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and as Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland. He has held the office of Chairman of the Council for International Coordination for Iraq, and the United Nations Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe. Before beginning his term as Member of the European Parliament, he headed the European Department of the International Monetary Fund and worked as President of the National Bank of Poland. He is also a former Member of the G20 Eminent Persons Group and a former Chairman of the IMF Development Committee. He teaches as a visiting professor at the College of Europe Natolin and at the LSE Institute of Global Affairs.



Jamie Fly, RFE/RL President and CEO

Jamie Fly has been RFE/RL President and Chief Executive Officer since August 1, 2019. Prior to his appointment, Fly served as a senior fellow, co-director of the Alliance for Securing Democracy, and director of the Future of Geopolitics and Asia programs at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He served as counselor for Foreign and National Security Affairs to Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) from 2013-17, serving as his foreign policy advisor during his presidential campaign. Fly also was the executive director of the Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI) and served in the Bush administration at the National Security Council (2008-09) and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (2005-08).



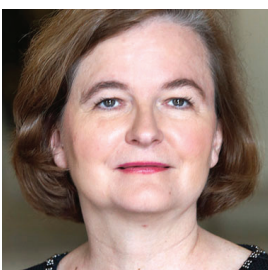
Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission

Frans Timmermans began his career with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987 where he worked e.g. at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Moscow. He later worked for Hans van den Broek, European Commissioner for External Relations, and Max van der Stoep, High Commissioner on National Minorities for the OSCE. In 1998, Frans Timmermans was elected as a member of the House of Representatives for the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA). Mr Timmermans served as Minister for European Affairs (2007-2010) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (2012-2014). In 2014, he became First Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for better regulation, interinstitutional relations, sustainable development, the rule of law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. He is now Executive Vice President-designate for the European Green Deal.



Alexandr Vondra, Member of European Parliament

Alexandr Vondra is a Czech politician and diplomat. He is currently Member of the European Parliament. He is former Minister of Defense (2010-2012), as well as Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs (2007-2009) and former Minister of Foreign Affairs (2006-2007). He was the Czech Government's Plenipotentiary for the preparation of the NATO Summit in Prague (2002). Mr. Vondra also served as Czech Ambassador to the United States (1997-2001). He worked as a foreign policy advisor to former President Václav Havel. During the Velvet Revolution in November 1989, he became a co-founder and leading member of the Civic Forum movement.



Nathalie Loiseau, Member of European Parliament

Nathalie Loiseau is the Chair of the sub-committee on Defense and Security in the European Parliament. She was at the head of the Renaissance list for the European election of 2019. Ms. Loiseau served as Minister for European Affairs in the French government from 2017 to 2019. She also was the dean of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) for five years from 2012 to 2015. She studied in the Paris Institute of Political Studies (IEP) and in the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO).



Michal Šimečka, Member of European Parliament

Michal Šimečka is Member of European Parliament in the Renew Europe Group, and member of the civil liberties (LIBE) and foreign affairs (AFET) committees. He is also Vice-Chair of Progressive Slovakia, a liberal political party in Slovakia. Previously he was Senior Researcher at the Institute of International Relations in Prague and adviser to Czech minister of foreign affairs. He also served as an advisor to Members of the European Parliament. He holds a D.Phil (PhD) in Politics and International Relations from Nuffield College, University of Oxford. His academic research focused on the politics of EU neighbourhood, EU institutional affairs and external action, and foreign policies of Central European countries.