



# U.S.-CENTRAL EUROPE STRATEGY FORUM



Embassy of the  
Slovak Republic in  
Washington, D.C.



## Reviving Atlanticism in Central Europe: Perils and Possibilities

October 2, 2014

Washington, DC

The Willard InterContinental Hotel

1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW



The sixth U.S.-Central Europe Strategy Forum takes place amid the most momentous European security crisis in decades. Russia's attack on Ukraine has placed heavy strains on the Atlantic alliance. The Kremlin has adopted an outspoken and vehemently anti-Western and revisionist policy, putting the whole European security order under threat. It has used a startlingly successful mixture of military power, propaganda, economic pressure, diplomacy and subversion. The West, by contrast, looks unprepared for the new era of geopolitical competition. Some traditionally Atlanticist countries have distanced themselves from sanctions against Russia. Others are hesitant to oppose Russia's consolidation of energy supplies and infrastructure. Under-investment in defense by some allies has sharpened U.S. worries about security burden-sharing. Frontline states worry that Western Europe is unwilling to confront Russia on their behalf. The rhetorical commitment of the United States to European defense, underlined by President Obama's speeches in Warsaw and Tallinn, has not quenched worries that America is too distracted to play its traditional role as security guarantor. Faced with these pressures, the 2014 U.S.-Central Europe Strategy Forum will consider the perils of current trends—the end of Atlanticism and a restored Russian hegemony in Europe's East—and the possible ways of averting that fate.



8:00 a.m.

**Arrivals and Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Opening Comments: Wess Mitchell**, President, CEPA

**Keynote: Victoria Nuland**, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

**Keynote: Miroslav Lajčák**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic

**Panel I: The Future of Atlanticism in U.S.-Central European Relations**

Central Europe has been a European anchor for the Atlantic alliance since the end of the Cold War. But memories of the common fight against communism have faded along with America's once-prominent role in European affairs. Recent U.S. defense cuts, America's strategic rebalance to Asia and the end of NATO's mission in Afghanistan have intensified this trend. Anti-American sentiments are growing in Europe on issues such as trade, digital privacy and copyright protection. This is a shaky foundation on which to extend the alliance into the 21st century. Does the United States still believe it can count on Central Europe? Do Central Europeans think the same? As the Ukraine crisis leads countries to assess the durability of their strategic links, which pillars of Atlanticism are strongest, and which should be strengthened—and how?

**Moderator: Edward Lucas**, Senior Fellow and Contributing Editor, CEPA

- **Iulian Fota**, National Security Advisor to the President of Romania
- **Zsolt Németh**, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of Parliament, Hungary
- **Marcin Zaborowski**, Director, Polish Institute of International Affairs

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Break**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Panel II: Central European Defense and the Russia-Ukraine War**

Central Europe is a reactivated military frontier as a result of the Ukraine war. The region is a prime target for Russian intimidation, the West's frontline in the espionage and counter-espionage world, and a battleground for political and economic influence. Poland and the Baltic States are also subject to a military threat. After years of stagnation, most states in the region have announced or implemented increases in defense spending. Yet, is Central Europe up to the challenges of the changing regional security landscape? What priorities should guide defense planning? How do allies there view the 'hybrid' warfare Russia has waged in Ukraine? And what can the United States do to reassure its allies?

**Moderator: Jakub Grygiel**, Senior Fellow, CEPA and George H. W. Bush Associate Professor of International Relations, Johns Hopkins SAIS

- **Major General Andrzej Fałkowski**, Military Representative of Poland to NATO
- **Daniel Koštoval**, State Secretary, Ministry of Defense, Czech Republic
- **James Townsend**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe and NATO Policy, U.S. Department of Defense
- **Marijus Velička**, Deputy Minister of National Defense, Republic of Lithuania

**12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Break**

**12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Working Lunch: Securing Energy from Visegrád to the Baltic**

The war in Ukraine has distracted attention from what was recently the most pressing European security concern: the future of gas supplies. Russia has derailed the Nabucco pipeline and made great headway with its rival South Stream project. The EU has failed to launch a planned “complaint” against Gazprom for its decade-long abuse of the energy market. Modest improvements in energy resilience (storage, interconnectors, reverse flow capacity and LNG terminals) do not change the big picture: the Eastern half of the continent is vulnerable to Russian energy pressure, and the Kremlin is successfully exploiting that fact. Is this challenge too far advanced to solve? What can the EU and its members now do to reverse Russia’s gains? What role could American gas exports play in strengthening the region’s energy security?

**Moderator: Lucian Pugliaresi**, President, Energy Policy Research Foundation

- **Pavol Hamžík**, Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic
- **Václav Bartuška**, Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- **Rolandas Kriščiūnas**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Lithuania
- **Réka Szemerkényi**, Chief Advisor in Foreign and Security Policy to the Prime Minister of Hungary

**2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Panel IV: Vulnerable Frontiers: Anticipating the Next Crisis**

The Ukraine crisis was not wholly unexpected, but most Western policymakers did not foresee it. In the East, the Ukraine turmoil could still intensify. In the Western Balkans, Russia’s foothold is a direct challenge to the authority of the EU. In the North (chiefly in parts of Latvia and Estonia), the danger of “little green men” appearing in areas with an ethnic minority population is potentially elevated. In the South, the possibility of a crisis arising from Russian pressure in Moldova or Transnistria is significant. What are the threats, old and new, which Europe’s vulnerable frontiers may face in coming months? Where should policymakers be looking, and for what? What lessons have we learned from Russian tactics in Ukraine, and how can the West get better at countering them?

**Moderator: Janusz Bugajski**, Senior Fellow, CEPA

- **Lauri Lepik**, Permanent Representative to NATO, Republic of Estonia
- **Edward Lucas**, Senior Fellow and Contributing Editor, CEPA
- **Jānis Garisons**, Undersecretary of State and Policy Director, Ministry of Defense, Latvia

**3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Break**

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

**Panel V: What's Next for Ukraine?**

After a tumultuous political upheaval, Ukraine now faces a combination of three crises: political/constitutional, financial/economic and military/geopolitical. Any one of them would be enough to overwhelm most countries. The West has largely abnegated responsibility for Ukraine. Many would argue that having invested in the hope of the Maidan, the West has abandoned the leadership in Kyiv to its fate. What happens now? What are Ukraine's best options for managing the three sets of crises it faces? And what can Ukraine's friends, in Central Europe and in North America, do to help?

**Moderator: Paula Dobriansky**, Senior Fellow, Harvard University

- **Alexander Duleba**, Director, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association
- **Marcin Bosacki**, Ambassador of Poland to Canada
- **John Herbst**, Atlantic Council

6:15 p.m.

**Guests meet in hotel lobby for departure to Embassy of the Slovak Republic\***

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Dinner at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic\***

Welcome Remarks: **Peter Kmec**, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States

Introduction: **Wess Mitchell**, President, CEPA

Keynote: **Daniel Fried**, Coordinator for Sanctions Policy, U.S. Department of State

*\* This portion of the Forum is invitation only.*



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