

***A Strong Europe in a Globalized World:***

***From the Hungarian to the Polish Presidency of the Council of the  
European Union***

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**The Center for European Policy Analysis**

**The Polish Institute of International Affairs**

On June 17, 2011, the Center for Transatlantic Relations – together with the Center for European Policy Analysis, the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw, and the Embassies of Hungary and Poland – hosted authors writing on the theme “*A Strong Europe in a Globalized World*,” and who offered in-depth, substantive reflections about how the United States and Europe can work together more closely in meeting global challenges.

Drawing on the agendas of the outgoing and incoming EU Presidencies of the Council of the European Union – Hungary and Poland respectively – authors focused on the importance of a strong US-EU partnership in the face of mounting global challenges, from the current financial and economic crisis through the insecurities of energy markets and the promise of the Arab Spring.

Authors explored in depth four key areas of shared interests: A Global Perspective (Transatlantic Partnership in a Globalized World); Achievements and Deliverables of Eastern Partnership; Euro-Atlantic Perspectives for the Balkans; and Common Challenges of Energy Security. Senior Hungarian and Polish government officials, subject matter experts, private sector actors, and think tank scholars participated.

### **Author Discussion 1 – The Transatlantic Partnership in a Globalized World**

Amb. Volker moderated a panel discussion with authors together with Julianne Smith, Principal Director for Europe and NATO at the Pentagon, Piotr Nowina-Konopka, Director of the European Parliament Liaison Office and Brian Hook, Former Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. The panel covered a broad array of topics central to US-EU cooperation on global challenges, including security and defense, global economic management, and the challenges of the Middle East.

Ms. Smith gave some of the background to former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates’ farewell speech, in which he lamented the “dim, if not dismal” future facing NATO if European nations do not substantially increase their contributions to our shared security. Mr. Nowina-Konopka highlighted the importance of US-EU cooperation and stressed that both sides are individually “too small to solve” the challenges we are facing right now. Mr. Hook drew attention to the security challenges coming from Iran or North Korea as well as to the fiscal side of the military debate.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Pamela Quanrud from the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs and Charles Gati, Senior Adjunct Professor of Russian and Eurasian Studies from SAIS discussed with authors issues related to central Europe.

Ms. Quanrud marked the Hungarian EU Presidency as a tremendous success with a well-organized international agenda and work in the field of regional as well as economic security issues. She addressed the continuity between the Hungarian and Polish Presidencies, including Eastern Partnership and accession talks with the countries in the Balkans. Ms. Quanrud concluded her speech with the parallelism of the Arab Spring and the transition of the post socialist region twenty years ago and highlighted the importance of delivering Central European experiences to the Arab region, while following through on the hard work of reform within Central Europe itself.

Professor Gati noted the dramatic achievements of Europe in the past five – and especially past two – decades. He then highlighted the main components of a systemic crisis now facing the

European integration project. He suggested that the European idea may have peaked and at any rate the EU is now backsliding. Europe needs to recapture the spirit of its founders and reset its priorities.

### **Authors Discussion 2 – Advancing the Eastern Partnership**

The second group of authors covered the achievements and potential deliverables in the EU's Eastern Partnership, and highlighted the leading role of the Central and Eastern European countries in carrying forward this aspect of EU foreign policy. János Terényi, Coordinator for the Eastern Partnership at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Eugeniusz Smolar, Senior Fellow from the Polish Institute of International Affairs, Taras Kuzio, Senior Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS and Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President of the Atlantic Council (as moderator) participated in this panel.

Mr. Terényi put Eastern Partnership into a broader context and described the European Neighborhood Policy, one of the most important EU strategic policies, as a cautious cooperation with both the South and East. Mr. Smolar put emphasis on the Eastern Partnership and gave a detailed analysis of its elements. He also stressed the tasks for the Polish presidency within this field. Mr. Kuzio emphasized the ongoing negotiations between Ukraine and the EU with a special focus on a comprehensive free trade agreement and association agreement.

### **Authors Discussion 3 – Searching for New Progress in the Balkans**

The third authors group covered the Balkans and was kicked off with a keynote speech by former Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak, who had previously served as High Representative in Sarajevo, and is now Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia at the European External Action Service.

Mr. Lajcak provided a detailed comparison between the prospects of the Eastern countries and the Western Balkans outside the borders of the European Union. He highlighted two different policies for these groups: political and economic integration of the East, and the enlargement process for the South. Mr. Lajcak emphasized the challenges each Balkan country faces in its advancement toward EU membership.

The authors' discussion that followed was moderated by James C. O'Brien, Principal of the Albright Stonebridge Group. Vladimir Petrovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States, stressed the tremendous steps forward that have taken place in the Balkans region in the past ten years, including in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. He also emphasized the Serbian government's commitment to EU accession. Ádám Szesztay, Head of Strategic Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, highlighted the EU's shared interest in integrating these countries into the Euro-Atlantic area. Mike Haltzel, Senior Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS focused critically on the steps taken by the EU towards Bosnia-Herzegovina and during the Croatian accession process. Janusz Bugajski, Director of New European Democracies Project at the CSIS, gave an overview of the latest steps and remaining problems of the Balkan countries.

### **Authors Discussion 4 – US-EU Cooperation on Energy Security**

The last authors' topic embraced the common challenges of energy security. Phyllis Yoshida, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy for Asia, Europe and the Americas, described how the US defines a strong Europe in terms of energy: access to a secure, reliable, adequate and affordable supply of oil and fuels for transport, as well serving as a supplier of natural gas and electricity. Ms. Yoshida highlighted the setting of standards and exchange of information as key areas of cooperation between the U.S. and EU. The authors' discussion that followed was moderated by Wess Mitchell, President of the Center for European Policy Analysis. Vladimir Socor, Senior Fellow at the Jamestown Foundation, defined the pursuit of EU energy security as a goal for U.S. policy-making. He highlighted three overarching tasks for Europe: first, to reduce the share of Russian energy supplies in Europe's total consumption; second, to develop a liberalized and integrated EU energy market; and third, to counter political interference in markets through strong law and competition policy enforcement.

Julia Nanay, Senior Director of PFC Energy, emphasized the differences between the energy security of the United States and of Europe: for the United States, the key is diversified access to oil, while for Europe it is natural gas. Ms. Nanay gave a detailed analysis of energy relations concerning Russia. Friedo Sielemann, Counselor for Environment and Energy at the Embassy of Germany, focused on the German perspective of energy security and emphasized the importance of diversification and clear energy concepts.

A closing reception was held at the Embassy of Hungary, with off-the-record concluding remarks delivered by former Assistant Secretary of State and U.S. Ambassador to Poland (and now Special Envoy for Guantanamo Detainee Resettlement), Daniel Fried, and the Center for Transatlantic Relations' Ambassador Kurt Volker.