

Russia and the West: What future for the European Security Architecture and the OSCE?

Concept note

Three years ago, the OSCE commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act (HFA) and the 25th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a new Europe. There had been grand visions for peace and democracy in Europe and hopes that the OSCE would become an effective framework for joint governance of European security. However, the European security order has been characterized by disenchantment and grand crises. In this context Russian-Western relations have been central within the OSCE. Along with the worsening of these relations, Moscow's attitudes towards the OSCE has changed. Today the Russian Federation gives less significance to the Organization in European security. It has lost most of its sense of ownership in the OSCE. Moreover, parallel to the decline of positive Russian interests a negative attitude can be observed towards the organization's activities in post-Soviet countries. This is caused not only by its inability to push its interests through the OSCE, but also by the declining interest of other participating States in the Organization.

This change in Russian attitudes is critical for the Organisation's future, as the OSCE without active Russian participation would lose much of its sense of existence. The fate of the OSCE depends on Russia's willingness not to break the single European security organisation where its place and role are fully legitimate as well as on the political value that the West would attach to this organisation.

Bearing this context in mind, the roundtable meeting would aim (1) to re-contextualize both the OSCE's origins and its contemporary relevance, (2) to understand what – if anything – does the Russian Federation still want from the OSCE and (3) discuss the tensions and divergences between Russia and the West regarding conflict prevention and management in the post-Soviet space, in order to understand to what extent Russia's exclusion (as a result of the West's policy of containment) or self-exclusion now constitutes a structural factor in the security politics of the wider Europe.

Which role has the OSCE been playing in European security? Does the OSCE still serve as a forum for dialog? How has Russia's relationship and role with/within the OSCE developed throughout the years? How do the conflicts in the post-Soviet space affect Russia's OSCE policy and what does it mean for the OSCE? What are the prospects for re-shaping this order to give meaning to partnership and shared security governance?

In order to discuss above described issues, the initiative would provide a platform for a round-table discussion among European and Russian experts.

25 June 2018 – 13:00-16:30

Room Grosse Reitschule
Imperial Riding School Reinassance Vienna Hotel
Ungargasse 60 – Vienna

- 13:00 - 13:45 **Registration and welcome lunch**
13:45 - 14:00 **Welcome and Introduction**
 Alessandro Azzoni Ambassador, Head of Delegation, Permanent Representative, 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship
 Nathalie Tocci Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, and Special Adviser to EU High Representative Federica Mogherini
- 14:00 - 16:30 **Roundtable discussion**
 Facilitator: **Nathalie Tocci**

Russian participants

Alexander Baunov Senior Fellow, Carnegie Moscow Center

Timofei Bordachev Programme Director of the Valdai Discussion Club, and Director, Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies, National Research University Higher School of Economics

Alexey Gromyko Director, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences

Andrey Kortunov Director General, Russian International Affairs Council

Andrey Makarychev Visiting Professor, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu

Dmitry Suslov Deputy Director for Research, Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, and Member, Valdai Discussion Club

Sergei Utkin Head, Department of Strategic Assessment at the Centre for Situation Analysis, Russian Academy of Sciences

Andrey Zagorskiy Director, Department of Disarmament and Conflict Resolution, IMEMO

European participants

Dana Allin Senior Fellow for US Foreign Policy and Transatlantic Affairs, International Institute for Strategic Studies

Elena Korosteleva Professor of International Politics, Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics, University of Kent

Nona Mikhelidze Head of the Eastern Europe and Eurasia Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali

Arkady Moshes Programme Director, The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia Research Programme, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Kristi Raik Director, Estonian Foreign Policy Institute, International Centre for Defence and Security

James Sherr Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

Ivan Vejvoda Director of Europe Project and Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences

Fredrik Wesslau Deputy Head of Mission, The European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine

Andrew Wilson Professor in Ukrainian Studies, University College London, and Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations