



IN THE FACE OF WAR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE PRAGUE | 14 NOV 2023

PROGRAMME

The "In the Face of war - European Dialogue" project, initiated by the French Institute of Paris, aims to initiate a series of meetings and debates between Europeans on the consequences of the war in Ukraine. These events, which will be held throughout Europe on a recurring basis, aim to support public debate by bringing together professionals from the fields of research, think tanks, media, culture and the general public, on the one hand, and by highlighting the local contexts in which opinions are expressed, on the other.

This initiative marks France's determination to move forward with the European project in a spirit of dialogue and openness. Two initial events are scheduled for the autumn, including the project launch at Profesní Dům in Prague on Tuesday November 14, starting at 5:30pm.





**IN THE FACE OF WAR
EUROPEAN DIALOGUE
PRAGUE | 14 NOV 2023**

OPENING WORDS (5.30PM/6.00PM)

**Eva VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ,
Vice-Rector for International Affairs of Charles University**

**Alexis DUTERTRE,
Ambassador of France to the Czech Republic**

**Martin VOKÁLEK,
Director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy**

**Mats BRAUN,
Director of the Institute of International Relations Prague**



IN THE FACE OF WAR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE PRAGUE | 14 NOV 2023

PANEL 1 - EUROPEAN UNITY FACING THE WAR (18h00/19h15)

The European Union has responded effectively and in a united fashion to the war of aggression launched by Russia in Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Despite varying positions among the Member States, support for Ukraine has remains steadfast and European leaders regularly reaffirm their enduring commitment to the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, the sea changes caused by the return of war to Europe are immense, and the Union must face up to multiple challenges in terms of security, economics, energy, geopolitics, etc. Current events in the Middle East are obviously reshuffling the cards of the international order and calling into question the European Union's place in the global balance and its foundations and values. In this period of great instability, is European stability at risk? Could citizens become even more distracted from the issues of solidarity and cohesion that are the hallmark of the Union? What unity can be preserved - and how - as a new period of enlargement opens up to new countries?





IN THE FACE OF WAR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE PRAGUE | 14 NOV 2023

DEBAT 1 - EUROPEAN UNITY FACING THE WAR (18h00/19h15)

David CVACH (FRANCE),

Director for the European Union at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs



David Cvach has been Director of European Affairs at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs since September 2020. Previously, from June 2017 to August 2020, he was the French Ambassador to Sweden. Between August 2015 and May 2017, he was appointed advisor to French President François Hollande on North African and Middle Eastern issues, echoing his previous positions (second advisor to the French Embassy in Iran between 2006 and 2009 and advisor to the French Embassy in the United States on the same issue between 2009 and 2013). This specialist in European, African and Eastern dynamics is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) and Sciences Po Paris.

Carlota GARCIA ENCINA (SPAIN),

Senior Analyst for the US and the Transatlantic Relations, Elcano Royal Institute

Carlota Garcia Encina is a senior analyst of relations between the United States and the Transatlantic regions at the Royal Elcano Institute and a professor of International Relations. With a Master in Security and Defense from the Center for National Defense Studies (CESEDEN) and the Complutense University of Madrid, she is an expert in rapid geopolitical assistance and aid, as well as in all aspects of cooperation teams created for conflict prevention, a skill she later perfected at the University of California-San Diego.



Jaroslav KURFÜRST (CZECH REPUBLIC),

Director General for European Issues, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Jaroslav Kurfürst, Ph.D. is a Director General for Europe from January 2023. Before he worked as a Deputy Minister for Europe from July 2022 and Special envoy for the Eastern Partnership. He joined Czech diplomacy in 1997 and participated at the integration of Czechia to NATO, later held various managerial positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the fields of security policy or CFSP. He also served at Czech embassies in Moscow, Washington and Brussels. In parallel, he pursued the academic path in political geography. He is the author of several publications from the field of security policy and political geography, and lately was the main editor of the collective monography "Behind the Mirror; Hybrid war as old-new phenomenon of international relations" (2022). He is also Member of the Department of social geography and regional development at the University of Ostrava.



IN THE FACE OF WAR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE PRAGUE | 14 NOV 2023

DEBAT 1 - EUROPEAN UNITY FACING THE WAR (18h00/19h15)

Oleksandra MATVIICHUK (UKRAINE),

President of the Centre for Civil Liberties and winner of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize



Oleksandra Matviichuk heads the human rights organization Centre for Civil Liberties, which was awarded the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize. The activities of the Center for Civil Liberties aim to guarantee human rights and the establishment of democracy in Ukraine and the OSCE countries. Oleksandra Matviichuk also coordinates the work of the Euromaidan SOS initiative group, created in response to the brutal repression of a peaceful student rally in Kiev in 2013. Since the start of Russian aggression in Ukraine, this initiative has been involved in monitoring political persecution in occupied Crimea. Oleksandra Matviichuk is the author of several alternative reports for various bodies of the UN, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the OSCE and the International Criminal Court.

Luuk VAN MIDDELAAR (NETHERLANDS),

Professor, historian and political philosopher, Brussels Institute for Geopolitics

Internationally renowned Dutch historian and thinker, Luuk VAN MIDDELAAR is specialized in European politics, and in particular the foundations and practices of the European Union and its institutions, which is one of the courses he teaches at Leiden University (the Netherlands). From December 2009 to 2014, he was a member of the cabinet of Herman Van Rompuy, the first full-time President of the European Council. Combining politics and Europe, his two best-known publications are his thesis, published under the title Politicide, and his book The Passage to Europe, translated into almost every European language and tackling themes perfectly in tune with the proposed debate, such as European unity or the European entity/identity.



MODERATOR : Laurent MARCHAND (FRANCE),

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of European and International Affairs at Ouest-France



Laurent Marchand, born in Rennes in 1963, holds a Master degree in modern literature. Before becoming a journalist, he worked as a teacher, translator and interpreter in Rome. He then became Radio France's Italian and Vatican correspondent from 1992 to 2008 (under the name Laurent Morino), where he took part in many of Pope John Paul II's trips (Cuba, India, Holy Land, Poland, USA, Lithuania etc.). Since 2008, he has held the position of foreign policy editorialist at Ouest-France, in the newspaper's Paris office. He also works in the editorial department on international editorial partnerships (notably with the German press group Funke) and is in charge of training the group's journalists in European issues.



IN THE FACE OF WAR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE PRAGUE | 14 NOV 2023

PANEL 2 - RECONNECTING NARRATIVES IN EUROPE (7.15PM/8.30PM)

Where is Europe when you are in Vilnius or Athens, Belgrade or Amsterdam, Prague or Kyiv? What are the historical figures, the shared narratives, the places of memory that we call upon to refer to European roots and a European future? Does it tell its own story through its relationship with the past that makes up its present, the peace it has managed to establish within the borders of the EU, or the economic integration, mobility and technical networks offered by European structures? While these questions are not new, the Russian invasion of Ukraine highlighted major differences in perception of the EU's relationship with its eastern neighbourhood and, by extension, a lack of understanding of the regional contexts specific to its nations and their historical foundations. So how can we work towards a better mutual understanding of the narratives that make up the European Union, while at the same time respecting the concerns and tensions that arise on both sides of the Old Continent? How can we think today about the role of this "civilisation of transgression" that is Europe (Pomian) when the temptation to withdraw is manifesting itself within the EU and beyond? What role can geopolitical experts and scientists play in these debates, and what impact can their voices have in an ultra-connected world?





IN THE FACE OF WAR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE PRAGUE | 14 NOV 2023

PANEL 2 - RECONNECTING NARRATIVES IN EUROPE (7.15PM/8.30PM)

Christine CADOT (FRANCE),

Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University Paris 8



Christine Cadot is a lecturer in Political Science at Paris 8 University, and director of the CRESPPA research laboratory (Paris 8, Paris Nanterre, CNRS). Her research and work focus on the politics of commemoration, dominant and counter-narratives, alternative narratives, and visual and symbolic representations of the European Union (Mémoires politiques européennes, Presses universitaires de Vincennes, 2019; Pantheonised Europe. Official and ordinary representations of Europe in Paris, HDR manuscript, 2022).

Thomas GOMART (FRANCE),

Director of the French Institute of International Relations

Doctor in the history of international relations (Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne) and EMBA graduate (HEC), Thomas Gomart has been Director of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) since 2015, after having been Director of Strategic Development (2010-2015) and Director of the Russia/Nei Center (2004-2013). His current work focuses on Russia, digital governance, French foreign policy, and think tanks. He recently published *L'affolement du monde - 10 enjeux géopolitiques*, Editions Tallandier, 2019 (Prix Louis-Marin; Prix du Livre de géopolitique). Thomas Gomart was a member of the editorial board of the *Revue stratégique de défense et de sécurité nationale* 2017, placed under the authority of the Minister of the Armed Forces. He is a member of the IHEDN scientific council and the editorial board of *Politique étrangère*, *Revue des deux mondes* and *Etudes*, for which he writes the international column. Thomas Gomart is also named Chevalier de l'ordre national du mérite..



Kateřina KRÁLOVÁ (CZECH REPUBLIC),

Head of the Research Centre for Memory Studies, IIS FSS CUNI



Kateřina Králová is Associate Professor of Contemporary History and Head of the Research Centre for Memory Studies. Her work focuses on reconciliation with the Nazi past, the Holocaust, the Greek Civil War, post-war reconstruction, and conflict-related migration. K. Králová, an alumna of Phillips University Marburg, has been awarded major international fellowships, including the Alexander von Humboldt, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute, a USHMM fellowship, and a Fulbright Fellowship at Yale University, and has thus conducted a substantial part of her research abroad. Králová is, among other things, one of the founders of the Herzl Center for Israel Studies at CUNI, the 4EU+ Alliance research cluster "Plurality of Memories in Europe in Global Perspective," the CENTRAL project "Institutionalizing Memory in Post-Conflict Societies", and a leadership member of the COST-Action Slow Memory.



IN THE FACE OF WAR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE PRAGUE | 14 NOV 2023

PANEL 2 - RECONNECTING NARRATIVES IN EUROPE (7.15PM/8.30PM)

Kristupas SABOLIUS (LITHUANIA),
Philosopher and Professor of Philosophy at Vilnius University



Kristupas Sabolius is Professor of Philosophy at Vilnius University in Lithuania and Research Associate at MIT. His latest English-written publications include *On the Real* (2021, ed. Kristupas Sabolius, LAPAS books), *Matter and Imagination. Hybrid Creativity between Science and Art* (2018, Vilnius University Press, ed.), *Proteus and the Radical Imaginary* (2015, Bunkier Sztuki, CAC) *The Imaginary* (2013, Vilnius University Press), highlighting the contradictory function of imagination between Western and Indigenous thought. In addition, he took part in the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale in 2018 and has also practiced writing short stories and screenplays, including *The Gambler* (2014) and *Invisible* (2019), both co-written with director Ignas Jonynas.

MODERATOR : Mateusz CHMURSKI (FRANCE/POLAND),
Director of the CEFRES in Prague

Mateusz Chmurski is the current Director of CEFRES (Centre Français de Recherche en Sciences Sociales) in Prague, as well as Senior Lecturer at the UFR d'Etudes Slaves in the Faculty of Letters at Sorbonne University in Paris. His work focuses on Central European literature in a comparative approach, with a strong emphasis on self-writing, expressions of corporality and the evolution of the social and literary norms that accompany them. As such, his latest publication is: *Diary, fiction, identity(ies). Central European literary modernities (1880/1920) through the works of Csáth, Irzykowski and Klíma* (2018).

