



The Hague Institute
for Global Justice



SLOVAK PRESIDENCY
2014/2015 OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP

DYNAMIC VISEGRAD

The Fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989

25 Years after the Political Transition from Communism to Democracy in Central Europe

The fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 went down in History as the first stage of the Communism downfall and new period of political transition to democracy in Central Europe. However, as this dramatic change came unexpectedly, several elements need to be further analyzed. What were the main features (political, economic, social) or parameters that caused it? How were new democratic institutions created? Did this revolution affect their new institutions and political leaders? Was the new period of political transition to democracy in Central Europe smooth? What about the expected outcomes? Did the citizens of those countries face some disillusionments after the enthusiasm of the revolution?

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of this historical moment, The Hague Institute for Global Justice, in partnership with the 2014/2015 Slovak Presidency of the Visegrad Group, will host a panel debate with experts from Central European countries to answer those questions and draw from the Political transition to Democracy some useful lessons for other countries in a similar situation. It will be also the occasion to discuss the link between liberty and democracy, the young people perception of it as well as its useful elements to prevent dictatorship from coming back into power.

Date Wednesday, 5 November 2014
Time 17:00 – 18.30
Venue The Hague Institute for Global Justice
Sophialaan 10, 2514 JR The Hague
Meeting Room 1



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Program

Time	Session
16.30-16.55	Registration
17.00-17.10	Welcome Remarks by Dr. Abi Williams, President of The Hague Institute
17.10-18.10	Expert Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Martin Bútora, Foreign Policy Advisor to President of Slovak Republic and Honorary President of the Institute for Public Affairs and Program Director of the 'European Integration and Transatlantic Relations' Program, Slovak Republic- Prof. Dr. Artur Nowak-Far, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Poland- Mr. Gergely Próhle, Deputy State Secretary for International and EU Affairs, Ministry of Human Capacities, Hungary- Dr. Alexandr Vondra, Director of the Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations, Czech Republic- <u>Moderator</u>: Dr. Abi Williams
18.10-18.30	Q&A
18.30-19.00	Reception

Welcome Remarks



Dr. Abiodun Williams was appointed the first President of The Hague Institute for Global Justice on 1 January 2013. From 2008 to 2012 he served at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, DC, first as Vice President of the Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention, and later as Senior Vice President of the Center for Conflict Management leading its work in major conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Tunisia and Egypt.

From 2001 to 2007 Dr. Williams was Director of Strategic Planning for United Nations Secretaries-General Ban Ki-Moon and Kofi Annan in New York. He gained valuable field operational experience, serving with the United Nations from 1994 to 2000 in peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and Haiti, in senior political and humanitarian roles. He served as Associate Dean of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University in Washington, DC, and held faculty appointments at Georgetown, Rochester, and Tufts universities, winning several awards.

Dr. Williams is the Chair of the Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS), and a member of the Executive Board of the Institute for Global Leadership at Tufts. He has published widely on conflict prevention and management. He holds MAs from Edinburgh University and The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a Doctorate in International Relations from the latter.

Panelists



Mr. Martin Bútora is Foreign Policy Advisor to President of Slovak Republic and Honorary President of the Institute for Public Affairs and Program Director of 'European Integration and Transatlantic Relations' Program. He has worked as a university teacher, diplomat and Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States (1999-2003).

Mr. Bútora is a graduate of the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia, holding a degree in sociology. In November 1989, Mr. Bútora was one of the founders of the political movement Public against Violence.

In 1990- 1992, he was Human Rights Advisor to President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic Václav Havel and Director of the Human Rights Section in the Office of the President. In the early 1990s, he lectured at Charles University in Prague (where he holds a position of Professor Habilis since 1992) and later at the Department of Political Science, Trnava University (1993 - 1998).

In 1997, he co-founded the Institute for Public Affairs and served as its first president. Mr. Bútora is an author of three works of fiction, several TV programs and film scripts and translations of theatrical plays. In 1999, National Endowment for Democracy awarded him Democracy Service Medal. In 2000 he received Ján Papánek medal and in 2002 a Celebration of Freedom Award by the American Jewish Committee. In the same

year, he received the Order of Ľudovít Štúr for his contribution to defense of human rights and development of civil society from President of the Slovak Republic.



Prof. Dr. Artur Nowak-Far

Prof. Dr. Artur Nowak-Far is Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland responsible for treaties and legal matters. He is professor of EU law. Previously he served Polish government i.a. as a member of the college of the Supreme Chamber of Auditors and advisor to the Minister of Agriculture. His research concentrates on the EU institutions, public administration in Europe and strategic management. He published 8 books and over 200 scientific articles in Poland, Denmark, France, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and the USA.



Mr. Gergely Próhle is Deputy State Secretary for International and EU Affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary.

From 1988 he worked for numerous electronic and printed media (Hungarian Radio, *Heti Válasz*, *Figyelő*) as an editor-leader-writer. He taught at the Foreign Languages Department of the Eötvös Lóránd University of Arts. He was the director of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation from 1992 until 1998. During the term of the first Orbán-cabinet he was the Administrative State Secretary of the Ministry for National Cultural Heritage, and later – during the second half of the term – he was Hungary’s Ambassador to Germany. He served as an Ambassador to Switzerland in 2003-2005. In 2005-2006, he was a Deputy Head of Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was a Senior Consultant with Roland Berger Strategy Consultants in 2006-2010 and Deputy State Secretary for EU Bilateral Relations, Press and Cultural Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 2010 and 2014.

Mr. Próhle received his diploma in 1989 at the Faculty of Humanities of the Eötvös Lóránd University of Arts, majoring in Hungarian and German language and literature. Since 2006, he has been the National Superintendent of the Lutheran Church in Hungary.



Dr. Alexandr Vondra (PhD in geography, Charles University, Prague) is the Director of the Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations at the CEVRO Institute College in Prague. He is also Honorary President of the Czech Atlantic Commission, Member of the Board of The Czech-German Discussion Forum, and the member of the Council of the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformers in Brussels.

Between 2006 and 2012 he was the Senator in the Czech Parliament (Civic Democratic Party ODS). He served as Foreign Policy Advisor to President Havel (1990 - 1992), the First Deputy Foreign Minister (1992 - 1997), the Czech Ambassador to the U.S. (1997 - 2001), Czech Government Commissioner for 2002 Prague NATO Summit, the Czech Foreign Minister (2006 - 2007), Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs (2007 - 2009) and Minister of Defense (2010 - 2012).

In 1989, he was the spokesman for Charter 77 and co-founder of the Civic Forum in Czechoslovakia. With his wife Martina he has a son and two daughters.