

Conference

Lessons in democracy since 1989: A source of inspiration for Ukraine and Tunisia? Václav Havel European Dialogue Conference

Organisers: Czech Centre Brussels, European Partnership for Democracy, Václav Havel Library, Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU

Venue: Room A1G-3, European Parliament, Brussels

Date: 13th November 2014, 12:30 - 16:15

This year the Czech Republic, together with nine other EU Member States, celebrates 10 years of EU membership. This decade was preceded by many years of preparation to the accession, which transformed the countries and fostered their democratic transitions. This experience is often called “the return to Europe” and warrants sharing in a context of the numerous democratic transitions in the EU neighbourhood.

The objective of this second edition conference commemorating Václav Havel’s work is to examine what the EU means to neighbouring countries in terms of democratic development. Inspired by the 2013 edition, this event will be an opportunity to look at two concrete examples of countries currently in transition, Ukraine and Tunisia, each of which held crucial elections on the 26th October 2014.

Each panel will be introduced by a member of the European Parliament and representatives from civil society who will share their thoughts on the experience of democratic transition. This will pave the way for a discussion on how to take advantage of these often hard-learned lessons and offer the support of democratic transitions in other countries and thus carry on Václav Havel’s vision and legacy. Panellists for both countries will also share their experience of observing recent elections.

Programme

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| 12.30 – 13.00 | Registration |
| 13.00 – 13.15 | Welcome and Opening remarks H.E. Ambassador Martin Povejšil , Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU |
| 13.15 – 13.30 | Keynote address: Boris Tadić , Former President of Serbia |
| | Panel discussions Moderator: Nicolas Rougy , Executive Director, European Partnership for Democracy |
| 13.30 - 14.15 | Czech Republic What the EU has meant to the Czech Republic prior to accession and since membership was attained in 2004? Did the accession prospects really help the democratic transition process and where does the country stand now? Opening remarks: Pavel Svoboda , Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs Karel Kovanda , Former Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN and NATO Jan Macháček , Journalist, former dissident, Chairman of the Board of the Václav Havel Library |
| 14.15 – 14.30 | Coffee break |
| 14.30 - 15.15 | Ukraine A look at the meaning of the EU to a country in the Eastern Neighbourhood. It is clear that there is a desire from a large section of the population to join the EU. What does the EU bring to Ukraine? Has the EU helped democratic development? The panel will look at the future in light of the 26 th October elections. Opening remarks and panellist: Kati Piri , Member of the European Parliament Iryna Schvets , Civic Network OPORA and Olga Kotsiuruba , Civic Network OPORA |
| 15.15 – 16.00 | Tunisia A look at the current situation in Tunisia and the meaning of the EU to Tunisians. Tunisia does not have a stated desire of joining the EU, so what can the EU bring for Tunisia, if not membership? Does the EU aid democratic development and how? The panel will look at the future in light of the 26 th October elections. Opening remarks and panellist: Jordi Sebastià , Member of the European Parliament Abdeljelil Bedoui , Vice-President, Forum Tunisien de Droits Économiques et Sociaux Achraf Aouadi , President, i-Watch Association |
| 16.00 – 16.15 | Closing remarks |