

# Czech Republic and Poland: perspectives on the EU membership

*Public debate organized by the Association for International Affairs (AMO) in cooperation with the Centre for Political Thought. This project is supported by the Czech-Polish Forum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.*

**Thursday, 22 October 2020, 18:00 - 19:30**

Online public debate - for details, please see [the Facebook event](#)

## Program

Although the public support for the EU was strong both in Poland and in the Czech Republic when they joined the European Union, their positions towards the EU differ significantly nowadays. While the Czechs belong to the biggest eurosceptics and only 46 % are satisfied with their EU membership, almost 90 % of Poles claim that they are supporters of the EU.

These differences are reflected also in attitudes of both countries towards the European integration and their role in the process. The majority of the Czech citizens is convinced that the Czech Republic can not influence anything on the EU level - and in many cases, the Czech politicians support this view. On the other hand, the Polish attitude is much more active, with the Prime Minister claiming he wants to “help the EU in its reforms”.

This event aims to contribute to the discussion about the Czech-Polish perspectives on the EU and their cooperation in the EU. It will enable an exchange of opinions between the Czech and Polish experts on current developments of the mutual bilateral relations, as well as of the European project, and help identify areas where mutual cooperation could be strengthened.

The 90-minute expert roundtable should focus on the following questions:

- What role should Poland and the Czech Republic play in the process of shaping new EU architecture and what are their preferences? How can they take advantage of the Visegrad cooperation and how could they overcome its negative image?
- What priorities and reforms should the countries push for in the upcoming Conference on the Future of Europe?
- What direction is the EU heading in the post-pandemic era and is it in the interest of the Czech Republic and Poland?

- In which areas is there a common ground for cooperation in the European Council? Which position should the Czech Republic promote regarding the rule of law discussions?

## Speakers

- Helena Chmielewska-Szlajfer (Kozminski University, Warsaw)
- Anna Pacześniak (University of Wrocław)
- Jiří Schneider (former Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Central Europe and diplomat)
- Paweł Zerka (European Council on Foreign Relations - ECFR)

## Organizer

**AMO** is a non-governmental not-for-profit Prague-based organization founded in 1997. Its main aim is to promote research and education in the field of international relations. AMO facilitates expression and realization of ideas, thoughts, and projects in order to increase education, mutual understanding, and tolerance among people.

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