

# HAVEL @ 80

Václav Havel European Dialogues 2016, Brussels

Title of the conference:

**"Havel's Power of the Powerless:  
How can the EU connect better with its people"**

Organisers:

Václav Havel Library, Prague  
Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU  
Embassy of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium  
Czech Centre in Brussels  
Goethe-Institut

Under the Auspices of:

Věra Jourová, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers  
and Gender Equality  
Pavel Svoboda, Member of European Parliament, EPP

Where:

Breydel Auditorium, Avenue d'Auderghem 45, Brussels

When:

8th November 2016 (18:00-20:30)

RSVP:

[petrakova@czech.cz](mailto:petrakova@czech.cz) (by 4th November 2016)

Photo: Jiří Jiroušek, Václav Havel, Praha 2006

## Programme:

17:45 Registration

18:00 Opening of the conference:

Věra Jourová, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

Pavel Svoboda, Member of European Parliament, EPP

Martin Povejšil, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU

Jaroslav Kurfürst, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium

18:15 First Panel: " Václav Havel's legacy for the Europe of citizens: what story for Europe? "

Karel Schwarzenberg / Markus Meckel / Martin Bútora

Moderator: Michael Žantovský

One of Václav Havel's legacies was his civic engagement based on his sense of responsibility for the future of the society and the country he was a part of. As a convinced European, he stressed the need to maintain the connection between the state and its institutions, and its people. For him politics was an ongoing, deeply meaningful dialogue comparable to a theatre piece. The EU reflecting the values he was fighting for needs to generate stories which would address people's concerns and dreams. It should avoid being perceived as a de-personalized structure. How to introduce the "Europe of stories"? How can we bring the EU closer to the people and protect it from populism? What stories do Europeans expect from the EU? How can the EU emphasize its original contribution for peace?

19:15 Second Panel: " The war for the European soul: Europe between politics and civil society "

Herman Van Rompuy / Ana Palacio / Jiří Příbáň

Moderator: Michael Žantovský

Increased popular discontent in the EU countries with the associated symptoms of populism, confusion and emotionality in public discourse has led to the crisis of trust of European citizens in the future of the EU, manifested, i.a. by the outcome of the referendum in the UK. At the same time, the EU clearly needs the self-reflection and rethinking of the connection between the world of the EU institutions and member states, between politics and civil society, high politics and low politics, elites and ordinary people. What can the European leaders and the EU institutions do to change the dynamics? What should be changed? How to address popular concerns and reassure people?

Glass of wine



### **Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality**

Věra Jourová is currently European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before arriving to the European Commission, Ms. Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. Previous to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding, and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. She holds a Degree in Law (Mgr.) and a Master's degree (Mgr.) in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague.



### **Pavel Svoboda, Member of European Parliament, EPP**

Pavel Svoboda graduated in law at the Charles University, Prague, and in European law at the University of Social Sciences, Toulouse. He comes from an academic background; as a Professor of European law at the Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague, he has been following developments in EU law for the past 20 years. His former experience includes Attorney of Law, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe, and Minister and Chairman of the Legislative Council of the Czech Republic. MEP since 2014.



### **Martin Povejšil, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU**

Ambassador Martin Povejšil took up the post of the Czech Permanent Representative to the EU in 2012. Prior to that, he served as the Czech Ambassador to NATO since August 2009. Throughout his career, Ambassador Povejšil has held a variety of senior posts in the Czechoslovak and Czech Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as in diplomatic missions abroad. His professional portfolio has comprised development issues and bilateral relations as well as European and security affairs and multilateral diplomacy.



### **Jaroslav Kurfürst, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium**

Jaroslav Kurfürst joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in 1997. Before being appointed to his current position in 2014, Ambassador Jaroslav Kurfürst served as General Director for European Affairs (2011-2014) and as Director of Security Policy Department (2004-2005) and Common Foreign and Security Policy Department (2009-2011) at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His foreign service career includes also different diplomatic posts at the Czech Embassies in Moscow and Washington.



### **Karel Schwarzenberg, Member of the Parliament of the Czech Republic**

Karel Schwarzenberg is former First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Between 1984 and 1990, he was President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. From 1990 to 1992 Mr. Schwarzenberg served as President Václav Havel's chancellor. Currently he is a Member of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.



### **Martin Bútora, sociologist, Advisor to President Andrej Kiska**

Co-founder of Public Against Violence movement in Bratislava (November 1989) and former advisor for human rights to Czechoslovak President Václav Havel (1990-1992). In 1999-2003, he was Slovak Ambassador to the U.S. Since 2014, he is the advisor to Slovak President Andrej Kiska. Also, he is the co-founder and honorary chairman of the Institute for Public Affairs in Bratislava. He taught at Charles University in Prague, Trnava University and University of Economics in Bratislava and is an author of several books and studies on civil society, democracy and foreign policy.



**Markus Meckel, theologian, politician, Chairman of the ENRS Advisory Board**

Since the 1970s Markus Meckel was involved in the opposition in the German Democratic Republic and became the first democratically elected Foreign Minister of the GDR in April 1990. As a member of the German Bundestag (1990-2009) he focused on European politics, security issues and Eastern Partnership. In October 2013 he was nominated President of the German War Graves Commission. Furthermore, Mr. Meckel is chairman of the Council of the Federal Foundation for the Reappraisal of the SED Dictatorship, co-chairman of the Council of the Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation and chairman of the Advisory Board of European Network Remembrance and Solidarity.



**Herman Van Rompuy, President Emeritus of the European Council**

Elected as the first full-time President of the European Council in November 2009, Herman Van Rompuy took office when the Lisbon Treaty came into force on 1 December 2009. In 2012, he was re-elected for a second term and running until 30 November 2014. Herman Van Rompuy was Prime Minister of Belgium (2008-2009). Prior to that he had served in Belgium as Speaker of the House of Representatives (2007-2008) and in several government positions, such as Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Budget (1993-1999). He was designated Minister of State (2004) and Secretary of State for Finance and Small Businesses (1988).



**Ana Palacio, international lawyer specializing in international and European Union law**

Ana Palacio serves on the Council of State of Spain. She is a visiting professor at the Edmund E. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Ms. Palacio was a member of the European Parliament (1994-2002) where among others she chaired the Legal Affairs and Internal Market Committee. She served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain (2002-2004) and was a member of the Spanish Parliament (2004-2006) where she chaired the Joint Committee of the two Houses for European Union Affairs. She has been Senior Vice-President and General Counsel of the World Bank Group and Secretary General of ICSID (2006-2008).



**Jiří Přibáň, Professor of law and Director of the Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff University**

Jiří Přibáň is author and editor of numerous books in English and Czech, most recently the SLSA (Socio-Legal Studies Association) award winning monograph *Sovereignty in Post-Sovereign Society* (2015), *Self-Constitution of Europe* (editor, 2016), *Legal Symbolism* (2007), *Liquid Society and Its Law* (editor, 2007), *Systems of Justice in Transition* (co-editor, 2003), *Dissidents of Law* (2002), *Law's New Boundaries* (co-editor 2001) and *The Rule of Law in Central Europe* (co-editor, 1999). He is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Law and Society* and regularly contributes to the Czech and European media.



**Michael Žantovský, Executive Director of the Václav Havel Library**

Michael Žantovský is executive director of the Václav Havel Library and a diplomat, politician, writer and translator. He is the Vice-President of the Aspen Institute Prague, member of the Forum 2000 Foundation Program Council, former Chairman of the Civic Democratic Alliance and senator of the Civic Democratic Alliance in the Parliament of the Czech Republic; former Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Kingdom, the United States and the State of Israel. He was also the spokesman of President Václav Havel and political director at the Office of the President of the Czech Republic. His biography of his long-time friend Václav Havel, *Havel: A Life*, was published in November 2014.