

**Pierre Vimont, Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe**

Pierre Vimont is a senior fellow at Carnegie Europe. His research focuses on the European Neighborhood Policy, transatlantic relations, and French foreign policy. From March 2016 to January 2017, Vimont served as the special envoy for the French initiative for a Middle East Peace Conference. Prior to joining Carnegie, Vimont was the first executive secretary-general of the European External Action Service (EEAS). He holds the title, Ambassador of France, a dignity bestowed for life to only a few French career diplomats. Vimont speaks French, English, and Spanish and is a knight of the French National Order of Merit. He holds a degree in law from Pantheon-Sorbonne University, and is a graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies and the National School of Administration (ENA).



**Alexandr Vondra, Director of Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations at CEVRO Institute College in Prague**

In 1990-1992, Mr. Vondra served as foreign policy advisor to President Vaclav Havel. Between 1997-2001, Mr. Vondra served as the Czech Ambassador to the United States. In 2006 - 2012, he was elected Senator for the center right ODS (Civic Democratic Party) in the Czech Parliament. In 2006 - 2007, he was the Czech Minister for Foreign Affairs and afterwards he was serving as the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs. In this capacity, he was responsible for preparation of the Czech Presidency in the EU Council. Between 2010 and 2012, he was serving as the Czech Minister of Defense. In 1985 Alexandr Vondra earned the degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (RNDr.) from the Charles University in Prague.



**Jan Erik Surotchak, Regional Director for Europe, IRI**

Jan Surotchak first joined International Republican Institute in 1994 and currently serves as regional director for Europe. In this position he oversees IRI programming in the Baltic States, Central and Southeastern Europe, and Turkey, as well as outreach efforts to partner parties in Western Europe and institutions at the European Union level. Surotchak has taken part in numerous election observation missions and political assessments around the world for IRI, among others in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or China. He earned a master's in law and diplomacy degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in USA.



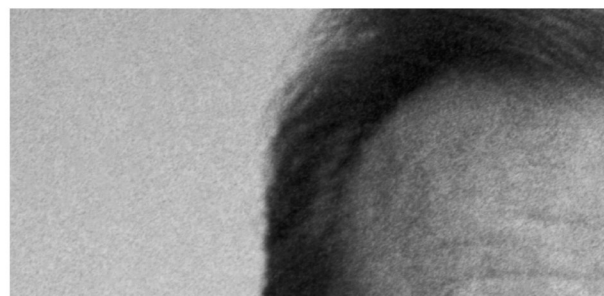
**Ian Lesser, Vice President for Foreign Policy, GMF**

Ian Lesser is vice president for Foreign Policy at The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). He also serves as executive director of the Transatlantic Center, the Brussels office of GMF, and leads GMF's work on the Mediterranean, Turkey, and the wider Atlantic. A frequent commentator for international media, he has written extensively on foreign and security policy issues. Dr. Lesser was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, the London School of Economics, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and received his PhD from Oxford University. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and the Pacific Council on International Policy.



**Petr Kolář, Senior Advisor at Squire Patton Boggs, Prague**

Petr Kolář is a Czech formal diplomat and public figure. Mr. Kolář served as Ambassador to Russia, United States, Ireland and Sweden. He has also held numerous positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2003 to 2005, he was Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Bilateral Relations. In 1999, Petr Kolář also worked as an advisor for European integration and the Balkans to President Václav Havel. In 2013 he served as Director of Foreign Affairs for the PPF Group, where he primarily focused on Asia. He is currently a senior advisor to the law firm of Squire Patton Boggs in Prague. Petr Kolář graduated from Charles University in Prague in 1986 with PhD in information technology, library science and ethnography.



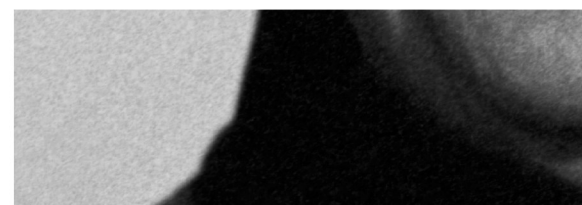
# The Trans-Atlantic Dream of a Free World: Still Relevant?



**First Panel:**  
**America and Europe: Do They Still Have a Dream in Common?**  
Heather Conley / Pierre Vimont / Alexandr Vondra

**Second Panel:**  
**What Agenda for Europeans and Americans?**  
Jan Surotchak / Ian Lesser / Petr Kolář

**Hosted by: Michael Žantovský**



**14<sup>th</sup> November 2017**  
**18:00 - 20:30**

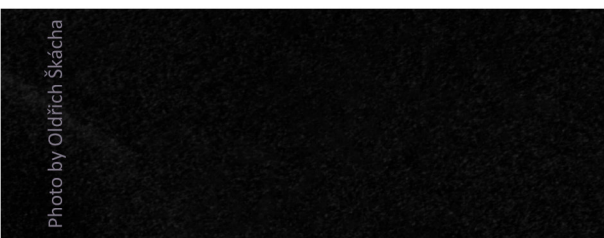


Photo by Oldřich Škácha

**BOZAR, Rotonde Bertouille, Rue Ravenstein 23**  
**1000 Brussels**

PROGRAMME:

17:45 Registration

18:00 Opening of the conference:

Tamara Katuščák, Chargé d'affaires a. i., Embassy of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium  
Martin Povejšil, Head of the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU  
Ian Lesser, Vice President for Foreign Policy, German Marshall Fund Brussels

18:15 First Panel: America and Europe: Do They Still Have a Dream in Common?

Heather Conley / Pierre Vimont / Alexandr Vondra  
moderator of the discussion: Michael Žantovský

Enlarging the area of freedom and democracy had been for a long time a common dream of Europeans and Americans which came true with the fall of the Iron Curtain. The transatlantic twins entered together into a new century with common narratives focused around the liberal institutional order expressed by the Atlantic institutions and the EU enlargement. While the new US administration questions the value of the EU as a privileged partner, common civilizational values and democratic political culture arguably still form a basis of the relationship between Americans and Europeans. But do they share a common tactics? Both are committed to NATO but do they see its mission identically? Both are aware of the importance of their trade and investment relationships, but can they find a common formula to enhance and protect them? Can American and Europeans inspire each other and convince others about their agenda? Can they still dream together?

19:15 Second Panel: What Agenda for Europeans and Americans?

Jan Surotchak / Ian Lesser / Petr Kolář  
moderator of the discussion: Michael Žantovský

Freedom agenda and support for democracy was a prominent topic for many American and European administrations inspired by the legacy of Charter 77, the Solidarnosc movement, Andrei Sakharov, Václav Havel, Lech Walesa and other dissidents in the communist bloc. This agenda was complemented by a common approach to security, free trade and other important topics of common interest. After the recent financial crises, migration crises, Brexit and change of the US administration, new narratives appeared – focused on identities and economic protectionism. US leaving the Paris climate agreement was not welcome in Europe. The post-truth relativisation of key values of the free-world was amplified by propaganda and disinformation campaign from Russia. The new situation leads to questions about the common substance of European – American relationship. Where does the freedom agenda stand? How to lead a truly common fight against terrorism? How to strengthen NATO and move forward with TTIP?

Glass of wine

Václav Havel European Dialogues is an annual international conference held in Brussels that aims to initiate and stimulate a discussion about issues determining the direction of contemporary Europe while referring to the spiritual legacy of Václav Havel. One of Havel’s key principles was civic engagement based on a sense of responsibility for the future of one’s society and country. 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 conference entitled “The Trans-Atlantic Dream of a Free World. Is It Still Relevant?” aims to continue a debate about Europe and its transatlantic cooperation in the context of growing skepticism of European citizens in regards to European Union’s stability.

The event is held under the auspices of Věra Jourová, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, and Pavel Svoboda, Member of European Parliament, EPP.



Tamara Katuščák, Chargé d'affaires a. i., Embassy of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium

Tamara Katuščák started working as the Deputy Ambassador at the Czech Embassy in Brussels in 2016. Before joining the diplomatic service, she worked from 2008 to 2013 for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the Czech Republic. She has experience also from the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Tamara Katuščák gained her bachelor degree in humanities at Charles University in Prague and her master in European Public Policy at Central European University in Budapest. During her studies she was awarded a scholarship at Bard College in New York and Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



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.



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.



Heather Conley, Director of the Europe Program at CSIS

Heather A. Conley is senior vice president for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic and director of the Europe Program at CSIS. Prior to joining CSIS in 2009, she served as executive director of the Office of the Chairman of the Board at the American National Red Cross. From 2001 to 2005, she served as deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau for European and Eurasian Affairs with responsibilities for U.S. bilateral relations with the countries of northern and central Europe. She received her B.A. in international studies from West Virginia Wesleyan College and her M.A. in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).