



Tisková zpráva

EDVH 2017: Kde začíná a končí Evropa? Profily řečníků

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Mikuláš Dzurinda

Mikuláš Dzurinda is a former prime minister of Slovakia (1998–2006). He held various cabinet positions after entering politics in 1990, including as Slovakia's minister of transportation (1994) and minister for foreign affairs (2010–2012). As leader of a coalition government formed in 1998 he introduced far-reaching reforms that enabled Slovakia to begin the process of joining the European Union and NATO and following his reelection as prime minister in 2002 he oversaw the country's accession to those organisations. In 2013 he was elected president of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES). He is a founding member of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union and was party chairman from 2000 to 2012. In 2007 he was awarded the F.A. Hayek International Prize for reform and combatting bureaucracy. He is also a marathon runner.

Vladimir Kara-Murza

Vladimir Kara-Murza is vice-chairman of Open Russia, a Russian pro-democracy movement. He was a longtime colleague and advisor to opposition leader Boris Nemtsov and chairs the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom. He is a former deputy leader of the People's Freedom Party and was a candidate for the Russian State Duma. He has testified before parliaments in Europe and North America, and has published op-eds in *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *the Financial Times* and other newspapers and periodicals. He is the author of *Reform or Revolution* (Moscow 2011) and contributed to *Russia's Choices: The Duma Elections and After* (London 2003), *Russian Liberalism: Ideas and People* (Moscow 2007), and *Why Europe Needs a Magnitsky Law* (London 2013). He has been a correspondent for major Russia media outlets and has directed two documentary films, including one on Boris Nemtsov.

Sir Michael Leigh is a senior fellow who focuses on European Neighborhood Policy, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East as well as the future of the EU. He runs a program at GMF on the implications of the gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean. In 2006, Leigh became director-general for enlargement with the European Commission after serving for three years as external relations deputy director-general with responsibility for European Neighborhood Policy, relations with Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, Middle East, and the Mediterranean countries. He began his current role after more than 30 years in EU institutions, including as a cabinet member for various commissioners and as director in the Task Force for the EU Accession Negotiations. He began his career as

assistant professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins University and lecturer in international relations at the University of Sussex.

He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University and a Ph.D. in political science from MIT.

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).

Karel Schwarzenberg

Karel Schwarzenberg is a former minister of foreign affairs (2007–2009) and deputy prime minister of the Czech Republic (2010–2013), chairman of the party TOP 09 and member of the Senate of the Czech Parliament (2004–2010). During the first half of 2009 Mr. Schwarzenberg also served as the President of the Council of the European Union. He was president of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (1984–1991) and served as chancellor to President Václav Havel. In 1991, together with Lech Walesa, he was awarded the Council of Europe's Human Rights Award. He is a founder of the Vaclav Havel Library.

Vincuk Viačorka

Born 1961, Brest, Belarus. Politician, scholar, journalist.

His policy involvement dates back to underground youth pro-independence and anti-communist groups of late 1970s. In 1988 he was among the founders of the Belarusian Popular Front (BPF) – a broad movement for democracy and independence. Since 1999 until 2009 Viačorka has served as chairman and deputy chair of the Belarusian Popular Front Movement and the BPF Party. In 2007 elected a Co-Chairman of the United Democratic Forces of Belarus.

Since 1984, he was detained and imprisoned several times because of political reasons.

Within the activities for civil society, he was a co-founder of the Belarusian Associations Confederation — the first nationwide democratic organization in 1987. In 1995 he established “Supolnasc” Civil Society Center, a member of international Centers for Pluralism Network. Viačorka coordinated the pro-democracy NGOs Assembly of Belarus uniting more than 500 organisations.

As a linguist, V.Viačorka touches upon Belarusian language as indivisible part of European linguo-cultural space. He is an author of several books, his essays are continuously published at Radio Liberty Belarusian internet page.

Tebessüm Yılmaz

Tebessüm Yılmaz is a political scientist and activist based in Germany. Until 2016 she was a Ph.D. candidate at Istanbul University's Department of International Relations and Political Science where she was working towards her thesis on Representations of Social Trauma and State Violence Against Kurds in Alternative Cinema in Turkey Through Collective Memory. After signing a petition in early 2016 demanding an end to the violence in Turkey's Kurdish Southeast, she was forced to quit her studies. She is currently an M.A. student at the University of Tübingen. She is a member of the Solidarity Committee of the Academics for Peace, as well as the Women's Initiative for Peace and the Solidarity Network for Detained Students. She campaigns to secure persecuted academics, especially PhD students, a safe space to continue their studies at universities abroad.

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