

VACLAV HAVEL EUROPEAN DIALOGUES PRAGUE CONFERENCE



February 21–22, 2014

Organizer: Václav Havel Library

Partners: European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic,
Forum 2000 Foundation, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

Venue: DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Poupětova 1, Praha

THE CITIZEN, POWER AND DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE'S CRISIS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2014

14:30 – 15:30

WELCOME AND CONFERENCE OPENING

Marta Smolikova (Prague), Pavel Seifter (London)

Introduction: Jacques Rupnik (Paris)

Keynote speech: Petr Pithart (Prague)

15:30 – 17:00

1ST SESSION: EUROPE AND THE CRISIS OF DEMOCRATIC CAPITALISM

Something deeply disturbing underlies the current situation: a metamorphosis of the whole relationship between democracy and capitalism. Democratic capitalism has changed in recent years to an extent that has eroded the foundations on which democratic politics was built. Under contradictory pressures of global markets and domestic public opinion, with the state, institutions and parties in decline, what are the chances for European democracy?

SPEAKER: Claus Offe (Berlin)

DISCUSSANT: Daniel Kroupa (Prague-Usti)

CHAIR: Jiri Pehe (Prague)

17:00

COFFEE BREAK

17:30 – 19:00

2ND SESSION: REINVENTING THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

The EU has a problem regarding its executive powers, with a growing part of the public distrusting Brussels as a self-propelling machine. It is a paradox that while the European parliament has acquired more and more power since its first elections in 1979, the participation of voters is in constant decline. That has to do with the fact that the political parties are incapable or unwilling to accept these elections as a European political contest, preferring rather to turn them into a second or third round of their own domestic elections. The public will become engaged in EU matters only if they can once again see Europe as a joint response to a great history that affects "us". Europe has exhausted its post-war narrative and needs to reinvent its project. What could it be today?

SPEAKER: Ivan Krastev (Vienna-Sofia)

DISCUSSANT: Milena Vicensova (Prague)

DISCUSSANT: Attila Bartha (Budapest)

CHAIR: Tomas Sedlacek (Prague)

19:00 – 19:30

GLASS OF WINE WITH H. E. MICHAEL ZANTOVSKY

Introduction by Jan Machacek

19:35 – 20:45

EVENING CONVERSATION: WHAT EUROPE? WHAT DEMOCRACY?

Following the keynote speech the panel will discuss three visions of Europe: the West European postwar project, the East European dissidents' dream and the view of today's young Europeans.

PANEL: H.E. Mr. Jean-Pierre Asvazadourian (Paris), Petr Pithart (Prague) and Anne Valkering (Amsterdam)

MODERATOR: Paul Flather (Oxford)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2014

09:15 – 10:30

3RD SESSION: EUROPE AND THE LIMITS OF CIVIL SOCIETY. FROM CONSENSUS TO A CONFLICT-DRIVEN POLITY?

The process of integration has been led by an ideal but has mainly moved forward on the apolitical terrains of law, institutions and economy. Calls for democratization of the EU paradoxically weaken the Union's legitimacy. They make the EU, which has so far functioned by consensus (seen by some as technocratic governance), a significantly more conflict-driven polity. The effect is to replicate problems and conflicts historically associated with the modern democratic state and civil society. Is a move toward genuine politicisation the best way for Europe to emerge from its present crisis? Where are the possibilities and limits for the engagement of the civil society?

SPEAKER: Jiri Priban (Cardiff)

DISCUSSANT: Edmund Wnuk Lipinski (Warsaw)

CHAIR: Martin Butora (Bratislava)

10:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30

4TH SESSION: FEDERALISM: THE AMERICAN VS. THE EUROPEAN WAY

While American federalism grew from the bottom up over a long historical period (from civil society to government to union), Europe's project is top down and has evolved in a historically short time. Federalism therefore appears to be impatient and in the end leads to a confusion of federalism and centralization. At the same time, enlargement of the EU and the crisis of the euro have brought back to the fore the question of core and periphery. Will Europe steer towards a 'federation of nation-states'?

SPEAKER: Larry Siedentop (Oxford)

DISCUSSANT: Jan Machacek (Prague)

CHAIR: Lenka Rovna (Prague)

12:30 – 12:50

CONCLUSION

Jacques Rupnik (Paris)



The registration is open on

www.vaclavhavel-library.org/cs/dialog/vhed-praha-2014

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