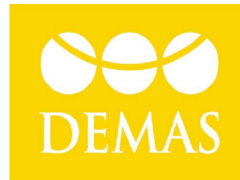




Policy Association for an Open Society

A network of independent policy centres in
Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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Lessons in Democratic Transformation for the Eastern Neighbours: Sharing Two Decades of Czech and Polish Experience

*PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society) and
DEMÁS Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights
invite you to a seminar on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy*

*Polish Institute
Malé náměstí 1, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic
12.00-17.00, Tuesday 15 September 2009*

12.00 – 12.30: Registration and sandwich buffet

12.30 – 14.30: **PASOS: Presentation of Eastern Partnership - Polish and Czech perspectives**,
a policy brief by the Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

- *Key developments and challenges in Polish Eastern policy*
- *Czech and Polish activities in developing the Eastern Partnership initiative: role of Czech Presidency of the European Council and Polish Government*
- *Areas of co-operation between Czech Republic and Poland (energy security, migration, development aid, non-government sector)*
- *Recommendations aimed at Czech and Polish Governments*

Discussants:

Jan Piekło, Director of Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation (PAUCI),

Agnieszka Łada, Head of the European Programme/Researcher at Institute of Public Affairs,
Warsaw, Poland

Zdeňka Caisová, Department for Northern and Eastern Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Czech Republic

Moderator:

Jiří Schneider, Program Director, Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI)

14.30 – 15.00: *Coffee break*

Lessons in Democratic Transformation for the Eastern Neighbours: Sharing Two Decades of Czech and Polish Experience

15.00 – 16.30: DEMÁS: Public debate, *Sharing Two Decades of Czech and Polish Experience of Democratic Transformation: Thinking Ahead*

This year's 20th anniversary of the Solidarity-led revolution in Poland and the Velvet Revolution in then Czechoslovakia provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of democracy as a cornerstone of a free society and on the continuing need to show practical support to those working to protect and promote democracy and human rights wherever they are threatened or suppressed. Over the course of the past two decades, both Poland and the Czech Republic have combined their own experience undergoing democratic transformation with their emerging role as new EU member-states launching their own projects and policies in the field of transition promotion and democracy assistance in other countries, in particular the EU's eastern neighbours.

What forms will democracy assistance take in the next two decades, and where will the support for democratic transformation in third countries feature among the priorities of the Governments and public of democratic Poland and the Czech Republic?

Discussants:

Gabriela Dlouhá, Director, Human Rights and Transition Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Jacek Kucharczyk, President, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

Šimon Pánek, Director, People in Need, Czech Republic

Moderator:

Jeff Lovitt, Executive Director, PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society)

16.30 -17.00: *Glass of wine*

Please RSVP to Eva Rybková or Sabina Dvořáková by 14 September 2009.

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TRANSITION
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