



## ***Building Consensus about EU Policies on Democracy Support***

CONFERENCE DRAFT PROGRAM  
As of March 4, 2009

Under the auspices of:  
Václav Havel, Former President of the Czech Republic  
Karel Schwarzenberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

- Organizers:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic  
European Commission  
In collaboration with European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights (DEMAS)
- Date:** March 9 – 10, 2009
- Venue:** March 9 - Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czernin Palace at Loretanske namesti  
March 10 - Tuscany Palace at Hradcanske namesti and hotel Crowne Plaza Prague Castle  
Prague, Czech Republic

The conference takes place in times when, once again, we see history in the making. We saw it fifty years ago, when, in the famous words of Winston Churchill, from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, the Iron Curtain had descended across Europe, pushing Prague and other capitals of Central and Eastern Europe – Warsaw, Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest, Sofia – into the Soviet sphere. We saw it twenty years ago, when the fall of the Iron Curtain triggered the peaceful and historic transition to democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, adding new liberated countries and their capitals to the zone of freedom, liberty, and democracy. We saw it in the year 2000 and afterwards, when the actors of civil society and pro-democratic political leaders reclaimed democracy and launched their arduous road towards a democratic transformation.

The events in 1989 did not come out of blue. Many factors played a role in those seminal changes – the reforms conducted by Gorbachev, the moral authority of the Pope John Paul II, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms approved by the Helsinki Final Act, the political influence of American presidents resisting the Soviet Empire. However, nothing would have been achieved if there were no people who wanted to live a more dignified life in liberty and democracy, if there were no civic and political leaders capable and willing to work hard on a change. Many of them were inspired, encouraged and supported by their partners and allies abroad, who lived in countries enjoying the rule of law, civic liberties, and economic prosperity. The inspiration and support coming from the West was then not always called democracy assistance, but by and large, it took place in a democratic spirit of liberal constitutionalism.

And in fact, many of those new champions of democracy have not forgotten their responsibility and commitments to share their experiences and to provide assistance to making democracy perform better in young and fragile democracies.

The world is transforming from a unipolar world order into a multipolar world requiring a new international order. The financial meltdown that hit the world economy has made necessary a review of the Bretton Woods international architecture and shall result in a rebalancing of the relationship between the public domain and the markets. The faith in democratic capitalism has been shaken and it would be unfortunate if this should open the door to other, less desirable models of state-controlled or authoritarian capitalism favourable to local autocrats.

What is at stake is to ensure that while the so-called democratic depression might be justified by events and circumstances, it is important to challenge it with new vigour, new energy, and renewed commitment and use the new international context to contribute to a more equitable and democratic global society.

Within Europe, democracy has evolved into the 27 different democratic political systems of today. Because of this history with democracy, Europeans know that democratic systems and culture vary from one country to another and have to grow from within. Or, in the words of the European Commission President Barroso: *“Europe does not want to set itself up as a model or give anyone lessons in democracy. But by opting for definitive reconciliation and a partnership based on the rule of law, the pooling of sovereignty, of economic synergies and respect for diversity, Europe is an extraordinary laboratory for the future. This is why, without arrogance, it shows the way. Showing the way does not mean imposing a way. The lesson that we draw from our specific European diversity is that people take ownership of democracy and shape it following universal democratic principles, but taking into account their own vision.”*

The Czech EU Presidency is hosting a conference on the European profile in world-wide democracy assistance in order to look for possibilities to strengthen Europe’s contribution in this field.

Format:

The conference is held under the Chatham house rule ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatham\\_House\\_Rules](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatham_House_Rules))

## Draft Programme:

### MARCH 9, 2009

**Venue:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Czernin Palace, Loretanske namesti, Prague

#### 14:00-14:30 **Opening of the conference**

- **Vaclav Havel**, former president of the Czech Republic
- **Karel Schwarzenberg**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

#### 14:30-16:00 **Plenary 1: Why Democracy? Brainstorming about the Possible Contours of a Future European Consensus on Democracy (PART 1)**

**Organizer:** European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)

Democracy is “Europe’s core value“, not only internally, but also in its external relations. Europe has set in its foreign and security policy the objective to develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. How can the European Consensus on Democracy, a long term EU strategy for democracy assistance, be reached among Member States? What are the experiences and recommendations of the various Member States in implementing democracy assistance in EU policies? What is and should be the (future) position on democracy assistance in EU relations with third countries? Is a joint European strategy for democracy assistance necessary and if so, how can it be achieved?

**Moderator:** **Roel von Meijenfildt**, Director of Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and Acting Chairperson of the EPD Board of Directors, The Netherlands

- **Gabriela Dlouha**, Director of Human Rights and Transition Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- **Maria Leissner**, Ambassador for Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- **Rolf Timans**, Head of Unit, Human Rights and Democratization, European Commission
- **Sean O’Regan**, Council Secretariat of the EU
- **Jana Hybaskova**, Member of the European Parliament, Czech Republic
- **Markus Meckel**, Member of Parliament, Member of EPD Board of Directors, Germany

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 **Plenary 1: Why Democracy? Brainstorming about the Possible Contours of a Future European Consensus on Democracy (PART 2)**

*Moderator:* **Igor Blazevic**, People in Need and DEMAS, Czech Republic

- **Riina Kionka**, Personal Representative of SG/HR for Human Rights, Council of the EU
- **Kari Kahiluoto**, Ambassador for Human Rights and Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
- **Pierre Levy**, Director of the Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
- **Peter Ashman**, Human Rights and Democracy Adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom
- **Mirosław Luczka**, Deputy Director of the Department of the United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland
- **Anthony Dworkin**, European Council on Foreign Relations, United Kingdom
- **Jürgen Wickert**, Coordinator, European Network of Political Foundations

*Rapporteur:* **Marcin Walecki**, Executive Director, European Partnership for Democracy

18:00 – 18:30 **Special guest speaker:**

**Kim Campbell**, former Prime Minister of Canada, Chairwoman of the World Movement for Democracy, Canada

18:30–20:00 **Reception**

*Venue:* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Czernin Palace, Loretanske namesti, Prague

---

**MARCH 10, 2009**

9:00-10:30 **Session 1 – PART 1: EU External Policy and Assistance Programmes relevant for Democracy Promotion**

*Venue:* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Tuscany Palace, Hradcanske namesti, Prague

*Organizer:* DEMAS / Europeum

Existing EU instruments and mechanisms available for democracy promotion and their main challenges:

1. EIDHR – What are the key points of progress of the new EIDHR? Has the implementation so far been an improvement to EU's democracy support? How successful is the EIDHR in supporting democracy assistance projects (as opposed to human rights projects)?
2. EU Elections Observation Missions: How can recommendations by Election Observation Missions become better implemented in other EU policies? Where does the current electoral cycle approach differ from the previous focus on short-term observations of elections?
3. ENP and ENPI: How is the EU neighbourhood policy strengthening democratic developments in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Caucasus and the Balkan region? How complementary is it with other European policies?
4. International democracy and governance assistance - what has worked and what hasn't? Are lessons being learnt and acted on?

*Moderator:* **Jeff Lovitt**, Director, PASOS, Czech Republic

- **Bela Matias**, Programme Manager – Head of Sector EIDHR, European Commission
- **Sonia Herrero**, Independent Consultant
- **Patrice Lenormand**, Head of Section, Election Observation Missions, European Commission
- **Michael Meyer-Resende**, Democracy Reporting International, Germany
- **Mario-Rui Queiro**, Quality Management Officer, Governance, security, human rights and gender, European Commission
- **Richard Youngs**, FRIDE, Spain
- **David Johnson**, Adviser, DG Development, European Commission

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-12:00 **Session 1 – PART 2: EU’s Democracy Assistance Viewed from Target Countries**

*Moderator:* **Vera Rihackova**, Europeum, Czech Republic

- **Jan Vanheukelom**, European Centre for Development Policy Management
- **Raul Cordenillo**, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA EU presidency/global consultations project
- **Augustine Magolowondo**, Regional Programme Coordinator, East and Southern Africa Regional Programme, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, Malawi
- **Boris Navasardian**, Yerevan Press Club, Armenia
- **Iryna Solonenko**, Director, European Programme, International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine
- **Francis Duri**, Secretary General, Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe

*Rapporteur:* **Marieke van Doorn**, Coordinator, European Partnership for Democracy

9:00-12:00 **Session 2: Implementation and Efficiency of the EU Policy on Human Rights and Democracy**

*Venue:* Hotel Crowne Plaza Prague Castle, Strahovska 128, Prague 1

*Organizer:* Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN)

As human rights and democracy are strongly interlinked, an analysis of the existing framework of EU human rights policy can help to develop a coherent and efficient EU democracy strategy. Are EU Human Rights Instruments efficient? What are the limits and barriers to their full implementation? What would be the necessary improvements to assure a coherent and complete EU approach? How are the EU institutions and Civil Society Organizations working together on this? Representatives from institutions - including Member States, and Civil Society Organizations - will review key human rights instruments and tools which are essential to understand the EU approach, and they will discuss the best ways to improve coherence of the EU human rights policy. They will exchange on the challenges which need to be addressed such as the importance for stronger political back-up, effective mainstreaming of HR into all EU policies, transparency of EU processes and improved genuine consultation with civil society, an approach which could lead to a “human rights based approach to democracy”.

*Moderator:* **Nicolas Rougy**, Director Brussels Office Club of Madrid, Member of the Co-Ordination Troika Human Rights and Democracy Network

9:00-10:30 **Session 2 - PART 1: Implementation of the EU Policy on Human Rights and Democracy: Strengths and Weaknesses**

Representatives from EU institutions and NGOs will review instruments and tools available for the EU policy on human rights and democracy, such as human rights dialogues, human rights guidelines, and democracy & human rights clauses in EU agreements with third countries. Special examples and country cases will be discussed.

- **Elinor Hammarhjold**, Head of International Law, Human Rights & Treaty Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- **Rolf Timans**, Head of Unit, Human Rights and Democratization Unit, European Commission
- **Susi Dennison**, Executive Officer External Relations, Amnesty International
- **Yuri Dzhibladze**, President, Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, Russia
- **Arnold Tsunga**, President of Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, ICJ Director for Africa, Zimbabwe

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

## 10:45-12:00 **Session 2 - PART 2: What are the Necessary Conditions to Improve the EU Policy on Human Rights and Democracy?**

How can well-functioning democracy in the EU Member States reinforce the EU's capacity to promote democracy in third parties? How can we improve vertical and horizontal coherence (political will and mainstreaming) within a transparent system and with an adequate role for the civil society organizations inside and outside the EU?

- **Riina Kionka**, Personal Representative of SG/HR Solana on Human Rights, Secretariat, Council of the European Union
- **Balthasar Benz**, Policy Officer, Human Rights and Democratization, European Commission
- **Antoine Madelin**, EU Representative, International Federation of Human Rights
- **Wadih Al Asmar**, Secretary General, Lebanese Center for Human Rights and member of the Executive Committee of Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, Lebanon

*Rapporteur:* **Kristin van der Leest**, Partners for Democratic Change International

### 12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch**

*Venue:* Hotel Crowne Plaza Prague Castle  
(transportation from Tuscany Palace by bus arranged)

## 13:30-15:30 **Plenary 2: EU Democracy Assistance from the Perspective of EU Member States**

*Venue:* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Tuscany Palace, Hradcanske namesti, Prague  
*Organizer:* DEMAS/PASOS

Individual EU Member States each have a track-record based on their own democracy assistance programmes. How do the Member States differ in their respective conceptual approaches, and what is the added value of their individual policies? What lessons can be learned from best practice, and how can they work together to improve the learning process? How are their respective policies coordinated with EU programs, and which underlying principles and common approaches of the Member States should guide democracy assistance in EU external relations and policies and assistance programmes?

*Moderator:* **Balazs Jarabik**, Head of Pact Ukraine, Slovakia

- **Elinor Hammarhjold**, Head of International Law, Human Rights & Treaty Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- **Ruth Emmerink**, Desk Officer, Democracy, Human Rights and Peacebuilding Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- **Erik Siegl**, Human Rights and Transition Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

- **Stefan Schlueter**, Head of Division Crisis Prevention, Peace-Building, Democracy Promotion, State-Building and Equipment Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany
- **Grigorij Meseznikov**, President, Institute for Public Affairs, Slovakia
- **Jeff Lovitt**, PASOS, Czech Republic

*Rapporteur:* **Kristina Vaiciunaite**, Director, Eastern Europe Studies Center, Lithuania

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-18:00 **Plenary 3: Democratic Governance: Development cooperation and mainstreaming of human rights and democracy**

*Venue:* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Tuscany Palace, Hradcanske namesti, Prague  
*Organizer:* FORS (Forum for Development Cooperation)

Is there any conditionality between effective sustainable development cooperation, good governance and democratic control over power? Why did development cooperation itself not work in some developing countries? Should the EU efforts to help developing countries build their capacities examine more democracy functions? A plenary policy discussion should open dialogue between people working with development issues and people from democracy promotion and democracy assistance oriented bodies. While terms and wording and even the approach – bottom up on one side and from the top down on the other side - are different, the final objective is proclaimed to be the same: a better life for people living in non developed and/or non democratic countries.

*Moderator:* **Simon Panek**, Director, People in Need, Czech Republic

- **Michal Kaplan**, Department for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- **Tomas Brundin**, Deputy Director, Department for Development Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- **David Johnson**, Adviser, DG Development, European Commission
- **Benedict Latto**, Governance Adviser, DFID, United Kingdom
- **Simon Stocker**, Director, Eurostep
- **Andy Rutherford**, One World Action
- **David French**, Chief Executive, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, United Kingdom

*Rapporteur:* **Jana Krczmarova**, FORS, Czech Republic

18:00-18:30 **NGO market**

*Venue:* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Tuscany Palace, Hradcanske namesti, Prague

NGOs from the EU Member States will have an opportunity to present their work and inform the participants of the conference about their projects.

18:30-19:00 **Presentation of the conclusions from roundtables**

19:00-21:00 **Dinner**  
(by special invitation only)

### **March 11, 2009**

Morning **Presentation of the conclusions from roundtables to the representatives at the COHOM session**  
(by special invitation only)

**Related event**

Evening **Opening Ceremony of ONE WORLD International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival**  
(by special invitation only)

In collaboration with

