

Venue: European House, Jungmannova 24, Prague

Monday 6 June 2016, 15:30

The Future of the Schengen Cooperation

"Is Schengen dead?" may well represent one of the most important questions of 2016. The unravelling of the refugee crisis, which highlighted the unpreparedness of our external border protection system and the lack of workable emergency solutions for our internal borders, forces European leaders to consider new options about Schengen cooperation, especially as fences are erected at some member states' borders. Since Schengen underpins what are Europe's main strengths, the free circulation of goods and people, there is a clear need to find a workable future in order to preserve the fundamentals of what creates prosperity, but also of what holds Europe together. Will Europe accept reverting back to the old system once the numerous exceptions have reached their expiration? Will Europe create a system based on short-term considerations due to the ongoing refugee crisis, or take its time to build a system that offers workable contingencies? What are the economic repercussions of any new plans for border protection?

Vassilis Ntousas, International Relations Policy Advisor, Foundation for European Progressive Studies, Brussels
Krzysztof Bolesta, Director of Research, Polityka Insight, Warsaw

Moderator:

Martin Michelot, Head of Research, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague

Tuesday 7 June 2016, 18:30

The Future of Europe: Fragmentation?

Multi-speed Europe, where respective Member States of the EU are integrating at a different pace has been a commonplace since the Maastricht Treaty. With debates about Brexit, Grexit and persisting ambiguity about the future of the Eurozone as well as the Schengen Area talks about fragmentation of the European Union are more intense than ever before. On the other hand proposal for further integration in specific policy fields and initiatives for an enhanced cooperation are also coming up. Some are saying that an "ever closer union" is de facto dead, yet others are still promoting the original federalist ideal. Is fragmentation a negative phenomenon per se for the future of the EU? Can we find a narrative which would allow continuation of differentiated integration, yet kept the EU together? Or has the Rubicon been already crossed concerning disintegration of the Union?

Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska, Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform, London
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Moderator:

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