



Center for EU  
Enlargement Studies

CENTRAL  
EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY

**FRIEDRICH  
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Büro Budapest

## “Engagement or Containment: EU-Russia Relations in Turbulent Times and the Role of Central Europe”

Central European University, Budapest  
Nádor utca 9, Auditorium

September 25, 2014

### 9.30 – 9.40 Opening Remarks

- **John Shattuck**, *President and Rector, Central European University, Budapest*
- **Jan Niklas Engels**, *Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Budapest*

### 9.40 – 10.30 Keynote Speeches – Evolving EU-Russia relations

- **Reinhard Krumm**, *Director, Department for Central and Eastern Europe, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin*
- **Wolfgang Behrendt**, *Desk Officer, Russia Division, European External Action Service, Brussels*

### 10.30 – 12.00 Panel I. – The European Union Seen from Russia

After the keynote speeches discussed the relationship between the EU and Russia and the necessity as well as the reality of a common European foreign policy strategy towards Russia, the first panel of the conference will give the floor to experts from and on the Russian Federation to discuss how the Russian political elite, both in power and in opposition, and the Russian society see the European Union and the potential development of relations between the two powers. Is there a chance for the rapprochement of the EU and Russia, especially in light of recent developments in Ukraine and the unprecedented sanctions against Russia? Seeking to put a special focus on the Central European countries, the speakers are invited to discuss if these countries can play a special role from Russia’s perspective in the EU-Russia relationship.



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Chair: **Péter Balázs**, *Director, CEU Center for EU Enlargement Studies, Budapest*

Speakers:

- **Alexander Sergunin**, *Professor, St. Petersburg State University*
- **Viacheslav Morozov**, *Professor, Center for EU-Russia Studies, University of Tartu*
- **András Rácz**, *Senior research fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Helsinki*

## **12.00 – 13.00 Buffet Lunch**

## **13.00 – 14.30 Panel II. – Ally or foe? Russia seen from Central Europe**

Having strong ties with the Eastern European region, the Central European countries have a great potential to influence how a prospective European Russia-strategy can develop in the near future. The countries of the region have displayed various behaviors in relation to Russia over the years, but in the midst of the Ukrainian crisis, differences have become even more visible. While Poland has been a strong, vocal advocate of the territorial integrity of Ukraine taking up confrontation with Russia, Hungary was more engaged in deepening its relations with Moscow even in the past months. Would these diverging preferences and connections be reconcilable for the sake of a common European Russia-strategy? Could Central European countries work towards a common goal or would their differences hamper a new Russia-policy? The panel seeks to shed light on these questions while exploring the origins and motivations of the countries' policies.

Chair: **Anton Bendaryevskiy**, *Editor-in-chief of the Post-Soviet section, Kitekindo.hu, Budapest*

Speakers:

- **Balázs Jarábik**, *Visiting scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington*
- **Tomáš Strážay**, *Senior research fellow, Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava*
- **Andris Sprūds**, *Director, Latvian Institute of International Affairs, Riga*

## **14.30 – 14.45 Coffee Break**

### **14.45 – 16.15 Panel III. – Pipelines, plants and European energy networks: dealing with dependency**

The Ukrainian crisis brought to the fore again the issue of Central European energy dependence on Russia and the necessity of cooperation. The question seems to be: with whom? While Poland has been advocating the strengthening and further improvement of European connections, Hungary has recently agreed with Russia on the extension of the country's nuclear plant financed from Russian loans, a move provoking controversy both home and abroad. At the same time, South Stream seems to take new momentum with Austria signing the deal with Russia. The panel will discuss the pros and cons of current Central European approaches to energy security and their potential impact on developing a common European strategy towards Russia.

Chair: **Nick Sitter**, *Department of Public Policy, Central European University, Budapest*

Speakers:

- **András Deák**, *Senior research fellow, Center for Economic and Regional Studies, HAS Institute of World Economics, Budapest*
- **Agata Loskot-Strachota**, *Senior fellow, Center for Eastern Studies, Warsaw*
- **Severin Fischer**, *Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin*

### **16.15 – 16.30 Concluding remarks**

- **Péter Balázs**, *Director, CEU Center for EU Enlargement Studies, Budapest*