















The Future of European Integration:

Visegrad Perspectives

Márton Benedek is an EU official working for the Commission's Directorate-General for Home Affairs, where he is responsible for visa dialogue with Kosovo, rule of law reform in Serbia and Albania and managing the post-visa liberalisation process with the Western Balkans. In the past, he worked for the Hungarian EU presidency on rule-of-law issues, the European Parliament on trade and development, advised EU President José Manuel Barroso on Kosovo's final status and was a consultant with Oxford Analytica. He holds a doctorate in International Relations from Oxford University.

Martin Filko is Chief Economist at the Slovak Ministry of Finance, responsible for the Institute for Financial Policy, the ministry's research and analytical department. He has worked for three Slovak governments as an adviser to the prime minister and to ministers of finance, health and education. He was also a director for Strategy at Union

Health Insurance, a Slovak member of the Dutch insurance group Achmea, in 2011-2012. He obtained an M.A. in psychology from Comenius University, a master's degree equivalent in International Economic Relations from the University of Economics in Bratislava and an M.Sc. in Health Economics from Erasmus University in Rotterdam. He taught at Comenius University in Bratislava in 2009-2012 and did research at Erasmus University Rotterdam in 2005-2009.

Mats Braun is a research fellow at the Institute of International Relations in Prague. He was granted his doctorate from the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague in 2008 and is currently a member of the Executive Council of the Central & East European International Studies Association (CEEISA). He is the associate editor of the journal Perspectives. He has recently published on European integration issues in the journals Cooperation and Conflict and Journal of Contemporary European Research, among others. He is the author of the book Modernisation Unchallenged: the Czech Discourse on European Unity and co-editor of the book The Quest for the National Interest: a Methodological Reflection on Czech Foreign Policy (2010).

Janusz Gaciarz has since 2003 been the Head of Justice and Home Affairs Section within the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels. He was chair of the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum and of the JHA–Relex Support Group (JAIEX) during the Polish presidency in 2011. He participated in the preparation for Poland's accession into the Schengen zone and all negotiations related to further Schengen enlargement. In the last decade, he took part in several international technical assistance programmes for Ukraine, Moldova, Croatia and Serbia dedicated to building capacities for European integration, in particular in the areas of migration and asylum policy, border management, visa policy as well as an approximation of public administration to the EU standards.

Jiří Georgiev is Deputy Director General of the Section for European Affairs at the Czech Office of the Government and an external lecturer with the Constitutional Law Department at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague. Since 2010, he also has been a member of the Council of the Czech Association of European Studies (ECSA Czech Republic). He is a graduate of the Faculty of Law of Charles University (summa cum laude, J.D., 2001). In 2001, he obtained a scholarship at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. He was granted a Ph.D. from the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in 2009 (his dissertation was published by Nakladatelství Lidové noviny). From 2002–2011 he was an adviser to the EU Affairs Committee of the Senate (upper chamber of the Czech Parliament), and at the same time a correspondent with the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). He speaks English and German (fluently), French and Russian (basic knowledge).

Agata Gostyńska is a research fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), coordinator of the project "Visegrad Group in a Post-Lisbon EU: Getting Closer to Move Further" on behalf of PISM. She is a graduate of the Institute of International Relations at Warsaw University and the Faculty of Law at Warsaw University. Previously, she worked for an international law firm where she dealt with energy law. Her research areas include

institutional law of the European Union, EU decision-making processes and institutional reforms in the EU with particular focus on the Lisbon Treaty.

Daniela Kietz is a researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), concentrating on matters related to the EU's institutional development, EU home affairs as well as the formulation of EU policy at the national level. In 2011–2012, she worked for the European Affairs Division in the Senate Chancellery of Berlin, focusing primarily on the implementation of EU crisis measures (EFSF and ESM) and the fiscal compact in Germany. Recent publications include "The Development of the EU System between Pressure for Reform and Integration Fatigue," in: A. Bendiek *et al*, "State of Play in European Integration, Challenges and Opportunities for German Policy," SWP Research Paper 2011.

Michal Kořan holds a Ph.D. from Masaryk University in Brno (2008) and is Head of Research at the Institute of International Relations in Prague. He is a former Fulbright Scholar at the Transatlantic Program at Harvard University. He focuses on regional and foreign policy dynamics in Central Europe and the role of Central Europe in European, transatlantic and world politics.

Roderick Parkes heads the EU Programme at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM). Prior to that, he worked as a researcher at the German Institute of International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin (2006–2009) before establishing and running its Brussels office (2009-2012). He previously had worked as a researcher at the Bonn Institute for Media Analysis (2003-2006). He completed a M.Phil. at Cambridge and a doctorate at Bonn University, and in both cases he wrote a thesis on EU immigration and asylum policy. His research focuses on EU home affairs policy.

Christian Schmitz is the Director of the Polish Representation of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. His education focus was on history and romance studies, and he earned his doctorate in 1989. He has worked as an independent journalist for the Kölnische Rundschau daily and as a freelancer for the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). He was granted a fellowship in Paris from the German Historical Institute. He began work with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in 1990 and was director of the Training Center in Saarbrücken then head of the Political Training Center at Eichholz Castle from 1992 to 2003. He was the director of the foundation's Foreign Office in Zagreb, responsible for Croatia and Slovenia, in the period 2003-2005. From 2005 to 2006, he coordinated the Media and Democracy Project in the region of southeast Europe and was the acting head of the foundation's office in Belgrade. From September 2008 to May 2011 he was director of the foundation's representation in Brandenburg and head of the Training Center in Potsdam. Since August 2011, he has been head of the foundation's Polish office in Warsaw.

László Sinka is the head of the cabinet of the European director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary. He has been dealing with EU affairs since his graduation from Corvinus University in Budapest. He is an economist and has a major in international relations. He has worked for the Hungarian National Assembly and spent five years in Brussels with Hungary's Permanent Representation. In 2010, he started work at Hungary's MFA as the head of the

department responsible for justice and home affairs and enlargement. In this capacity, he coordinated work during the Hungarian Presidency.

Tomáš Strážay works as a senior research fellow at the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA), where he heads the Central and Southeastern Europe programme. He has also been an editor of the *International Issues & Slovak Foreign Policy Affairs* quarterly. He received his Ph.D. from the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

Janusz Styczek is a Deputy Director of the European Policy Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. He is a graduate of the Warsaw School of Economics (and has a master's in Economics, 1986), Warsaw University (a master's in Political Science, 1990) and Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (1991). Previously, he served as a diplomat to Polish diplomatic posts in Germany and France and from 2008 to 2012 was Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Paris.

Rafał Trzaskowski is Coordinator of the European People's Party in the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament. A graduate of Collège d'Europe, he was granted a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Institute of International Relations of Warsaw University, and worked as a senior research fellow with Natolin European Centre. His additional occupations included advising Vice President of the European Parliament Jacek Saryusz-Wolski (subsequently appointed chairman of the EU Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs). He is a senior lecturer at Collegium Civitas in Warsaw and is the author of numerous articles and publications on European integration, EU institutional reform and EU enlargement.

Jakub Wiśniewski is the Head of the Foreign Policy Strategy Department at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is responsible for cooperation with think tanks and the programming of Polish foreign policy in the medium and long terms. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Warsaw. Up to 2009, he was the head of the Economic Unit at the Department of Analyses and Strategies at the Office of the Committee for European Integration. He is the author of publications on the welfare state, social policy and migrations, a member of the leadership councils of the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) and the Centre for Eastern Studies, and on the Scientific Councils of the Western Institute in Poznań as well as the Institute of Central Eastern Europe in Lublin.

Beata Wojna is Deputy Director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) in Warsaw. She has several years' experience as a researcher, programme coordinator and team leader with PISM's research office. Before starting her work in Poland, she spent almost 10 years in Spain and Belgium and is a graduate of Complutense University, where she also conducted doctoral-level studies. She was granted a Ph.D. in Geography and History from Complutense University. Her main areas of interest are EU internal and external politics and Polish and Spanish European policy. A political scientist who combines political analysis with a comparative and historical approach, she has authored or co-authored multiple publications, including books, book chapters, reports and articles in Polish, English and Spanish.

Karla Wursterová is Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund. She is a graduate of the University of Economics in Bratislava, Faculty of Business Management (1998) and Ecole Nationale d'Administration Publique, Paris (2003). Previously, she was the Director of the Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic from 2010–2012 and Second Secretary in the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Prague from 2005 to 2009. She speaks English, French, Czech, Hungarian, Russian and Polish.

Marcin Zaborowski has been the Director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) since July 2010. Prior to that, he directed the transatlantic programme at the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) in Paris, where he dealt with transatlantic relations, U.S. foreign policy, EU Common Security and Defence Policy and EU Enlargement. He was formerly a lecturer in International Relations at the University of Birmingham and Aston University in the UK from 2001 to 2005, and was coordinator and director of the Transatlantic Programme at the Centre for International Relations in Warsaw from 2002 to 2004. He holds a doctorate in European Politics and an M.A. in International Studies from the University of Birmingham. He also is a graduate from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. He is a former fellow of NATO's academic programme (1999-2000) and a visiting fellow of EUISS (2004).