



The changing relationship between Britain, Poland and Germany

Venue: Asia House, 63 New Cavendish St, London W1G 7LP

20 May 2014, 10am-5pm

10am **Welcome and Introduction**

10.10am **Session 1: British-German cooperation on EU reform: implications for Poland**

Britain is heavily focusing its EU reform agenda on Germany, seeking bilateral concessions for EU-wide problems. But certain of these issues deeply affect Poland – treaty change, the repatriation of competencies, free movement of persons, budgetary reform. Moreover, these are issues where Poland's priorities – return mobility, good spending, decentralised EU – largely overlap with the UK's. By teaming up with Germany – another receiving country, net spender and old member state – is the UK creating an unnecessary gulf with Poland and its other former partners in the East?

- Nicolai von Ondarza, Senior Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- Hans Kundnani, Research Director, European Council on Foreign Relations
- Prof Arkady Rzegocki, assistant professor at the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations in the Faculty of International and Political Studies at the Jagiellonian University

Chair: Roderick Parkes, Head of the EU Programme, The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

11.40am **Session 2: German-Polish cooperation on EU inclusiveness: implications for Britain**

Poland's prime interest in EU affairs is to keep the bloc open, whether it be avoiding the emergence of a eurozone core or keeping the European perspective open for the EU's eastern neighbours. In this, Warsaw has made Berlin the prime focus of its attentions. With the rekindling of the Franco-German tandem, however, there are signs of the emergence of a closed eurozone core and a renewed scepticism towards EU enlargement. Might Poland's interests be better served by a closer relationship with fellow eurozone-out Britain, or has the UK's embrace of differentiated integration and London's concerns about independent Scotland's accession driven a wedge between them?

- Kai-Olaf Lang, Head of Research Division on European Integration, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- Ryszarda Formuszewicz, analyst, The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)
- Dr Alister Miskimmon, Head of Department of Politics and International Relations, Royal Holloway University

Chair: Ulrich Storck, Director of the London office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

1.10pm Lunch

2.10pm Session 3: British-Polish Relations: from allies to scapegoats and back again?

The UK was one of the most active supporters of Eastern enlargement. In recent years, however, the partnership has become less profound. In Poland, talk has shifted to the political benefits to Warsaw of Britain's weakness. In Britain, the presence of a large Polish population has become politicised. Can these differences be bridged in favour of mutual interests? How has the cooperation between the UK and Poland over Ukraine transformed relations, and what are the sticking points? How will the political changes after the May European elections play out? And how does Germany fit in?

- James Nixey, Head of the Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House (tbc)
- Agata Gostynska, analyst, The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)
- Pawel Swidlicki, Research Analyst, Open Europe

Chair: Nicolai von Ondarza, Senior Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

3.40pm Coffee break

4pm Session 4: Trilateral relations: space for a Polish-British-German Weimar?

What would be the benefits and pitfalls of a stronger trilateral partnership? With an eye to the political makeup of the Union after the May elections, what kind of vision would this promote of the EU, in terms of its institutional and political makeup? Which member states might welcome this and which feel threatened? And, in light of the crisis in Ukraine, would it be in tune with the challenges of the world beyond the European Union?

- Alan Whitehead, Labour MP and chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Poland (tbc)
- Commentators: Kai-Olaf Lang, SWP Berlin & Roderick Parkes, PISM Poland

Chair: Ulrich Storck, Director of the London office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

5pm Close