



Minsk Dialogue Forum

Eastern Europe: In Search of Security for All

May 23-25, 2018

SPEAKER INSTRUCTIONS

We kindly ask all speakers for the plenary and night-owl sessions to prepare some introductory remarks of up to 5-6 minutes, which should address items on the respective session's agenda. Each speaker can decide whether she/he wants to touch upon all items on the agenda or focus on some of them only. After the round of introductory remarks, moderators will facilitate dialogue between the panelists and open the discussion up to questions and comments from the audience. Moderators will be strict with timing to ensure that as many contributions as possible are made to the discussions.

For the plenary session *How to Make Eastern Europe an Area of Cooperation rather than Confrontation?*, the plenary conversation *(Dis)Continuity in the EU's Foreign and Security Policy?*, and the break-out sessions on May 24, as well as the working breakfast on May 25, other speaker instructions will apply. The moderators of these sessions will contact speakers individually.

We discourage speakers from using PowerPoint presentations. In exceptional cases a small number of slides may be used in some plenary sessions subject to prior approval from moderators.

AGENDA

Wednesday, May 23

15.30-17.00 **Inaugural plenary** *What Does the Changing World Order Hold for Eastern Europe?*

- How is the world order changing?
- What are the implications of these changes for international relations and security in Eastern Europe?
- How are regional and extra-regional actors reacting to changes in the international system?

17.30-19.00 **Plenary session** *Looking inside the “Black Box” of East European Security*

- What commonalities and differences are there in threat perceptions and security narratives among states in the region?
- How do regional actors respond to growing threats?
- What leverage do regional actors have over great power politics?

21.00-22.30 **Parallel night-owl sessions**

1. How Deeply Frozen is Transnistria?

- How have growing geopolitical tensions affected the situation in Transnistria?
- How has the DCFTA between Moldova and the EU affected the situation in Transnistria (including both elite and public opinion)?
- How has Russia’s leverage changed in Moldova and Transnistria since the crisis in the Donbas broke out?

2. Minsk Accords and a Peacekeeping Mission in the Donbas: Mission (Im)Possible?

- Track record of the Minsk Accords’ implementation: what works, what does not, and why?
- International diplomacy: how feasible is a peacekeeping operation in the Donbas and what can we expect from the Normandy process and the US-Russia channel?
- What does the Ukrainian government’s transformed operation in the Donbas mean for the conflict’s prospects?
- What impact, if any, will the elections in Russia and Ukraine have on the conflict?

3. What Can We Learn from Past Failures to Modernise European Security Arrangements?

- How relevant do the Helsinki agreements remain in today’s world?
- Why did the Corfu process fail?
- Are great powers’ “legitimate security interests” legitimate?
- Are security guarantees for small states realistic?

Thursday, May 24

16.30-18.00 **Plenary session** *The Belt and Road Initiative in Eastern Europe: Towards New Economic and Security Synergies by Breaking with Old Geopolitics?*

- What is China’s vision for the future of the BRI?

- What opportunities does the BRI offer different countries in Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe? And what does the BRI mean for the geopolitics of Eurasia?
- How have other actors perceived and reacted to the BRI (e.g. Russia, EU, USA)?

21.00-22.30 **Parallel Night-Owl Sessions**

Session 1. *Implications of the Sanctions War between Russia and the West for Eastern Europe.*

- What political effects does the sanctions war have in Eastern Europe?
- How does it impact the regional economies and business opportunities?
- What are the implications for transnational security cooperation?

Session 2. *NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence: Implications for Eastern Europe?*

- Does NATO's enhanced forward presence strengthen the security of states in which battlegroups are deployed?
- Has the NATO presence provoked Russia and led to a [regional] arms race?
- What are the effects and unintended consequences for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine?

Session 3. *Belarus's Foreign Policy in the Regional Context*

- Regional (in)security: how do tensions between Russia and the West impact Belarus's foreign and security policies?
- What have been the successes and failures in Minsk's bilateral and multilateral strategies?
- From the Minsk Group (Nagorno-Karabakh) to Minsk Accords (Donbas): Assessing Minsk's peacemaking initiatives
- Reality Check: Trends in Belarus's relations with its immediate neighbors.

Friday, May 25

9.30-10.30 **Morning session** *The Eurasian Economic Union: Current and Future Trajectories*

- What have been the macroeconomic effects of the EEU?
- How effective are the EEU's supranational institutions in resolving political and economic disputes between member states?
- Does the implementation of the Customs Code live up to initial expectations?
- How attractive is the EEU's integration model for prospective members and cooperation partners?

10.30-12.00 **Plenary session** *Gaps in Security Regimes and Institutional Lacunae in Eastern Europe: Can Regional and Sub-Regional Organisations Do More?*

- How does the degradation of international security arrangements (ABM Treaty, Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty) after the Cold War affect today's security situation?
- How can we breathe new life into currently dysfunctional international organisations?
- Is the time ripe for a new discussion about a global security treaty?

12.30-13.30 **Plenary session** *The Old and the New in East European Security: Discussing Ways Forward*

- What immediate steps could be taken to de-escalate tensions between the East and West?
- What mechanisms can sustain a productive dialogue between key international players in order to avoid a further deterioration in relations?
- What contribution can the international expert community make?