



## Return to Europe

Reflections After 20 Years of Democratic Renewal



**A PASOS international conference,  
Thursday 10 December 2009  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague, Czech Republic**

*This conference is held in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic, and with the support of the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union, and of the International Visegrad Fund*



A gathering of young civic leaders from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic, and democracy and human rights campaigners from EU Eastern Partnership countries, with representatives of the European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, and EU member governments on the occasion of International Human Rights Day to mark 20 years since the end of the cold war and the end of communist rule in Central Europe.

The conference is part of **Return to Europe – Reflections After 20 Years of Democratic Renewal**, a PASOS project including studies and opinion polls into attitudes, especially among the younger generation, towards democracy in the Visegrad Four countries after two decades of democracy, and a survey of the public's attitudes to their own governments' support for democratisation in third countries.

Additional studies from the project, to be presented at the Prague conference and subsequently, include: **Prospects for, and potential impact of, a new EU policy framework for democracy building in EU external relations** and a policy brief on the **Implications of the Ratification of the Lisbon Treaty for European Democracy Support** (focusing in particular on the development of the EU diplomatic service, or External Action Service).

On the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights, DEMAS – Association for the Democracy Assistance and Human Rights - will pre-screen one of the top documentary films about democracy and human rights to be shown in the One World Film Festival 2010. The conference is held in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic, and with PASOS members: Center for Policy Studies at the Central European University, Hungary, Institute of Public Affairs (ISP), Poland, and the Institute for Public Affairs (IVO), Slovak Republic.



*PASOS promotes and protects open society values, including democracy, the rule of law, good governance, respect for and protection of human rights, and economic and social development, by supporting entities that individually and jointly foster public participation in public policy issues at the European Union level, in other European structures, and in the wider neighbourhood of Europe and Central Asia.*

**Chair:** George Tarkhan-Mouravi **Executive Director:** Jeff Lovitt

*PASOS is a not-for-profit association registered in the Czech Republic*



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**09.00-09.10: Introductory remarks: Jeff Lovitt**, Executive Director, PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society)

**09.10-09.40: Welcome speeches:**

H.E. **Jan Fischer**, Prime Minister, Czech Republic (*invited*)

H.E. **Catherine von Heidenstam**, Ambassador of Kingdom of Sweden to the Czech Republic (*invited*)

H.E. **Petr Vagner**, Director, International Visegrad Fund

**09.40-11.00: Plenary I: Democracy as "Europe's core value" – Dealing with the Past and Future**

*Moderator:* Grigorij Mesežnikov, President, Institute for Public Affairs (IVO), Slovak Republic

**Alexandr Vondra**, Senator, Czech Republic, 2006-, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Czech Republic, January 2007 – May 2009, spokesperson, Charter 77, and co-founder of Civic Forum in 1989

**Janusz Onyszkiewicz**, former Solidarity activist, former Minister of Defence and former MEP, Poland (*invited*)

**Lajos Bokros**, MEP, Hungary, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Central European University, Minister of Finance, Hungary (1995-1996) (*invited*)

**Martin M. Šimečka**, samizdat author before 1989, editor-in-chief, *SME* daily newspaper, Slovak Republic, 1997-2006, editor-in-chief, *Respekt* newspaper, Czech Republic, 2006-2008 (*invited*)

**Gergo Medve-Balint**, Research Fellow, Center for Policy Studies at the Central European University, Hungary

*11.00-11.30: Coffee break (followed by two parallel panels)*

**11.30-13.15: Panel I: Democracy Support Policies of the New Member States**

● *What are the experiences of new EU members as new players in democracy assistance to third countries?*

● *What are the recommendations of new EU member states for reform of EU democracy assistance policies?*

● *How do today's citizens of new EU member states regard the democracy assistance policies of their respective governments?*

*Moderator:* **Věra Řiháčková**, Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic

**Lenka Surotchak**, Director, Pontis Foundation, Slovak Republic (*invited*)

**Marek Ziółkowski**, Director, Department of Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland (*invited*)

**Dénes Tomaj**, Head of Department for International Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary (*invited*)

**Igor Blažević**, Board of Directors, DEMAS Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights, Czech Republic

**Oľga Gyárfášová**, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Public Affairs (IVO), Slovak Republic

**Anna Zherdeva**, Moscow Helsinki Group, Russia

**11.30-13.15: Panel II: Is there a Consensus around EU Policies and Instruments to Support Democracy and Human Rights?**

● *How effective are EU instruments, and how are they co-ordinated?*

● *What will be the core elements of an EU policy framework for democracy building in EU external relations?*

*Moderator:* **Richard Youngs**, Director of Research, FRIDE, Spain

**Claudia Gintersdorfer**, Secretariat-General for Human Rights, Council of the EU

**Adrian Severin**, Member of European Parliament, Romania (*invited*)

**Gabriela Dlouhá**, Director, Human Rights and Democracy Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

**Elinor Hammarskjöld**, Deputy Director-General, International Law, Human Rights and Treaty Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden

**Jeff Lovitt**, Executive Director, PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society)

**Justyna Janiszewska**, Grupa Zagranica, Poland (*invited*)

*13.15-14.30: Lunch*



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### **14.30-16.00: Plenary II: Sharing Democratic Values Further Afield**

- Can an EU policy framework for democracy building in EU external relations help shape a long-term EU strategy for democracy assistance, and how can a common approach be reached among EU member-states?
- What are the experiences and recommendations of the various member-states in implementing democracy assistance in EU policies?
- What should be the (future) policies and instruments in support of democracy and human rights in EU relations with third countries?
- How can EU external relations policy actors, especially the new EU Special Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, and the EU external action service work together to protect democracy activists and human rights defenders around the world, and to carve a strong, values-based, democracy assistance ethos in EU external relations?

**Moderator: Jacek Kucharczyk**, President, Institute of Public Affairs (ISP), Poland

**H.E. Péter Balázs**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hungary (*invited*)

**Maria Leissner**, Ambassador for Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden

**Karel Schwarzenberg**, Senator, Czech Republic, Foreign Minister, Czech Republic, January 2007-May 2009 (*invited*)

**Małgorzata Wasilewska**, Head of Unit, Democratisation and Elections, Directorate-General External Relations, European Commission (*invited*)

**Kristina Prunerová**, Programme Manager, European Partnership for Democracy

**Peter Ashman**, Human Rights and Democracy Adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom (*invited*)

**A young civic leader** from Czech Republic

16.00-16.30: Coffee break

**17:00–19:00 Screening of documentary film, *Power of the Powerless* (directed by Cory Taylor, USA, 2009)**, followed by informal discussion among former Velvet Revolution student leader Monika MacDonagh-Pajerová and Robert Latypov from the Russian Center for Human Rights Memorial – this year's Sakharov Prize Laureate, moderated by Czech journalists. The screening is held in association with DEMAS – Association of Democracy Assistance and Human Rights ([www.demas.cz](http://www.demas.cz)).



19.15-20.00: Dinner