

## Getting the EU reform right: towards the Sibiu summit

Warsaw, 21 March 2018

### *Draft agenda*

The seminar will bring together 20 to 25 participants from France, Poland, Germany and Italy. They will include governments' officials, think-tankers, policy advisors and academics. The aim of the seminar is an off-the-record exchange on selected EU policy issues.

The conference is co-financed by the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation within the frameworks of the ECFR project „European Dialogues about the Future of Europe“ supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

### *Programme*

Venue: Zielna Conference Centre, ul. Zielna 37, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, room A

**12:00-12:45 – Welcoming lunch**

**12:45-13:00 – Opening & introduction:**

*Piotr Buras (Director of the Warsaw office, ECFR)*

*Cornelius Ochmann (Director of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation)*

**13:00-14:30 – East-West Divide: Come-back of a spectre?**

*Chair: Martin Kremer (Head of Division for Central Europe at the German MFA)*

*Introduction: Marcin Kędzierski (Director of the Centre of Analysis of the Jagiellonian Club)*

*Comment: Didier Lopinot (Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Paris)*

*Comment: Kai-Olaf Lang (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP)*

The 2004 EU enlargement's main achievement was that it overcame the legacy of the Cold War and the East-West divide. However, more than a decade later, tensions between the member states along the geographic lines became apparent again. The concepts of flexible integration, discussions about the management of the refugee crisis, reforms of the EU internal market as well as projects like the so called Trimarium provoked the old divide to emerge again. Is it a temporary crisis or a durable trend which will ultimately lead to the emergence of Kerneuropa and an Eastern bloc within the EU? How will those tensions play out in the upcoming EU reform debate? Will the member states manage to present a common vision of Europe that delivers in Sibiu?

**14:30-15:00 – Coffee break**

## **15:00-16.30 – Incentives, not obligations? Ensuring solidarity and legitimacy in the EU asylum policy**

*Chair: **Piotr Buras** (Director of the Warsaw office, ECFR)*

*Introduction: **Rainer Münz** (Special advisor on Migration and Demography at EPSC, Brussels)*

*Comment: **Armando Barucco** (Head of the Policy Planning Unit at the Italian MFA) TBC*

*Comment: **Jolanta Szymańska** (Analyst at the Polish Institute of International Affairs, PISM)*

The migration crisis of 2015 unveiled certain drawbacks of the European asylum policy, which was not adapted to rapid mass influx of migrants. Even though the number of refugees coming to Europe has decreased since then, the issue is still far from being resolved. EU needs new mechanisms to establish a common pan-European legislative framework to tackle long-run migration challenges. In the following several month, the European policymakers will focus on the reform of the „broken“ EU asylum system. As member states are moving from the mandatory relocation system to the voluntary one, an incentive might arrive in the form of financial aid for potential host countries. Some European leaders have also called for the establishment of the solidarity criteria to determine the distribution of the EU budget funds. How should the EU share the burdens and costs between the Member States in terms of common asylum policy? Is it possible to reach a voluntary solidarity between the member states? What will be the final agreement reached in June 2018?

## **16:30-17:00 – Coffee break**

## **17:00-18.30 – Whither European security order? Geopolitical challenges and prospects for EU's strategic autonomy**

*Chair: **Łukasz Kulesa** (Research Director, European Leadership Network)*

*Introduction: **Manuel Lafont Rapnouil** (Director of the Paris office, ECFR)*

*Comment: **Dominik Jankowski** (Head of OSCE and Eastern Security Unit, Polish MFA)*

*Comment: **Gustav Gressel** (Senior Policy Fellow on the Wider Europe Programme, ECFR)*

Despite common expectations for a new launch in the post-Cold War security order, today Europe does not feel safe any longer. Terrorism, hybrid challenges and the conflict on the East of Ukraine pose a threat to the current security order in Europe. Today, in addition to a clear demonstration of expansionist policy, Russia ceased to comply with the principles of the CFE Treaty. Trump's presidency strengthens the feeling of uncertainty in Europe, while tensions between the US and North Korea are deemed a new global nuclear crisis. It seems that a new approach to the arms control in Europe and beyond might become indispensable to address these regional and global security challenges. How will the perception of the conflict in Ukraine impact the security order in Europe? Will the global community return to disarmament and non-proliferation discourse and will the EU present a united voice at the table? How can Europe offer a solution to the current security threats within the EU strategic autonomy framework?

## **19:00 – Dinner: New deal for Europe? Polish ideas for the EU reform.**

*With **Tomasz F. Krawczyk**, Advisor for EU Affairs to the Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki*

**Venue: Galil Restaurant (Zielna 37)**