

XXXVIII Europe of the Carpathians Conference

Karpacz, 3–5 September 2024

Conference room no. 6.26

PROGRAMME

EUROPE
OF THE
CARPATHIANS



38th Europe of Carpathians Conference
Karpacz 3-5 September 2024
CARPATHIANS – THE MOUNTAINS THAT
CONNECT



Conference room no. 6.26

Tuesday, 3 September 2024

13:00-14:10 Forum plenary session

14:00 Treasures of Via Carpathia. Film premiere

14:15 Opening of the conference

Marek Kuchciński, Deputy, Sejm, Chairman of the Program Council of Europe of the Carpathians

14:20-15:20

I. Will Central European countries defend themselves against EU crises?

Both from the pandemic and from the energy shocks of recent years, the Central European countries have generally emerged with a defensible hand, as evidenced, for example, by rapidly restored economic growth and a return to low inflation. However, the consequences of Russian aggression in Ukraine, the migration pact and policies favouring the de-industrialisation and de-agrarianisation of the EU, the internal instability of many Central European states, the crisis of Visegrad and Triple Sea cooperation - create a completely new situation and raise difficult, if not more than difficult challenges. Can they be met and how?

Moderator: Jacek Karnowski, Editor-in-Chief of the "Sieci" Weekly, Fratria, Poland

Special guest: Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister (2017-2023), Poland

Panelists:

1. Bogdan Rzońca, Member, European Parliament, Poland
2. Markijan Malski, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine
3. Jan Majchrowski, Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland
4. Péter Töröcsi, Deputy Director General, Centre for Fundamental Rights, Hungary
5. Maciej Szymanowski, Co-founder of the Czech-Polish Forum and the Waclaw Felczak Polish-Hungarian Cooperation Institute, University lecturer, Poland

15:30-16:30

II. People of Freedom of Carpathian Europe

János Esterházy, Jozef Eötvös, Jan Kollár, Ludevit Štur, Jozef Dobrovsky, František Palacky, József Antall, Ales Bialacki, Václáv Havel, Janez Janša, Vytautas Landsbergis, Jan Patočka, Ryszard Siwiec, Milan Štefánik, Karol Wojtyła and others in the process of building freedom and democracy.

Partner: Przemysł Cultural Society

Moderator: Grzegorz Górny, Board Chairman, Poland, The Great Project

Panelists:

1. Włodzimierz Bernacki, Senator, Senate of the Republic of Poland
2. Ihor Cependa, Rector, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Ukraine
3. Karol Nawrocki, President, Institute of National Remembrance, Poland
4. Klára Mándli, Member of the Supervisory Board, Waclaw Felczak Foundation, Hungary
5. Miklós Mitrovits, Institute of Central European Studies, Senior Research Fellow, University of Public Service, Hungary

16:40-17:55**III. Central Europe's Geopolitical Strategy**

Ukraine is desperately defending itself against full-scale armed aggression by Russia. The United States is facing the prospect of losing its status as a Sole Power. China decided some time ago that it was once again sending 'ships' to conquer the world. Europe is, in practice, heading towards a state of Europe 'from Gibraltar to Vladivostok' under the aegis of Moscow with local participation from Berlin. European nations are slowly beginning to understand that they may find themselves in a geopolitical trap. How to get out of it? How to defend themselves?

Moderator: Piotr Naimski, Member of the Board, Jan Olszewski Archive Foundation, Poland

Panelists:

1. Adrienne Körmendy, Retired Diplomat, former Consul General of Hungary in Cracow, General Consulate of Hungary in Cracow, Hungary
2. Antoni Macierewicz, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
3. Andrius Tučkus, Chairman of the Council, Sajudis, Lithuania
4. Marek Zieliński, Journalist, Publicist Polish Journalists Association, Poland
5. Dénes András Nagy, Coordinator responsible for Central and Eastern Europe Centre for Fundamental Rights, Hungary

18:05-19:05 Forum plenary session**19:15-20:15****Program Council of the Europe of the Carpathians Clubs****Wednesday, 4 September 2024****10:00-11:00 Forum plenary session****11:10-12:10****IV. Carpathian Macroregional Brand**

Promoting a region, such as the Carpathian macro-region, requires an integrated approach that takes into account the region's unique geographical, cultural, historical and natural features and economic potential. Promotion of the macro-region should be based on cooperation between local authorities and entrepreneurs and respond to the sustainable nature of the region's development. It is worth drawing on the experience

of the Alpine macroregion, which has successfully implemented cooperation between regional authorities and businesses.

Partner: Podkarpackie Region Self-Government

Moderator: Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, Member of Podkarpackie Regional Board, Podkarpackie Region Marshal Office, Poland

Panelists:

1. Łukasz Smółka, Marshal, Malopolska Region Marshal's Office, Poland
2. Jerzy Kwieciński, Carpathian Europe expert, Poland
3. Tudor Udrea, Head of service for the Management of Centrum Region Program, Regional Development Agency – Center, Romania
4. Klára Mándli, Member of the Supervisory Board, Waclaw Felczak Foundation, Hungary
5. Adelio Debenedetti, Brand creator ManferratoExplorer, Italy

12:20-13:20

V. Europe - What's Next?

Understanding the European Union. Do Europeans understand EU policies? Decision-making mechanisms; EU institutions. A Europe of sovereign states or a 'EUROPA' state? Migration, rule of law, super-state.

Moderator: Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Chair of the Council Poland, The Great Project

Panelists:

1. Krzysztof Szczucki, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
2. Francesco Giubilei, President Nazione Futura, Italy
3. Tomasz Grzegorz Grosse, Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland
4. Bernard Bourdin, Professor Catholic University of Paris, France
5. Rafał Ziemkiewicz, Writer, Poland

13:30-14:45

VI. Presentation: Plans for the Transformation of Ukraine

An updated report published by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission and the UN assumes that, as of 31 December 2023, the total cost of reconstruction in Ukraine will be US\$486 billion over the next decade. At the same time, Ukraine lacks the competencies to efficiently plan and manage such a large volume of resources, and the speed and efficiency of the country's reconstruction and transformation efforts may determine whether a pro-European momentum will be sustained in Ukrainian society. The rebuilding of infrastructure is crucial, but equally crucial is the demonstration of a vision for the development and transformation of the country. The success of the current war also depends on showing the goal of European Union and NATO membership and the path to that goal. The post-war reconstruction will be dominated by funds from the West, whose administrators are able to ensure that structures are transparent, that tenders are carried out. Already now, therefore, it is essential to plan the transformation of Ukraine. This strategy should holistically take into account not only the current reconstruction needs, but also set long-term goals for the country's transformation at not only the institutional level, but also in terms of building a modern economy and civil society.

Moderator: Jerzy Kwieciński, Carpathian Europe expert, Poland

Panelists:

1. Marek Kuchciński, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
2. Markijan Malski, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine
3. Jānis Bordāns, Chairman of the Board, Iustitia et Securitas, Latvia
4. Yaroslav Romanchuk, Attorney at Law, Managing Partner EUCON Legal Group, Ukraine
5. Mykhaylo Kharyi, Head, National Forum "Transformation of Ukraine", Ukraine

14:55-15:55**VII. The Trilateral Initiative. Development of the economy and infrastructure of Central Europe**

Since 2004, CEE countries have been catching up with the EU average in terms of economic development. In 2004, GDP per capita in the CEE countries joining the EU at that time was 56% of the EU average. Today it is around 80%. However, with Western Europe catching up, the previous drivers of growth based, for example, on cheap labour are gradually disappearing. It is necessary to find other economic impulses. The challenge is too big for any one country to handle alone, so cooperation is essential. Such a strategy for economic cooperation among CEE countries should be based on common goals, such as increasing economic competitiveness, sustainable development, integration into global markets and improving the quality of life of citizens. A good mechanism for joint action is the Tricity initiative, which focuses on strengthening ties on many levels, from joint infrastructure projects to supporting the development of innovation and new technologies.

Partner: Lubelskie Region Self-Government

Moderator: Jerzy Kwieciński, Carpathian Europe expert, Poland

Panelists:

1. Jarosław Stawiarski, Marshal, Lubelskie Region's Marshal's Office, Poland
2. Andrzej Adamczyk, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
3. Jerzy Polaczek, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
4. Kamil Šaško, First State Secretary, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, Slovakia
5. Yaroslav Romanchuk, Attorney at Law, Managing Partner EUCON Legal Group, Ukraine
6. Beata Daszyńska-Muzyczka, Ambassador – special representative of the President of the Republic of Poland for the Three Seas Initiative, Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland
7. Janos Matuz, Senior Analyst Hungarian Development Promotion Office (MFOI Advisory), Hungary

16:05-17:05**VIII. National Parliaments and the EU Integration Plans**

In the discussion on the future of the European Union, the question arises as to whether decisions adopted in the European Parliament are to be binding on national parliaments. What competences of the national parliaments can the EP take over? Can

it decide to unify their rules of procedure? Can EP elections replace elections to national parliaments in the future? Will voters in e.g. the Czech Republic vote for a candidate living in e.g. Denmark or Italy? Will the role of national parliaments not be reduced to the level of local assemblies in the ongoing integration process?

Moderator: Włodzimierz Bernacki, Senator, Senate of the Republic of Poland

Panelists:

1. Barbara Bartuś, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
2. Rita Tamašunienė, Member, Seimas, Lithuania
3. Marek Kuchciński, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
4. Tomasz Zieliński, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
5. Jerzy Polaczek, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
6. Roman Fritz, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
7. Andrzej Klarkowski, Sociologist, Poland

17:15-18:15 Forum plenary session

18:25-19:25

IX. Years of Polish Agriculture in the EU. What Is the Future of the Polish Countryside?

In the last decade, the Polish countryside has undergone several significant changes that have affected both its social and cultural structure and the development of infrastructure and the local economy. Rapidly developing agriculture remains the primary sector of the rural economy, but the prevalence of new technologies is changing rural lifestyles, allowing residents to work remotely. Access to education and culture has improved, and agri-tourism has emerged as a popular leisure activity. On the other hand, a noticeable problem in the countryside is the ageing of its population or the emigration of young people to the city due to the lack of development and job prospects and poor medical care. How can we capitalise on the positive changes taking place in the countryside? How can we reverse negative trends?

Moderator: Teresa Pamuła, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Panelists:

1. Anna Paluch, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
2. Krzysztof Cieciora, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
3. Emanuelis Zingeris, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Seimas, Lithuania
4. Krystyna Wróblewska, Director, Podkarpacki Complex of Provincial Posts in Rzeszów, Poland
5. Bogdan Bartnicki, Chairman of the Voivodeship Council, Warmian-Masurian Regional Assembly, Poland

Thursday, 5 September 2024

10:00-11:00 Forum plenary session

11:10-12:10

X. The Young Leaders of the Carpathian Europe

Young people are the future of the Europe of the Carpathians. That is why it is important to listen to their ideas. What do young leaders think about the creation of an intergovernmental "Council of Carpathian Governments"? Is it time to revive the idea of a "Carpathian Parliamentary Assembly"? Can there be an "EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region"? Should a "Carpathian Investment Fund" be established to bridge infrastructure gaps? In this panel, young Carpathian leaders will discuss how the region could look like in 2030, 2050 and 2100.

Partner: Przemyśl Cultural Society

Moderator: Sébastien Meuwissen, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Fundamental Rights, Poland

Panelists:

1. Łukasz Kmita, Deputy, Sejm, Poland
2. Predrag Rajić, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister, Cabinet of the Prime Minister, Serbia
3. Viktória Lilla Pató, Leading Expert, Hungarian Development Promotion Office (MFOI Advisory), Hungary



Co-organizers and Partners:



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