

Introduction

Dear friends,

For the past seventeen years, Forum 2000 has been realizing the vision of Václav Havel, Elie Wiesel, and Yohei Sasakawa, bringing together people of different cultures, religions and professions to discuss ways to preserve and enhance democracy, respect for human rights, tolerance, and freedom. This will be the second Forum 2000 Conference without Václav Havel, but the main objective remains the same. We are gathering to engage in open, tolerant, and – hopefully – enriching dialogue on issues crucial to our common future.

Václav Havel dedicated his life to the struggle for freedom and human dignity against totalitarianism and to the transition of his country, as well as others around the world, to an open democratic society. The upcoming gathering will focus on the challenges of such transitions.

We aim to explore challenges, opportunities, and risks in the processes of social and political change from the Arab World and post-Soviet region to Latin America and Asia. The goal is to deepen our understanding of what is

necessary to move from authoritarianism to democracy, but also of the causes of cessation or reversal of these processes. We hope that the discussions will penetrate deep into the institutional, constitutional, and societal developments, political parties' dynamics, transitional justice, media, education, and foreign policies, as well as into factors like religion and historical memory.

We would like to thank the Forum 2000 team, members of the Board of Directors, the Program Council, and a number of other collaborators from around the world who have over the past year voluntarily dedicated their time and commitment to preparing the program of the upcoming conference. They also helped with fundraising, and provided all kinds of other invaluable support to the foundation's activities and projects. The team spirit within the Forum 2000 family is truly wonderful – without it we would be nowhere.

We hope that you will enjoy the conference, learn something new, and get inspired to continue making the difference.












Tomáš Vrba
*Chairman of the Board
of Directors*

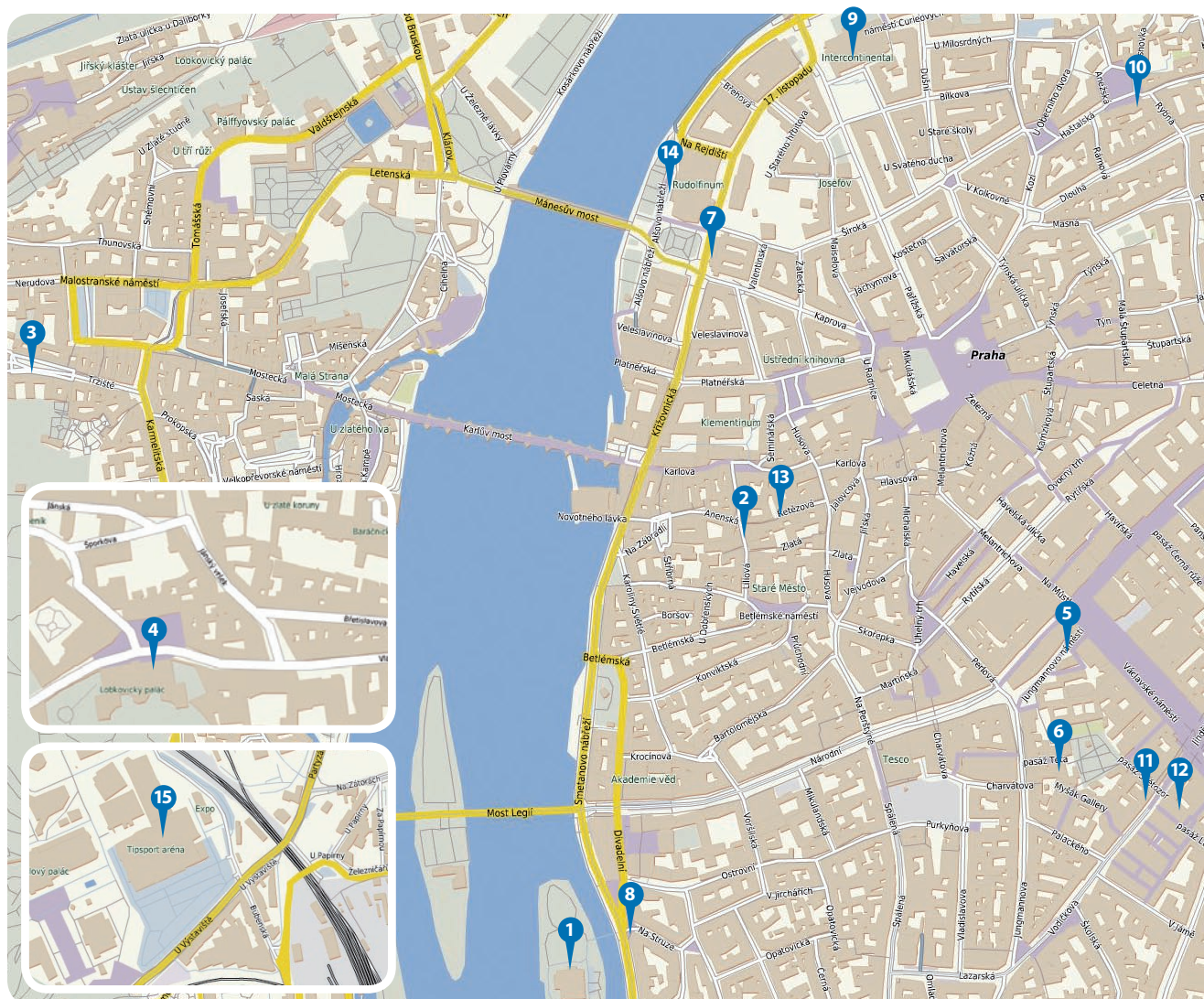


Jakub Klepal
Executive Director

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Map of Conference Venues



1.
Zofin Palace
Slovanský ostrov, Prague 1

2.
Prague Crossroads
(former St. Anne's church)
Zlatá, entrance from Liliová, Prague 1

3.
American Center of the U.S. Embassy
in Prague
Tržiště 13, Prague 1

4.
Embassy of Germany in Prague
Vlašská 19, Prague 1

5.
Era World
Jungmannovo náměstí 767, Prague 1

6.
European House
Jungmannova 24, Prague 1

7.
Faculty of Arts, Charles University
Náměstí Jana Palacha 2, Prague 1

8.
Goethe-Institut
Masarykovo nábřeží 32, Prague 1

9.
Hotel InterContinental
Pařížská 30, Prague 1

10.
Hotel Maximilian
Haštalská 14, Prague 1

11.
Langhans, People in Need Center
Vodičkova 37, Prague 1

12.
Lucerna Palace
Vodičkova 36, Prague 1

13.
Václav Havel Library
Řetězová 7, Prague 1

14.
Rudolfinum
Alšovo nábřeží 12, Prague 1

15.
Tipsport Arena
Za Elektrárnou 1, Prague 7

Venues in Other Cities

Antiquarian Bookshop Fiducia
Nádražní 30, Ostrava

Pod Lampou Theater
Havířská 11, Pilsen

Hotel Devín
Riečná 4, Bratislava
Slovakia

Villa Decius
28 Lipca 1943 r. 17a, Krakow
Poland

Conference Speakers List

Alberro	Hernán Alberro, <i>Programs Director, CADAL, Argentina</i>
Aliyev	Kenan Aliyev, <i>Director, Azerbaijani Service, RFE/RL, Azerbaijan</i>
Anti	Michael Anti, <i>Blogger, China</i>
Asatiani	Salome Asatiani, <i>Journalist, Georgian Service, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Georgia</i>
Aung San Suu Kyi	Aung San Suu Kyi, <i>Political Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, Burma</i>
Avineri	Shlomo Avineri, <i>Professor of Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Israel</i>
Baez	Joan Baez, <i>Singer, Activist, USA</i>
Bartovic	Vladimír Bartovic, <i>Deputy Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic/Slovakia</i>
Batistić Kos	Vesna Batistić Kos, <i>Assistant Minister, Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia</i>
Bauer	Jan Bauer, <i>Chairman, European Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, Czech Republic</i>
Bednářová	Klára Bednářová, <i>People in Need, Czech Republic</i>
Bělobrádek	Pavel Bělobrádek, <i>Chairman, KDU-ČSL, Czech Republic</i>
Bendová	Markéta Bendová, <i>Editor, Czech Republic</i>
Benotman	Noman Benotman, <i>President, Quilliam Foundation, United Kingdom/Libya</i>
Best	Erik Best, <i>Journalist, The Fleet Sheet, Czech Republic/USA</i>
Bialiatki	Ales Bialiatki, <i>President, Viasna Human Rights Centre (prisoner of conscience – unable to attend), Belarus</i>
Blaževič	Igor Blaževič, <i>Head Teacher, Burma Educational Initiatives, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic/Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
Blömeke	Heinrich Blömeke, <i>Director, Goethe-Institut Prague, Czech Republic/Germany</i>
Boček	Josef Boček, <i>Former Director, Youth in Action Czech National Agency, Czech Republic</i>
Borovanská	Johana Borovanská, <i>Editor, Czech Republic</i>
Bouška	Tomáš Bouška, <i>Co-Founder and Chair, Political Prisoners.eu, Czech Republic</i>
Bursík	Martin Bursík, <i>Former Deputy Prime Minister, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic</i>
Burt	Richard Burt, <i>Businessman, Diplomat, USA</i>
Bútora	Martin Bútora, <i>Sociologist, Institute for Public Affairs, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Slovakia</i>
Chen	Chen Guangcheng, <i>Lawyer, Civil Rights Activist, China</i>
Cleary	Sean Cleary, <i>Founder and Executive Vice-Chair, Future World Foundation, South Africa</i>
Cook	William Cook, <i>Professor of History and Religion, State University of New York, USA</i>
Cuesta Morua	Manuel Silvestre Cuesta Morua, <i>National Coordinator, Arco Progresista, Cuba</i>
Dabrowski	Marek Dabrowski, <i>Fellow, CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Poland</i>
Dalai Lama	His Holiness the Dalai Lama, <i>Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, India/Tibet</i>
Damian	Anba Damian, <i>Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Church, Germany</i>
de Klerk	Frederik Willem de Klerk, <i>Former President, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, South Africa</i>
Dervisbegovic	Nedim Dervisbegovic, <i>Multimedia Producer, Balkan Service, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
Devát	Jiří Devát, <i>General Director, Cisco ČR, Czech Republic</i>
Dhaif	Nada Dhaif, <i>Chairman, Bahrain Rehabilitation and Anti-Violence Organization, Bahrain</i>
Donnelly	Doris Donnelly, <i>Director, The Cardinal Suenens Center, John Carroll University, USA</i>
Dragomir	Marius Dragomir, <i>Main Editor, Mapping Digital Media Project, United Kingdom/Romania</i>
Druker	Jeremy Druker, <i>Executive Director, Transitions Online, Czech Republic/USA</i>
Duka	Dominik Duka, <i>Cardinal, Archbishop of Prague, Czech Republic</i>
Duna	Cem Duna, <i>Chairman, AB Consultancy and Investment Services, Turkey</i>
Dvořáková	Sabina Dvořáková, <i>Executive Director, DEMAS, Czech Republic</i>
Dzihana	Amer Dzihana, <i>Bosnia Lead Researcher, MDM Project, Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
Eberle	Doraja Eberle, <i>Chairwoman, Managing Board, ERSTE Foundation, Austria</i>
Eisen	Norman L. Eisen, <i>Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, USA</i>
Eisenstein	Charles Eisenstein, <i>Author, USA</i>
Ejbøl	Jørgen Ejbøl, <i>Chairman, JP/Politikens Newspapers, Denmark</i>

Evans	Gareth Evans, <i>Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chancellor, Australian National University, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Australia</i>
Fingerland	Jan Fingerland, <i>Analyst, Czech Radio, Czech Republic</i>
Fischer	Pavel Fischer, <i>Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic</i>
Fischler	Franz Fischler, <i>Former European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Austria</i>
Gabal	Ivan Gabal, <i>Sociologist, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic</i>
Gan	Steven Gan, <i>Editor, Malaysiakini, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Malaysia</i>
García Pérez	Carlos García Pérez, <i>Director, Radio and TV Martí, USA/Cuba</i>
Gedmin	Jeffrey Gedmin, <i>CEO and President, Legatum Institute, Former President, RFE/RL, USA</i>
Glondys	Danuta Glondys, <i>Director, Villa Decius Association, Poland</i>
Göncz	Kinga Göncz, <i>Member of European Parliament, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hungary</i>
Haig	Barbara Haig, <i>Deputy President for Policy and Strategy, National Endowment for Democracy, USA</i>
Halevy	Efraim Halevy, <i>Former Director, Mossad, Israel</i>
Halík	Tomáš Halík, <i>Sociologist, President, Czech Christian Academy, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic</i>
Hamáček	Jan Hamáček, <i>Deputy Speaker, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament, Czech Republic</i>
Havel	Ivan M. Havel, <i>Scientist, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, Czech Republic</i>
Hawas	Fatma Hawas, <i>Libyan Women Forum, Libya</i>
Hlavičková	Zuzana Hlavičková, <i>Director, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic</i>
Hlibovytsky	Yevhen Hlibovytsky, <i>Founder, Pro-Mova, Ukraine</i>
Hudeček	Tomáš Hudeček, <i>Lord Mayor of Prague, Czech Republic</i>
Husain	Jasim Husain, <i>Former Member of Parliament, Bahrain</i>
Hvorecký	Michal Hvorecký, <i>Author, Slovakia</i>
Ismayilova	Khadija Ismayilova, <i>Journalist, Azerbaijan</i>
Janeček	Karel Janeček, <i>Businessman, Philanthropist, Anti-Corruption Activist, Czech Republic</i>
Jiříčná	Eva Jiříčná, <i>Architect, Czech Republic</i>
Jurkonis	Vytis Jurkonis, <i>Lecturer, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, Lithuania</i>
Kalhousová	Irena Kalhousová, <i>Chief Analyst, Prague Security Studies Institute, Czech Republic</i>
Khon Ja	Khon Ja, <i>Founder and Coordinator, Kachin Peace Network, Burma</i>
Kiniklioğlu	Suat Kiniklioğlu, <i>Executive Director, Center for Strategic Communication, Turkey</i>
Klepal	Jakub Klepal, <i>Executive Director, Forum 2000 Foundation, Czech Republic</i>
Klose	Kevin Klose, <i>President and CEO, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/USA</i>
Kmoníček	Hynek Kmoníček, <i>Director, Foreign Affairs Department, Office of the President, Czech Republic</i>
Kollár	Miroslav Kollár, <i>Analyst, Institute for Public Affairs, Slovakia</i>
Kostecký	Tomáš Kostecký, <i>Director, Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic</i>
Kovanda	Karel Kovanda, <i>Former Deputy Director-General, DG External Relations, European Commission, Belgium/Czech Republic</i>
Král	David Král, <i>Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic</i>
Kraus	Tomáš Kraus, <i>Executive Director, Federation of Jewish Communities, Czech Republic</i>
Krupička	Miroslav Krupička, <i>Editor-in-Chief, Radio Prague, Czech Republic</i>
Kříž	Martin Kříž, <i>Senior Partner, China Consulting, Czech Republic</i>
Lagunina	Irina Lagunina, <i>Editor-in-Chief, Russian Service, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Russia</i>
Landsbergis	Vytautas Landsbergis, <i>Former President, Member of European Parliament, Lithuania</i>
Lehmann	Jean-Pierre Lehmann, <i>Emeritus Professor of International Political Economy, IMD, Switzerland</i>
Lešenarová	Hana Lešenarová, <i>Associate Director, Control Risks Deutschland, Member of the Forum 2000 Corporate Council, Germany/Czech Republic</i>
Leško	Marián Leško, <i>Publicist, Slovakia</i>
Lévy	Pierre Lévy, <i>Ambassador to the Czech Republic, France</i>
Li	Zuzana Li, <i>Sinologist, Translator, Czech Republic</i>
Lindner	Tomáš Lindner, <i>Editor, Respekt, Czech Republic</i>
Lingemann	Detlef Lingemann, <i>Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Germany</i>
Liška	Ondřej Liška, <i>Chairman, Green Party, Czech Republic</i>
Liu C.	Liu Chao-shiuan, <i>Senior Advisor to the President, Former Prime Minister, Taiwan</i>
Liu X.	Liu Xiaobo, <i>Literary Critic, Writer, Professor, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (prisoner of conscience – unable to attend), China</i>
Lochman	Ondřej Lochman, <i>Executive Director, Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Czech Republic Foundation, Czech Republic</i>
Lomová	Olga Lomová, <i>Sinologist, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Czech Republic</i>

Conference Speakers List

López	Leopoldo López, <i>National Coordinator, Voluntad Popular, Venezuela</i>
Magdoň	Libor Magdoň, <i>Moderator, Czech Radio Ostrava and Radio Vltava, Czech Republic</i>
Maher	Ahmed Maher, <i>Blogger and Activist, Egypt</i>
Malý	Libor Malý, <i>Philanthropist, Founder, Jobs.cz and Práce.cz, Czech Republic</i>
Mareš	Petr Mareš, <i>Special Envoy for Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic</i>
Marchkova	Aliona Marchkova, <i>Director, Centre for Legal and Information Support to NGOs, Tiraspol, Moldova</i>
Masri	Munib Masri, <i>Chairman, Munib R. Masri Development Foundation, Palestine</i>
Matějka	Ondřej Matějka, <i>Director, Antikomplex, Czech Republic</i>
Matveev	Denis Matveev, <i>CMI Martti Ahtisaari Centre, Finland</i>
Medvedský	Matej Medvedský, <i>Researcher, Nation's Memory Institute, Slovakia</i>
Mica	Daniel A. Mica, <i>Former Congressman, USA</i>
Michel	Frédéric Michel, <i>Global Director of Public Engagement, Telefónica, France</i>
Mikloš	Ivan Mikloš, <i>Former Minister of Finance, Slovakia</i>
Milli	Emin Milli, <i>Writer, Dissident, Azerbaijan</i>
Moldan	Bedřich Moldan, <i>Director, Environment Center, Charles University, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic</i>
Mühlfeit	Jan Mühlfeit, <i>Chairman Europe, Microsoft Corporation, Czech Republic</i>
Mukherjee	Rudrangshu Mukherjee, <i>Historian, Journalist, India</i>
Munshi	Surendra Munshi, <i>Sociologist, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, India</i>
Naidoo	Jay Naidoo, <i>Chairman, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Politician, Trade Union Activist, South Africa</i>
Nicholson	Tom Nicholson, <i>Investigative Journalist, Slovakia</i>
Novak	Michael Novak, <i>Theologian, Political Scientist, USA</i>
Osman	Tarek Osman, <i>Author, Analyst, Egypt</i>
Otaola	Pablo Otaola, <i>Urban Planner, Spain</i>
Palouš	Martin Palouš, <i>President, Václav Havel Library Foundation, USA/Czech Republic</i>
Pánek	Šimon Pánek, <i>Co-founder and Director, People in Need, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, Czech Republic</i>
Persak	Krzysztof Persak, <i>Director, Office of the President, Institute of National Remembrance, Poland</i>
Piekło	Jan Piekło, <i>Publicist, Reporter in Conflict Zones, Poland</i>
Pilipová	Lucie Pilipová, <i>Member of the Forum 2000 Board of Directors, Czech Republic</i>
Pomianowski	Jerzy Pomianowski, <i>Executive Director, European Endowment for Democracy, Belgium/Poland</i>
Příbáň	Jiří Příbáň, <i>Professor of Law, Cardiff University, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, United Kingdom/Czech Republic</i>
Przybylski	Wojciech Przybylski, <i>Editor-in-Chief, Respublica Nowa, Poland</i>
Rafaj	Jan Rafaj, <i>HR Head of Business Division East, ArcelorMittal, Czech Republic</i>
Rathenow	Lutz Rathenow, <i>Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the Former GDR, Federal State of Saxony, Germany</i>
Retková	Daniela Retková, <i>Special Programs, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Czech Republic</i>
Riabchuk	Mykola Riabchuk, <i>Political and Cultural Analyst, Ukraine</i>
Roman	Petre Roman, <i>Politician, Former Prime Minister, Romania</i>
Rouček	Libor Rouček, <i>Member of European Parliament, Czech Republic</i>
Rupnik	Jacques Rupnik, <i>Political Scientist, France</i>
Sager	Bobby Sager, <i>Philanthropist, USA</i>
Sánchez	Yoani Sánchez, <i>Blogger and Activist, Cuba</i>
Scharmer	Otto Scharmer, <i>Senior Lecturer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA</i>
Schmidt	Mária Schmidt, <i>Director, House of Terror, Hungary</i>
Schmiedová	Jitka Schmiedová, <i>Vicepresident for People and Property, Vodafone, Czech Republic</i>
Schneider	Jiří Schneider, <i>First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic</i>
Schnetzer	Amanda Schnetzer, <i>Director, Human Freedom, George W. Bush Presidential Center, USA</i>
Schwarz	Ivo Schwarz, <i>Director General, Office for Foreign Relations and Information, Czech Republic</i>
Schwarzenberg	Karel Schwarzenberg, <i>Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic</i>
Scruton	Roger Scruton, <i>Philosopher, Political Scientist, United Kingdom</i>
Sedláček	Tomáš Sedláček, <i>Chief Macroeconomic Strategist, ČSOB Bank, Member of the Forum 2000 Corporate Council, Czech Republic</i>
Sedláčková	Markéta Sedláčková, <i>Sociologist, Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic</i>
Sidikov	Alisher Sidikov, <i>Director, Radio Ozodlik (Uzbek Service), RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Uzbekistan</i>
Šilhavý	Ivo Šilhavý, <i>Member of the Forum 2000 Board of Directors, Czech Republic</i>
Singer	Miroslav Singer, <i>Governor, Czech National Bank, Czech Republic</i>
Skálová	Ivana Skálová, <i>Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, People in Need, Czech Republic</i>
Stanowski	Krzysztof Stanowski, <i>Executive Director, Solidarity Fund, Poland</i>
Štefková	Ivana Štefková, <i>Member of the Forum 2000 Board of Directors, Czech Republic</i>

Stoessinger	Caroline Stoessinger, <i>Author, President, The Mozart Academy, Professor, The City University of NY, USA</i>
Štohanzlová	Helena Štohanzlová, <i>Project Manager, Department of Human Rights and Transition Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic</i>
Suchardová	Michaela Suchardová, <i>Analyst, Anti-Corruption Fund, Czech Republic</i>
Sujú	Tamara Sujú, <i>Human Rights Lawyer, Venezuela</i>
Suk	Jiří Suk, <i>Historian, Czech Republic</i>
Surroi	Veton Surroi, <i>Journalist, Politician, Kosovo</i>
Susanna Hla Hla Soe	Susanna Hla Hla Soe, <i>Director, Karen Women Empowerment Group, Burma</i>
Švejnar	Jan Švejnar, <i>Director, Center on Global Economic Governance, Columbia University, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, USA/Czech Republic</i>
Templer	Robert Templer, <i>Professor, Central European University, Hungary/New Zealand</i>
Tesař	Filip Tesař, <i>Analyst, Institute for International Relations, Czech Republic</i>
Tóth	Ján Tóth, <i>Deputy Governor, National Bank of Slovakia, Slovakia</i>
Tychtl	Pavel Tychtl, <i>European Commission, DG COMM – Active European Remembrance, Czech Republic</i>
Ujfalúši	Robin Ujfalúši, <i>Former Director, INEX-SDA, Czech Republic</i>
Urban	Jan Urban, <i>Journalist, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic</i>
Vacková	Ludmila Vacková, <i>Program Officer, Freedom House, Lithuania/Czech Republic</i>
Valdés Hernández	Dagoberto Valdés Hernández, <i>Founder and Editor, Vitral Magazine, Cuba</i>
Valvoda	Rostislav Valvoda, <i>Head of East European Program, People in Need, Czech Republic</i>
Vejvodová	Daniela Vejvodová, <i>Editor, Czech Republic</i>
Verwey	Franki Verwey, <i>Ambassador to the Czech Republic, South Africa</i>
Viphandh	Viphandh Roengpithya, <i>Founder and President, Asian University, Thailand</i>
Vondra	Alexandr Vondra, <i>Politician, Diplomat, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic</i>
Vrba	Tomáš Vrba, <i>Chairman of the Forum 2000 Board of Directors, Czech Republic</i>
Vrzalík	Leoš Vrzalík, <i>Business Development Director, Skanska, Czech Republic</i>
Walker	Christopher Walker, <i>Executive Director, International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, USA</i>
Weber	Biljana Weber, <i>CEO, Microsoft, Czech Republic</i>
Winton	Barbara Winton, <i>Social Worker, Daughter of Sir Nicolas Winton, United Kingdom</i>
Wollack	Ken Wollack, <i>President, National Democratic Institute, USA</i>
Wootliff	Jonathan Wootliff, <i>Board of Experts, Czech Business Council for Sustainable Development, Czech Republic</i>
Wursterová	Karla Wursterová, <i>Executive Director, International Visegrad Fund, Slovakia</i>
Yang	Yang Jianli, <i>Dissident, President and Founder, Initiatives for China, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, USA/China</i>
Yavlinsky	Grigory Yavlinsky, <i>Economist, Politician, Russia</i>
Zámečník	Miroslav Zámečník, <i>Consultant, Czech Republic</i>
Žantovský	Michael Žantovský, <i>President, Aspen Institute Prague, Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic</i>

Speaker Profiles

Learn more about some of our speakers by reading their short biography.



Michael Anti
Blogger, China

Journalist and Political Blogger for various Chinese and English-language media outlets. Michael Anti an Associate Fellow with the Asia Society. As a public advocate for Internet freedom and online public diplomacy, he is one of the most influential microbloggers in China. He worked as a reporter in Baghdad and also at the Beijing Bureau of The New York Times. Mr. Anti has received the Wolfson Press Fellowship at Cambridge University (2007), Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University (2008), and was a visiting scholar at the University of Tokyo (2010). He was awarded the M100 Sanssouci Media Award in 2011 and has a degree in International Reporting from the Journalism School of Shantou University.



Salome Asatiani
Journalist, Georgian Service, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Georgia

Georgian broadcaster and popular blogger, covering politics, human rights, and cultural developments. Ms. Asatiani works with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Georgian Service in Prague. She previously worked with RFE/RL as a freelance correspondent in Tbilisi, producing a weekly program on tolerance, diversity and Georgia's ethnic, religious and sexual minorities. Before becoming a journalist, she lectured at Tbilisi State University and worked as a DJ at a local rock radio station. She earned graduate degrees in Gender Studies from Central European University and in Media Studies from Sussex University and received her undergraduate degree in Film Studies from Tbilisi State University.



Aung San Suu Kyi
Political Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, Burma

Political Leader, pro-Democracy Political Activist and Dissident. She is a member of the lower house of the Burmese parliament since April 2012. Aung San Suu Kyi is the leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma and a noted prisoner of conscience and advocate of non-violent resistance. She won the Rafto Prize and the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1990. In 1991 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her peaceful and non-violent struggle under a military dictatorship.



Shlomo Avineri
Professor of Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Israel

Professor of Political Science at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Mr. Avineri served as Director-General of Israel's Foreign Ministry (1975–1977) and held visiting positions at Yale, Oxford, the University of California and the Central European University in Budapest, among other places. He is a recipient of the Israel Prize, the country's highest civilian decoration. His widely translated books include: "The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx" (1968), "Israel and the Palestinians" (1971), "Hegel's Theory of the Modern State" (1974), "The Making of Modern Zionism" (1981) and "Herzl: An Intellectual Biography" (2007). He is a graduate of The Hebrew University and the London School of Economics.



Joan Baez
Singer, Activist, USA

Human rights activist and singer. Joan Baez is known and respected for her nonviolent activism and humanitarian efforts on many issues, including anti-war, human rights, and capital punishment abolition. As a tribute to her life-long work she was awarded the first Amnesty International's Joan Baez Award for Outstanding Inspirational Service in the Global Fight for Human Rights in 2011. In 2007 she was awarded the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Baez has performed worldwide for over 50 years and authored two autobiographical books: "Daybreak" (1968) and "And A Voice to Sing With" (1987).



Vladimír Bartovic
Deputy Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic/Slovakia

Deputy Director of the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy. Mr. Bartovic is also a member of the Board of Directors of DEMAS Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights and served as its Chairman (2010-2011). From 2011 to 2012 he served as the Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He worked as an editor at the Integrace magazine. He has been lecturing on EU related issues at the Institute of Public Administration and the Czech National Bank. Mr. Bartovic graduated in international trade and international politics at the University of Economics in Prague.



Vesna Batistić Kos
Assistant Minister, Directorate General for
Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues,
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs,
Croatia

Assistant Minister responsible for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Before becoming the Director General, Ms Kos was heading the International Organisations and Human Rights Department as well as the Department for International Development Cooperation (2010-2011). She was Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Croatia to the Council of Europe (2003-2008), where she was also appointed chargée d'affaires (2009). She holds a Ph.D. in International Human Rights Law from the Law Faculty of the University of Zagreb.



Jan Bauer
Chairman, European Affairs Committee,
Chamber of Deputies, Czech Republic

Chairman of the European Affairs Committee at the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Mr. Bauer is a Member of Parliament, who has been elected to the Chamber of Deputies three times. His first successful election was in 2004. Previously, he was involved in municipal and regional politics, as an elected member of the Regional Council from 2000 to 2004 and Mayor of Prachatice two years earlier. Before getting involved in politics, Mr. Bauer held several managerial positions in the private sector. He is a graduate of the Czech Technical University in Prague.



Klára Bednářová
People in Need, Czech Republic

Project Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, Center for Democracy and Human Rights, People in Need, Czech Republic. Klára Bednářová has been directing projects in Egypt and Libya since 2011 aimed at supporting the role of civil society in democratic transitions. She is currently engaged in several non-governmental organizations and think-tanks. Ms. Bednářová holds an M.A. in Security Studies from Charles University in Prague.



Pavel Bělobrádek
Chairman, KDU-ČSL, Czech Republic

Politician, Chairman of the KDU-ČSL political party and a former veterinarian. Mr. Bělobrádek has been the leader of the KDU-ČSL, a christian conservative party, since 2010. He joined the party in 2004 and quickly rose up the ranks. Before becoming party Chairman, he was its Regional Secretary for the Pardubice Region. He was also elected to the Regional Council of the Hradec Králové Region and to the City Council of the municipality of Náchod in 2010 and 2009, respectively. Mr. Bělobrádek earned graduate

and post-graduate (Ph.D.) degrees from the Veterinary and Pharmaceutical University in Brno.



Noman Benotman
President, Quilliam Foundation, United
Kingdom/Libya

President of the Quilliam Foundation, a Middle East focused think-tank based in London. Noman Benotman has appeared on many TV channels as an expert in Terrorism and the Middle East, more recently as the expert on the Arab Spring and its effects. He is former head of the Libyan anti-Qaddafi militant organization known as the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group. Benotman has been active in reforming his former terrorist comrades in prison, attempting to persuade them to renounce violence. During the 1980s he fled Libya and joined the anti-Soviet efforts in Afghanistan.



Erik Best
Journalist, The Fleet Sheet, Czech Republic/
USA

Journalist and publisher of the Fleet Sheet. Mr. Best founded the Fleet Sheet, a daily review of the Czech press, in 1991 and has attracted considerable readership for over 20 years. In 2001, he started publishing the Final Word, a daily editorial which became an influential publication soon after. His latest publication is the Friday Edition. He is also a frequent commentator on Czech Radio and television stations. Mr. Best graduated from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1985, with a degree in Eastern European studies and a concentration in the Russian language. He completed a master's degree in Russian at Middlebury College in 1985 and studied in Moscow in 1983 and 1984.



Ales Bialiatski
President, Viasna Human Rights Centre,
Belarus

Ales Bialiatski was invited to this year's Forum 2000 Conference, but is unable to attend as he remains imprisoned for political reasons.

President of the Viasna Human Rights Centre (since 1996) and Vice-Chairman of the International Federation for Human Rights (since 2011). Mr. Bialiatski was a nominee for the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. He was arrested in 2011 by Belarusian authorities on tax evasion charges – widely recognized as a political act, considering his devotion to human rights in Belarus – and sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison; international organizations have since launched numerous appeals for his release. Mr. Bialiatski has won multiple awards for his efforts in promoting human rights and democracy, including the Homo Homini Award and the Per Anger Prize; in September 2012, he was also announced the winner of the Lech Walesa Award. He holds a Ph.D. from the Belarusian Academy of Sciences.



Igor Blažević

Head Teacher, Burma Educational Initiatives, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic/Bosnia and Herzegovina

Founder of One World Film Festival, the biggest human rights film festival in Europe, he is also a steering committee member of the World Movement for Democracy, and was formerly Director of the Human Rights and Democracy Department of People in Need (1994–2010). Mr. Blažević studied Philosophy and Comparative Literature at Zagreb University.



Martin Bursík

Former Deputy Prime Minister, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic (1998 and 2007–2009) and former Chairman of the Green Party (2005–2009). Mr. Bursík worked as a consultant on energy and environmental protection and as the Director of Eco-consulting. Prior to this he served as a member of Prague City Council (1994–1998), including the position of the Chairman of the Environmental Committee. As a member of the Czech National Council, he co-authored the law on the protection of nature and landscape. He was one of the founding members of the Civic Forum (1989) and holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Protection from Charles University.



Martin Bútora

Sociologist, Institute for Public Affairs, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Slovakia

Honorary President of the Institute for Public Affairs (IVO), an independent public policy think-tank established in Bratislava in 1997. A sociologist by training, Mr. Bútora was one of the founders of the Public Against Violence movement in Slovakia in November 1989 and served as a Human Rights Advisor to Czechoslovak President Václav Havel from 1990 to 1992. He served as Slovak Ambassador to the U.S. (1990–1992) and has written and edited a number of books and studies on social transformation, foreign policy, and civil society, including IVO's annual series, "Global Report" on the State of Society.



Chen Guangcheng

Lawyer, Civil Rights Activist, China

Chinese Lawyer and Civil Rights Activist. Mr. Chen is commonly known as the "Blind Lawyer." He worked intensively on human rights issues in rural areas of the People's Republic of China. He gained international recognition for organizing a landmark class-action lawsuit against authorities in Linyi, Shandong province, for the excessive enforcement of the one-child policy. As a result of this lawsuit, Mr. Chen was placed under house arrest from September 2005 to March

2006, and formally arrested in June 2006. During the trial, his attorneys were forbidden access to the court, leaving him without a proper defender. In April 2012, Mr. Chen escaped his house arrest and fled to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. He is currently living in the U.S. He is a vocal advocate for women's rights, land rights, and the welfare of the poor.



Sean Cleary

Founder and Executive Vice-Chair, Future World Foundation, South Africa

Founder and Executive Vice Chairman of the Future World Foundation and Chairman of Strategic Concepts Ltd. Mr. Cleary currently serves as a strategic adviser to the World Economic Forum and also lectures at business schools and defense colleges in the USA, Europe and South Africa. He has directed several companies, was a faculty member at the Parmenides Foundation, board member of LEAD International, member of the Facilitating and Preparatory Committees of the South African National Peace Accord and chairman of the Working Group on the code of Conduct for Political Parties and Organizations. Mr. Cleary began his career in the South African Navy and in the years following he worked in various professional fields ranging from diplomacy and business to academia and the non-profit sector. After graduating in social sciences, philosophy and law at the University of South Africa, he received an MBA from Henley Management College, Brunel University.



William Cook

Professor of History and Religion, State University of New York, USA

Distinguished Teaching Professor in the State University of New York at Geneseo and Visiting Professor of Religion and History at Wabash College. Dr. Cook received a Ph.D. in Medieval History from Cornell University. He is the author of six books, mostly about the Franciscan movement, has won numerous awards for teaching excellence, and has lectured throughout the world, including recently in Italy, Slovakia, China, the Philippines, and Kenya. Dr. Cook has been deeply involved with the issue of abandoned and abused children, adopting three teenage boys and being legal guardian for eight others. He has made nine audio/video courses with The Great Courses, primarily on religious topics. Dr. Cook is an avid student of democracy and especially of the works of Alexis de Tocqueville. He was a candidate for US Congress in 1998.



Marek Dabrowski

Fellow, CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Poland

Professor of Economics and Co-founder and Fellow of the Center for Social and Economic Research. Mr. Dabrowski is a World Bank and UNDP Consultant, author of several academic and policy papers, and editor of several books and publications. Since the end

of the 1980s he has been involved in policy advising and policy research in many developing countries. He served as Chairman of the Supervisory Council and President of CASE until 2011. He held several political positions: member of the Monetary Policy Council of the National Bank of Poland (1998–2004), Member of Parliament (1991–1993) and First Deputy Minister of Finance (1989–1990).



His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, India/Tibet

The 14th Dalai Lama has been the Head of State and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people since 1940. He accepted full political power in 1950. In 1959, in reaction to China's aggression, he escaped to India and established the Tibetan Government-in-Exile in Dharamsala. In 2011, he formally resigned as political leader of Tibetans-in-exile, delegating his administrative and political authorities to the democratically elected leaders of the Central Tibetan Administration. He has also been involved in human rights issues, multi-religious dialogues, and issues concerning religious freedom. Despite China's resistance, the Dalai Lama is recognized as a moral and religious authority throughout the world.



Anba Damian

Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Church, Germany

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Germany. Bishop Damian is the highest representative of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Germany, responsible for ecumenical work and outside representation. His residence is the Monastery of St. Mary in Hoexter-Brenkhausen. He puts great importance on interreligious dialogue and tries to keep a close relation with Catholics, Protestants as well as Jews. He was ordained the Head Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Germany in 1995 by the Coptic Pope Shenouda III. Prior to becoming a priest, Bishop Damian worked as a medical doctor. He was raised in Cairo by a Coptic Orthodox family.



Frederik Willem de Klerk

Former President, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, South Africa

Former President of South Africa (1989–1994). Together with Nelson Mandela, he made a decisive contribution toward ending apartheid in South Africa. Mr. de Klerk helped establish and implement a reconciliation process between South Africa's black majority and the white minority populations. He won the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize in 1991, the Prince of Asturias Award in 1992 and shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 with Nelson Mandela for their work to end apartheid. He is the founder of the FW de Klerk Foundation, dedicated to the development of positive relations among South Africa's diverse communities.



Nedim Dervisbegovic

Multimedia Producer, Balkan Service, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Bosnia and Herzegovina

A Multimedia Producer at RFE/RL. Nedim Dervisbegovic is in charge of online operations at the Balkan Service of RFE/RL. In 2007, he helped launch the independent news website RadioSarajevo.ba and served as its Editor-in-Chief. From 1997 to 2007, he covered Bosnia's post-war recovery and European integration as a Senior Correspondent for Reuters. In 1996–1997, he wrote on ex-Yugoslavia for the Italian daily La Voce Repubblicana. Mr. Dervisbegovic studied media and politics at the American University of Rome and received his B.Sc. in Politics and International Relations from the University of London.



Jiří Devát

General Director, Cisco ČR, Czech Republic

IT specialist, and General Director of Cisco Czech Republic since January 2011. After a career in SITA S. C., where Mr. Devát served on the Board of Directors, representing organizations from Central and Eastern Europe, from 2006–2009, he acted as Vice-President for Informational Technology and Innovation and as Vice-President of the Board of the national carrier Czech Airlines. From 1997–2006, he worked for Microsoft Corporation, first as Development Manager, and from 2001 as Country Manager for the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Mr. Devát holds a degree in Business Administration from Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, and a degree from the Brno University of Technology, in the Czech Republic.



Nada Dhaif

Chairman, Bahrain Rehabilitation and Anti-Violence Organization, Bahrain

Human rights activist and the Founder and Chairman of BRAVO. As a medical doctor Dr. Dhaif was arrested and tried for providing medical care to injured pro-democracy protesters in Bahrain. She was sentenced to 15 years in a military prison and endured electrocution and beatings while in custody. Dr. Dhaif continues to be a vocal defender of human rights and cooperates with reputable human rights organizations to bring attention to the pro-democracy struggle in Bahrain. Dr. Dhaif graduated from the Cairo University in Egypt in 1996. She is currently undertaking her postgraduate training in Interceptive, Functional and Neuromuscular Orthodontics at the International College of Neuromuscular Orthodontics and Gnathology in Italy.



Doris Donnelly

Director, The Cardinal Suenens Center, John Carroll University, USA

Professor of Theology at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, where she directs the Cardinal Suenens Center for Theology and

Speaker Profiles

Church Life. The Center was established and funded by Mrs. J. Peter Grace of New York City and it exists to serve the unfinished agenda of the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). It has sponsored local and international conferences on interreligious dialogue, leadership of the laity, collaborative leadership, and the affective, intellectual, and spiritual formation of clergy. Professor Donnelly has served as President of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace movement and also as President of the North American Academy of Liturgy, an ecumenical association of liturgical scholars. Professor Donnelly is the author of several books and many articles.



Jeremy Druker

Executive Director, Transitions Online, Czech Republic/USA

Executive Director of Transitions Online (TOL), a media organization he co-founded in 1999 that publishes a newsmagazine on Central and Eastern Europe and runs journalism training programs. In addition to being an Ashoka Fellow, he is a member of the board of the Fulbright Commission in the Czech Republic and a member of the board of Novinářská Cena, the Czech journalism prizes. Mr. Druker teaches a course in social media at New York University's branch in Prague. He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard College and a master's in International Affairs from Columbia University.



Dominik Duka

Cardinal, Archbishop of Prague, Czech Republic

Appointed Archbishop of Prague in February 2010 and Cardinal in January 2012. He is currently a member of the Ethical Forum in the Czech Republic and the Scientific Board of the Catholic Theological Faculty at Charles University. After finishing his compulsory military service, Cardinal Duka joined the Dominican order and was ordained a priest in 1970. His religious activities led to his arrest and imprisonment in the 1980s. He wrote several studies and was published in secrecy during the Communist regime. Cardinal Duka continues to write, having penned dozens of articles and several books, and contributed significantly to the translation of the Jerusalem Bible into Czech.



Cem Duna

Chairman, AB Consultancy and Investment Services, Turkey

Chairman of AB Consultancy and Investment Services. Mr. Duna is also a member of the Executive Board of the Turkish-British Business Council of the Foreign Economic Relations Board. He was a Member of the Board of the Turkish Industrials and Businessman Association between the years 2001–2007 and is presently vice chairman of the high consultative assembly of the same organization. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1969 and has served at various diplomatic posts in capitals like Copenhagen, Den Haag, Jeddah and

London. Mr. Duna graduated from the Political Sciences Faculty of the University of Ankara in 1968 and has a Masters degree in Theory of Economic Integration from the University of Amsterdam.



Sabina Dvořáková

Executive Director, DEMAS, Czech Republic

Executive Director of the Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights (DEMAS). A platform for thirteen leading NGOs in the Czech Republic, DEMAS works in the field of transition policy and democracy promotion. Ms. Dvořáková's main focus is on the MENA region, management of the third sector, and advocacy. She holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from Charles University in Prague.



Doraja Eberle

Chairwoman, Managing Board, ERSTE Foundation, Austria

Politician and Chairwoman of the Board of the ERSTE Foundation. She served as a member of the provincial government of Salzburg between 2004 and 2010. Ms. Eberle has held numerous political and volunteer positions. She has received several international prizes and awards for her humanitarian work. She is a licensed social worker. After working for the province of Salzburg for more than ten years, Ms. Eberle founded the private relief organization Bauern helfen Bauern (Farmers help Farmers) in 1991 and devoted her time exclusively to humanitarian aid in areas of conflict during the Yugoslav wars.



Norman L. Eisen

Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, USA

U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic since 2011. Ambassador Eisen previously served as Special Counsel to the President for Ethics and Government Reform in the White House. Prior to that he was the Deputy General Counsel to the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition. Before entering the Administration, Ambassador Eisen was a partner in the Washington D.C. law firm Zuckerman Spaeder. He is the co-founder of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government watchdog group. Ambassador Eisen received his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his B.A. from Brown University.



Jørgen Ejlbøl

Chairman, JP/Politikens Newspapers, Denmark

Chairman of JP/Politikens Hus A/S Media Group and Vice Chairman of the Jyllands-Posten Foundation, he was previously Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director of Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten. Mr. Ejlbøl has held managerial positions in several media organizations in Denmark and elsewhere, including Serbia

and Russia. He was an editor at numerous Danish newspapers including *Fyens Amts Avis*, *Dagbladet*, *Weekendavisen*, *Berlingske Aften*, *BT*, *Billed Bladet*, and *Berlingske Tidende*.



Gareth Evans

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chancellor, Australian National University, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Australia

Currently Chancellor of the Australian National University, he is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia (1988–1996), Cabinet Minister (1983–1996) and former President of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group (2000–2009). Mr. Evans was Co-chair of the International Commissions on Intervention and State Sovereignty (2000–2001) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (2008–2010). He is author of “Cooperating for Peace” (1993), “Australia’s Foreign Relations” (1995) and “The Responsibility to Protect: Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and For All” (2009).



Jan Fingerland

Analyst, Czech Radio, Czech Republic

Editor and commentator for Czech Radio. Mr. Fingerland is the editor and commentator for the program *Opinions and Arguments*, which focuses mainly on the Middle East, Asia and Africa. He previously worked as an international correspondent for Czech TV and was a freelance contributor for leading Czech newspapers and magazines. His regular articles focus on politics, culture, history and religion. Mr. Fingerland studied Political Science and Religious Studies in Prague, York, Stockholm and Jerusalem.



Pavel Fischer

Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic

Political Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and formerly Ambassador to France (2003–2010), he worked in the Office of the President as a Press Expert, Vice Spokesman and as Director of Political Department. He served as a Chairman of the Administrative Board of Forum 2000 Foundation (1999–2003) and in 2010 he was awarded the prestigious French Order of the Legion of Honor for his achievements in the field of Czech–French bilateral relations.



Franz Fischler

Former European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Austria

Austrian Politician, President of the think-tank European Forum Alpbach and Chairman of the RISE-Foundation. From 1995 to 2004 he was the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development. In

1989 he was appointed Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Austria. In that capacity he played an important part in the negotiations for Austria’s accession to the European Union. His career began as a representative of the agricultural sector in 1979 when he joined the Tyrol Chamber of Agriculture. He dealt with environmental issues, education and training, culture and land-use planning until 1984, when he became Director of the Chamber.



Ivan Gabal

Sociologist, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic

Sociologist and Executive Director of Gabal Analysis Consulting, he was one of the founding members of the Civic Forum in 1989. He later served as the Head of Policy Analysis in the Office of President Václav Havel (1991–1992). In more recent years his work has focused on practical ways to improve the prospects for the Czech Republic’s Roma community, as well as efforts to root out corruption in the political system. He has a Ph.D. in Sociology and Cultural Theory from Charles University.



Steven Gan

Editor, Malaysiakini, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Malaysia

Editor of Malaysiakini.com, he previously worked for *The Nation*, a newspaper in Bangkok, and as special issues editor and columnist for *The Sun* in Malaysia. After reporting on protests during the 1996 Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor, he was arrested and jailed for five days. Amnesty International named Mr. Gan a prisoner of conscience. Malaysiakini received the Free Media Pioneer Award from the International Press Institute in 2001, and Mr. Gan received the Committee to Protect Journalists’ International Press Freedom Award in 2000.



Carlos García Pérez

Director, Radio and TV Martí, USA/Cuba

Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, responsible for the strategic planning and direction of TV Martí, Radio Martí and Martinoticias.com, which are collectively known as the Martis. Cuba has one of the world’s most restrictive media environments. Mr. Pérez has aggressively campaigned to establish a two-way channel of communication with the audience in Cuba. He also spearheaded the launch of *El Pitirre*, a bi-weekly newsletter sent to over 75,000 email addresses in Cuba. Prior to taking helm at the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, he served as a litigator at Goldman, Antonetti & Cordova, one of the largest law firms in Puerto Rico. Mr. Pérez has a B.S. in Economics and International Relations from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and a law degree from Hofstra University School of Law in Hempstead.



Jeffrey Gedmin
*CEO and President, Legatum Institute,
Former President, RFE/RL, USA*

President and CEO of the Legatum Institute and former President and CEO of RFE/RL.

Mr. Gedmin is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and member of the NED's Research Center. As President and CEO of RFE/RL from 2007 to 2011 he oversaw strategy and broadcast operations in 22 countries. For five years he served as Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin. Prior to Aspen, Mr. Gedmin was Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) in Washington, D.C. and Executive Director of the New Atlantic Initiative. He holds a Ph.D. from Georgetown University. In 2010 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate by Tbilisi State University, Georgia.



Danuta Glondys
Director, Villa Decius Association, Poland

Scholar, Author, and the Director of the Villa Decius Association since 2001. Ms. Glondys worked as an Expert Advisor for the European Commission in the selection of the European Capital of Culture (2005, 2007–2011). She was the Director of the Culture Department of the Municipality of Krakow (1993–1999), where she was in charge of creating new municipal cultural policies. Ms. Glondys has written numerous publications on culture management and relations between culture, politics and European integration, and is a university lecturer. She has a graduate degree in English Philology and a Ph.D. in cultural studies.



Kinga Göncz
Member of European Parliament, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hungary

Hungarian Medical Doctor, Psychiatrist and Politician. Dr. Göncz served in public office as the Minister of Foreign Affairs (2006–2009), Minister of Youth, Family and Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (2004–2006), Minister for Equal Opportunities (June – October 2004) and Parliamentary Under-secretary at the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs (2002–2004). Dr. Göncz was the Director of Partners Hungary, an international non-profit organization with the aim of teaching creative conflict management and the techniques of democracy, negotiation and change management. She also taught at the Institute of Sociology, Eötvös Loránd University. She earned a medical degree from the Semmelweis University of Medicine in 1972.



Barbara Haig
*Deputy President for Policy and Strategy,
National Endowment for Democracy, USA*

Deputy to the President for Policy and Strategy at the National Endowment for Democracy. Barbara Haig's responsibility is to provide strategic and policy direction to the grant making effort

of the NED while advising the NED President and Board on broader institutional strategies to further advance the goals of the grants program. In her last position as Vice President for Program Planning and Evaluation, Haig led the dramatic growth of the NED's Grants Program, which included management of the programmatic development, monitoring and evaluation of the Endowment's worldwide grant making efforts. She has overseen a vast expansion of NED's program in the Arab Middle East and Afghanistan, in addition to democracy programs in South Africa and Central and Eastern Europe. She studied History at Georgetown University.



Efraim Halevy
Former Director, Mossad, Israel

Former Director of the Israeli Foreign Intelligence Agency – Mossad – and Chairman of the Israel National Shazar State Center for Jewish History since 2008. Mr. Halevy headed the Shasha Center for Strategic Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2003–2011). He served in the Israel civil service for 46 years, including in the following positions – Head of the National Security Council and National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister (2002–2003); Director of the Mossad (1998–2002); Ambassador to the European Union (1996–1998); Director of three operational divisions in the Mossad (1980–1995); Counselor Israel Embassy, Paris (1976–1979); Counselor Israel Embassy Washington D.C. (1970–1974). Mr. Halevy has a Law Degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



Tomáš Halík
*Sociologist, President, Czech Christian
Academy, Member of the Forum 2000
Program Council, Czech Republic*

Professor of Philosophy at Charles University in Prague, Pastor of the Academic Parish in Prague and President of the Czech Christian Academy. Dr. Halík is also a writer and a member of the European Academy of Science and Art. He has lectured at various universities around the world and has been involved in international efforts to promote dialogue and understanding between religions and cultures. In 1992, Pope John Paul II appointed him Advisor to the Pontifical Council for Dialogue with Non-Believers and in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI granted him the title of Monsignor – Honorary Prelate of His Holiness. In 2009 he received the "Truth and Justice" prize for his defense of human rights and justice and in 2010, the Romano Guardini Prize.



Jan Hamáček
*Deputy Speaker, Chamber of Deputies,
Parliament, Czech Republic*

Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and Member of Parliament. Mr. Hamáček was elected to parliament in 2006. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Aspen Institute. During his tenure in the Chamber of Deputies, he was involved in

several Parliamentary committees and delegations, most notably as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and member of the European Affairs Committee. Before 2005, Mr. Hamáček worked as an advisor to the Prime Minister and was involved in regional politics.



Ivan M. Havel

*Scientist, Member of the Forum 2000
International Advisory Board, Czech Republic*

Scientist and former Director of the Center for Theoretical Study, an international cross-disciplinary institution affiliated with Charles University and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague. His fields of interest are theoretical computer science, artificial intelligence, cognitive sciences, and related philosophical issues. Mr. Havel graduated from the Czech Technical University in Prague, holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of California at Berkeley and is a member of the Academy of Europe. He is the brother of the late former Czech President Václav Havel and he was a co-founder of the Civic Forum. Dr. Havel is the author of various books and academic articles, including "Natural and Artificial" (2012) and "Seeing Numbers" (2009).



Zuzana Hlavičková

*Director, Development Cooperation and
Humanitarian Aid Department, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic*

Director of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Department at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2010. Former Deputy Director of Development Cooperation Department (2005-2007) and head of the UNDP Office in the Czech Republic (2003-2004). Author and co-author of several strategic documents connected with development cooperation of the Czech Republic (inter alia Act of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, National Development Education Strategy etc.). She holds a degree from the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague.



Yevhen Hlibovytsky

Founder, Pro-Mova, Ukraine

Founder and Managing Partner at Pro-Mova consulting company. Mr. Hlibovytsky is a member of expert groups working on the strategy of the sustainable development in Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk. He lectures at the Kyiv-Mohyla School of Business and the School of Business at the Catholic University in Lviv. His company works in the field of strategic and communication consulting in Ukraine, the Caucasus and Central Asia. He studies the interaction of social values and business, as well as political and economic processes. Mr. Hlibovytsky graduated from the faculty of political studies at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy; he also studied law at Lviv University and Bluffton University (USA).



Tomáš Hudeček

Lord Mayor of Prague, Czech Republic

Cartographer, politician and Mayor of Prague. Dr. Hudeček was elected to the Prague City Assembly in 2010 and appointed Deputy Mayor in November 2011. In June 2013, he became the Czech capital's twenty-first mayor. In 2009 he joined the TOP 09 political party, where he now serves as a Vice-Chairman of its Prague regional organization. Dr. Hudeček studied Mathematics and Geography at the Faculty of Science at Palacký University Olomouc, and earned his Ph.D. in Social Geography and Regional Development at the Faculty of Science of Charles University. He is a lecturer on Cartography.



Jasim Husain

Former Member of Parliament, Bahrain

Former Member of Parliament in Bahrain. Dr. Husain was twice elected as a Member of Parliament in 2006 and 2010. In 2011 he resigned as MP as part of a group decision in order to show displeasure with governmental crackdown on protestors seeking democratic reforms. Prior to running for a public office, served as Director of Economic Research Unit at the University of Bahrain between 2005 and 2006; also, taught courses at the University of Bahrain for more than a decade. Dr. Husain earned a Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees in the USA from St. Edwards's University (1984), Northwest Missouri State University (1986) and Golden Gate University (1995), respectively.



Khadija Ismayilova

Journalist, Azerbaijan

Journalist, radio host and an investigative reporter with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. She is a host of the daily current affairs show on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Azerbaijan. As an investigative journalist, she uncovered several high profile corruption cases. Since 1997 Ms. Ismayilova has reported for Azerbaijani, Russian and English newspapers of the region and has held management positions at Azerbaijani newspapers and RFE/RL. In 2012 she was awarded the Gerd Bucerius Free Press of Eastern Europe Award and the Courage of Journalism Award by US-based International Women's Media Foundation.



Karel Janeček

*Businessman, Philanthropist,
Anti-Corruption Activist, Czech Republic*

Czech Philanthropist, Anti-Corruption Activist and Chairman of RSJ Algorithmic Trading. Mr. Janeček has established three renowned foundations: the Karel Janeček Foundation Fund, which supports young scientists in the field of mathematics, economics and medicine; the Anti-Corruption Endowment Fund; and the Foundation Fund of Help, which assists individuals

undergoing difficulties caused by their actions to bring about a positive social impact. Mr. Janeček is a co-owner of the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art and supports a number of other projects, such as the Strings of Autumn music festival. He founded the company RSJ Algorithmic Trading and is currently its Chairman. Lately he has been devoting his time to improving Czech society. He holds a Ph.D. in Financial Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University.



Eva Jiříčná
Architect, Czech Republic

Renowned Architect and Member of the Royal Academy of Arts. Ms. Jiříčná has been honored with a special award from the Czech Ministry of Culture for her lifelong contribution to Architecture. She established her own London practice in 1982, and AI-Design in Prague in 1999. In the U.K., she was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts and awarded the Commander of the British Empire title by the Queen. Her career began with a job at the Greater London Council upon her arrival in the U.K. in 1968. Ms. Jiříčná studied Architecture at the Czech Technical University in Prague and earned an M.A. at the Prague Academy of Fine Arts.



Vytis Jurkonis
Lecturer, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, Lithuania

Lecturer at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University. Mr. Jurkonis is also Project Director of Freedom House office in Vilnius. He is primarily known as an expert on EaP-related issues and Lithuanian foreign policy; however, his previous engagements included fact-finding missions to and trainings for activists in Afghanistan, Cuba, Burma and Georgia. Mr. Jurkonis was previously leading the Policy Analysis and Research Division at the Vilnius-based think-tank EESC. He holds an expert diploma of the Institute of Human Rights of the Law Faculty of the Complutense University.



Irena Kalhousová
Chief Analyst, Prague Security Studies Institute, Czech Republic

Chief Analyst at the Prague Security Studies Institute. Ms. Kalhousová often gives live commentaries and analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the Czech national television and radio and publishes articles in major Czech newspapers and journals. She is also lecturing at the Anglo-American University, teaching courses on European integration and the modern Middle East. Ms. Kalhousová has a B.A. in political science from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and did her master studies at the University of Cambridge, studying Contemporary European Studies.



Khon Ja
Founder and Coordinator, Kachin Peace Network, Burma

Peace Activist and Founder and Coordinator of the Kachin Peace Network. Khon Ja has witnessed the suffering of people during the socialist era, civil war and ceasefire period under the regimes. She and her friends founded the Kachin Peace Network in response to the war in the Kachin Region. The organization's goal is to raise awareness and advocate for peace by organizing events, arranging trips to the camps of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as well as information-sharing and facilitating media trips, supporting fundraising activities for the IDPs, and supporting the overall peace process. Kohn Ja also serves as a Working Committee member of the Civil Society Forum for Peace.



Suat Kınıklioğlu
Executive Director, Center for Strategic Communication, Turkey

Executive Director of the Center for Strategic Communication (STRATIM) and columnist for Today's Zaman, an English-language daily. Mr. Kınıklioğlu is a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). He served as Member of Parliament from 2007 to 2011, was AK Party Deputy Chairman of External Affairs and member of the AK Party Central Executive Committee. He was founding director of the German Marshall Fund of the US office in Turkey and the Ankara Center for Turkish Policy Studies. Mr. Kınıklioğlu earned his B.Sc. in Electronics from the Turkish Air Force Academy, Istanbul, Turkey, B.A. in Political Science from Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada and his M.A. in International Relations from Bilkent University, Ankara.



Kevin Klose
President and CEO, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/USA

Journalist, Editor and President and CEO of RFE/RL. Mr. Klose is an award-winning author and worldwide broadcasting executive. He served as president of National Public Radio (1998–2008) and directed the International Broadcast Bureau at the U.S. Information Agency (1997–1998). He joined RFE/RL in 1992 as director of Radio Liberty and oversaw the relocation of RFE/RL from Munich to Prague as president between 1994 and 1997. He also previously worked as editor and reporter for The Washington Post for 25 years. Mr. Klose received his undergraduate degree at Harvard and is a former Woodrow Wilson National Fellow.



Hynek Kmoníček
Director, Foreign Affairs Department, Office of the President, Czech Republic

Diplomat and Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs at the Office of the President of the Czech Republic. Prior to joining the

Presidential Office, Dr. Kmoníček served as Ambassador to Australia. He was a longtime employee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he served as Deputy Minister and Director of several departments. His Ambassadorial posts include India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Between 2001 and 2006, Dr. Kmoníček was the Czech Ambassador to the United Nations in New York. He graduated from the Faculty of Education of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice.



Karel Kovanda

Former Deputy Director-General, DG External Relations, European Commission, Belgium/Czech Republic

Former Deputy Director-General of External Relations for the European Commission. In 2013 Mr. Kovanda joined the ČEZ energy company as the manager of its Brussels Office after a distinguished career in the European Commission and the Czech Foreign Service. Mr. Kovanda now divides his time between consulting lecturing and teaching. He also works as the Governor of the Asia-Europe Foundation which is headquartered in Singapore. He served as Deputy Director-General for External Relations (2005–2010) and prior to that as the Czech Ambassador to NATO (1998–2005), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1997–1998) and Ambassador to the UN, where his tour included membership on the UN Security Council (1994–1995). He holds a Ph.D. in political science from MIT and an MBA from Pepperdine University, California.



David Král

Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic

Director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy since 2000. Mr. Král lectures at the Metropolitan University in Prague and at Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences. During the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe and the Intergovernmental Conference 2003/2004, he was a member of advisory groups for the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister, and a member of an advisory group on foreign relations to the Vice-Premier for EU affairs before and during the Czech EU presidency in 2009. His main areas of expertise include EU constitutional and institutional issues, EU enlargement, the European neighborhood policy, Common Foreign and Security Policy, and transatlantic relations. Mr. Král graduated from the Law Faculty at Charles University in Prague.



Miroslav Krupička

Editor-in-Chief, Radio Prague, Czech Republic

Editor-in-Chief of Radio Prague, the International Service of Czech Radio since 1998. Mr. Krupička worked as a Producer/Editor for the BBC World Service (1991–1997). Prior to his tenure at the BBC, he was Producer/Editor at Czechoslovak Radio programs (Mikroforum, Civic Forum, Radioforum). He is

a member of renowned institutions including the International Broadcasting Group at European Broadcasting Union (member), the Anna and Jaroslav Krejčí Research Foundation (board member) and the International Committee of Czechs Abroad (board member). He writes on a variety of topics, from radio journalism to the lives of Czech expats. Mr. Krupička is a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University.



Irina Lagunina

Editor-in-Chief, Russian Service, RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Russia

Editor-in-Chief of the Russian Service at RFE/RL. Ms. Lagunina previously served as a Senior Broadcaster for Radio Svoboda and host of the daily analytical radio journal "Time & World," covering international relations, world politics, security, economic and energy issues. Prior to joining RFE/RL in 1995, she worked as the foreign policy and diplomatic editor for the Russian magazine New Times (1986–1993), moving onto a similar position with the Moscow News, a Russian weekly. Ms. Lagunina was in the media pool of the Russian Foreign Ministry, covering the end of Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, wars in the former Yugoslavia, and ethnic conflicts in the former Soviet Union.



Vytautas Landsbergis

Former President, Member of European Parliament, Lithuania

Member of the European Parliament and Professor of Music History. Before being elected to the European Parliament in 2004, Mr. Landsbergis served as Observer to the body (2003–2004). He was the President of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (1996–2000) and represented Lithuania in the USSR People's Deputies Congress from March 1989 until Lithuania became independent. In 1988, he was among the initiators of the Lithuanian Reform Movement "Sajudis" striving to liberate Lithuania from Soviet occupation. He was Professor of Music History at the Lithuanian Academy of Music from 1978 to 1990. Mr. Landsbergis holds an Honorary Doctorate from Sorbonne University (2001).



Jean-Pierre Lehmann

Emeritus Professor of International Political Economy, IMD, Switzerland

Professor of International Political Economy with a particular focus on Asia. Dr. Lehmann has lectured at renowned universities throughout the world. He acts in various capacities for a number of global public policy forums; as an adviser to governments and corporations; on the editorial board of several journals; and as a frequent commentator in the international media. In 1995, Dr. Lehmann founded the Evian Group, an international coalition of corporate, government and opinion leaders. He has a B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University (1966) and a Ph.D. from Oxford University (1976).



Hana Lešenarová

*Associate Director, Control Risks
Deutschland, Member of the Forum 2000
Corporate Council, Germany/Czech Republic*

Practice Leader for the region of Central and Eastern Europe in the London office of Control Risks, an international risk consultancy. Prior to joining Control Risks Ms. Lešenarová worked as news editor for the English-language newspaper Prognosis, published in Prague (1991–1995), the business investigative weekly, Prague Business Journal (1996–2002) and business editor of Czech daily Mladá fronta Dnes (2002–2004). She also contributed to Business Week, Los Angeles Times, Emerging Markets and to the Economist Intelligence Unit's publications. In 2004, she spent one year in Brussels and throughout the European Union as the EU correspondent for the daily.



Pierre Lévy

Ambassador to the Czech Republic, France

French Ambassador to the Czech Republic. Served as Director of the Policy Planning Staff of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was Secretary General of the Commission of the White Paper on France's Foreign and European Policy and Head of the Service for Common Foreign and Security Policy (2002–2005). Amb. Lévy was Deputy Director in the cabinet of Pierre Moscovici, Minister for European Affairs (1997–2002). He taught at the École Nationale d'Administration and at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris. He holds degrees from the European School of Management, the Paris Institute of Political Studies, and an M.A. in Economics from University of Paris-Dauphine.



Ondřej Liška

Chairman, Green Party, Czech Republic

Chairman of the Green Party since 2009. He previously served as Minister of Education, Youth and Sport (2007–2009) and as Member of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. He previously worked with the Forum 2000 Foundation and also served as Chairman of the Czech-Austrian Discussion Forum (2003–2004). Mr. Liška was a member of the local municipal assembly in Brno for the Green Party and worked as an advisor on the Cohesion Policy and Structural Funds to the Green Group in the European Parliament. He studied Religion and Politics at Masaryk University.



Liu Chao-shiuan

Senior Advisor to the President, Former Prime Minister, Taiwan

Taiwanese Politician and University Professor. Dr. Liu is currently the Chairman of the General Association of Chinese Culture and Senior Advisor to the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan). He served in the Taiwanese government as Prime Minister (2008–2009), Vice Premier (1997–2000) and Minister of Transportation and Communication (1993–1996). At the

National Tsing Hua University, he was a Professor, Department Chair, Dean, and President. Later, he went on to serve as the President of the Soochow University (2003–2008). Dr. Liu received a MS in Chemistry from the Université de Sherbrooke, Canada (1968) and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Toronto, Canada (1971).



Liu Xiaobo

Literary Critic, Writer, Professor, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, China

Liu Xiaobo was invited to the Forum 2000 Conference, but is unable to attend as he is imprisoned for political reasons.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, he was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle for fundamental human rights in China, while serving his fourth prison term. He is the first person since Von Ossietzky to be denied the right to have a representative to collect the Nobel Prize for him. Mr. Xiaobo was detained in December 2008 because of his leading role with the Charter '08 manifesto. Prior to that he was President and Editor-in-Chief of Minzhu Zhongguo (Democratic China) Electronic Journal, which promotes liberty, democracy, human rights, rule of law and constitutionalism. He served as President of the Independent Chinese PEN Centre (2003–2007) and has been a visiting scholar at Columbia University, the University of Oslo, and the University of Hawaii.



Leopoldo López

National Coordinator, Voluntad Popular, Venezuela

Venezuelan Politician and Economist. Mr. López is currently the National Coordinator of Voluntad Popular, a democratic opposition party. He was Mayor of the Municipality of Chacao in Caracas – valued as the most transparent Municipality in the country – for two consecutive terms (2000–2008). Mr. López studied economics before earning a M.A. in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and holds an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Kenyon College.



Ahmed Maher

Blogger and Activist, Egypt

Egyptian Blogger and Activist and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee. Mr. Maher is the Founder and Chief Coordinator of the April 6 Youth Movement (A6YM), a pro-democracy youth movement in Egypt. A6YM was one of the most important organizers of the 18-day peaceful uprising that culminated in President Hosni Mubarak's departure in 2011. He initially supported Islamist Mohamed Morsi, but his enthusiasm quickly changed into bitter disappointment. In March 2013 he was charged with inciting a protest against Mr. Morsi's interior minister and was arrested at the airport upon his arrival from Washington D.C. His arrest quickly provoked a backlash both in Cairo and in Washington and Mr. Maher was released the following day.



Libor Malý

*Philanthropist, Founder, Jobs.cz and
Práce.cz, Czech Republic*

Czech Philanthropist, Businessman and Founder of the internet services Jobs.cz and Práce.cz. Mr. Malý revolutionized job searching in the Czech Republic by creating the electronic job market. He was the head of the company LMC s.r.o. until the beginning of 2012. Currently, he is devoting most of his time and energy to the non-profit sector. His most recent project is the civic association Adato Paradigma, which is developing concepts on how the world could work without money. Mr. Malý is a passionate student of Tibetan Buddhism and supports the Tibetan cause. In 2010 he became a finalist of the Via Bona Award in the category of individual donors, where he won second place.



Petr Mareš

*Special Envoy for Eastern Partnership,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic*

Historian and Political Scientist. Since 2010, Mr. Mareš has been the Czech Special Envoy for the Eastern Partnership. Previously, he was the Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2006–2010). In 1998 he entered politics, becoming a Member of the Parliament (1998–2002) and Deputy Prime Minister (2002–2004). He has also served as Director of the Institute of International Policy and Chair of the Department of American Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University.



Munib Masri

*Chairman, Munib R. Masri Development
Foundation, Palestine*

Palestinian Philanthropist, Businessman and Chairman of the Munib R. Masri Development Foundation. Mr. Masri is an eloquent spokesman for moderation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. He currently serves as Chairman of the PADICO Holding which he co-founded. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Al-Quds University and Trustee Emeritus at the American University of Beirut. In 2003 he was a candidate for the position of the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister. In 1970 he became the Minister of Public Works in the Government of Jordan. He began his career in 1953 establishing large enterprises in various countries around the world. He holds a bachelor's degree in Petroleum Geology from the University of Texas and master's degrees in Political Science and Geology from Ross State University, Texas.



Matej Medvedský

*Researcher, Nation's Memory Institute,
Slovakia*

Researcher at the Nation's Memory Institute in Slovakia. His research interest is the period of oppression, activities of the State security and

intelligence services in general. He published two books: "The Intelligence Ace of the Slovak State: The Imrich Sucký case" and "For Red Slovakia: State Security and Political Intelligence in Slovakia in the years 1945–1948". Between 2007 and 2009 Mr. Medvedský worked as Editor-in-Chief of the magazine Nation's Memory and published nearly 40 studies and articles. He studied History and English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Comenius University in Bratislava (2002) and there he also obtained his Ph.D. in Slovak history (2007).



Daniel A. Mica

Former Congressman, USA

Former U.S. Congressman and the Founder and President of The DMA Group. In 2012, Mr. Mica was personally named by The Hill newspaper as one of the top advocates in Washington, D.C. He is often quoted by major national publications and broadcasts for his views on financial services and political issues. At the end of 2010, Mr. Mica completed a 14-year tenure as President and CEO of the Credit Union National Association. He represented his home state of Florida from 1979 to 1989 in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Select Committee on Aging, and Veteran's Affairs Committee. Mr. Mica holds a B.A. and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Florida Atlantic University. He also holds an honorary law degree from Barry University, Florida.



Frédéric Michel

*Global Director of Public Engagement,
Telefónica, France*

Public Relations Professional and Global Director of Public Engagement for Telefónica. Mr. Michel is in addition the Europe Director of Social Impact and Think Big and has been the Europe Director of Public Affairs and Communications of Telefónica Europe since October 2012. He holds diplomas from the Institute of Political Studies (France) and Sussex European Institute (U.K.); he was a Chevening Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science (U.K.) and a doctorate student of the EU at the European University Institute (Italy).



Ivan Mikloš

Former Minister of Finance, Slovakia

Member of Parliament and of the Budgetary, Financial and Monetary committee. Mr. Mikloš significantly contributed to the entry of the Slovak republic into the OECD and started an extensive and effective tax reform. He served as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic (2010–2012, 2002–2006), Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs (1998–2002) and Minister for Privatization (1991–1992). In 2004 he was awarded by Euromoney the best Minister of Finance of the Year and the top business reformer by the World Bank's Doing Business report. He is the author of the "Book of Reforms" (2005) and "Rewriting the Rules" (2001).

Speaker Profiles



Emin Milli

Writer, Dissident, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijani Writer and Dissident. Mr. Milli was imprisoned in 2009 for two and a half years for his critical views of the government. He was conditionally released in November 2010, after serving 16 months of his sentence, in part due to strong international pressure on the government of Azerbaijan. From 2002–2004, Mr. Milli was director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and also advised the Council of Europe on more than 40 cases of political prisoners in Azerbaijan, many of whom were released following pressure from the Council. Prior to that, he was a coordinator for the International Republican Institute in Azerbaijan. He studied at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.



Bedřich Moldan

Director, Environment Center, Charles University, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic

Czech Geochemist, Environmentalist, Publicist and Politician. Mr. Moldan played a major role in the introduction of environmental legislation in the Czech Republic after 1989. He served as the first Czech Minister of Environment (1990–1991), and has since then served in many national and international public policy positions (including the Senate of the Czech Republic, 2004–2010). Founder and director of the Charles University Environment Center and author of hundreds of publications and articles. His publications include "Geology and Environment" (1974), "Ecology, Democracy, Market" (1992), "(Un) Sustainable Development – Ecology, Threat and Hope" (2001) and his latest "Subdued Planet" (2009).



Jan Mühlfeit

Chairman Europe, Microsoft Corporation, Czech Republic

IT Manager, Businessman and current Chairman Europe for the Microsoft Corporation. Prior to becoming the head of Microsoft in Europe in 2010, Mr. Mühlfeit was CEO of the company's Czech branch and Vice-President of Microsoft for Europe, Middle East and Africa. He joined Microsoft in 1993 as Czech Director for Marketing. Before moving to the corporate sector, he was for the government as a programmer and IT management specialist. Mr. Mühlfeit is a graduate of the Czech Technical University in Prague.



Rudrangshu Mukherjee

Historian, Journalist, India

Historian, Author and the Opinions Editor for The Telegraph newspaper, Calcutta. Mr. Mukherjee taught history at the Department of History at the University of Calcutta. Over the years he held visiting appointments at departments of history at Princeton University, Manchester University and

the University of California, Santa Cruz. He holds a Ph.D. in Modern History from the University of Oxford.



Surendra Munshi

Sociologist, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, India

Retired Professor of Sociology, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. He has published and spoken on various subjects in India and abroad and was the academic leader of an international project on good governance involving European and Indian institutions of higher education and research that was supported by the European Commission. More recently, he delivered a keynote speech on the future of democracy at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Karlsruhe Dialogues 2012. He earned his doctoral degree in Sociology from Bielefeld University, Germany.



Jay Naidoo

Chairman, Board of Directors, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, South Africa

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) headquartered in Geneva. Jay Naidoo has recently joined the Board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation established to promote African development through a focus on promoting good governance. He serves in an advisory capacity for a number of international organizations including the UN Broadband Commission and the UNSG's Lead Committee on Nutrition. He then served as Minister responsible for the Reconstruction and Development Programme in President Mandela's office (1994–1996) and as Minister of Post, Telecommunications, and Broadcasting (1996–1999). Naidoo was General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions from 1985 to 1993.



Michael Novak

Theologian, Political Scientist, USA

Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida. He is former George Frederick Jewett Scholar in Religion, Philosophy, and Public Policy at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. He is an MA graduate in the History and Philosophy of Religion from Harvard University and the author of numerous books on the philosophy and theology of culture with a focus on the essential elements of a free society. He has received many international awards, including the million-dollar Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.



Tarek Osman

Author, Analyst, Egypt

Egyptian Author, Political Economist and Consultant. Tarek Osman is the author of the internationally acclaimed "Egypt on the Brink"; the first edition was published weeks before the 2011 uprising. Mr. Osman's writings appeared in Foreign

Affairs, Financial Times, The Economist, Guardian, and Foreign Policy, amongst many others. Before focusing on political-economy advisory, Mr. Osman spent 13-years in strategy consulting, investment banking, and private equity in London and the Gulf. Since November 2011, he has been retained by the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD) as the political counsellor for the Southern & Eastern Mediterranean. He studied at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, and Bocconi University in Milan, Italy.



Pablo Otaola
Urban Planner, Spain

Urban Planner and General Manager at Zorrotzaurre Management Commission in Bilbao, Spain. From 1993–2000 Mr. Otaola served as general manager at Bilbao Ría 2000, and later as the Deputy Director at the Valencian Institute of Modern Art. From 1988–1991 he worked at the Office of Urban Development of San Sebastián and in 1992 became Technical Director of the Board for Intermodal Transport Planning in the Cities at the Spanish Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Environment. From 1980–1987 he was a professional freelancer with a specialization in urban planning and urban mobility. Mr. Otaola has a degree in civil engineering from the Technical University of Madrid.



Martin Palouš
President, Václav Havel Library Foundation, USA/Czech Republic

President of Václav Havel Library Foundation and Senior Fellow at the School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University in Miami. Mr. Palouš was the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States (2001–2005) and to the United Nations (2006–2011), held the position of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (1998–2001) and served as a Member of Parliament (1990–1992). He is one of the original signatories of Charter 77 and served as its spokesperson in 1986. He also participated at the creation of the Civic Forum in 1989. Mr. Palouš studied Natural Sciences, Philosophy and International Law.



Šimon Pánek
Co-founder and Director, People in Need, Member of the Forum 2000 International Advisory Board, Czech Republic

Executive Director of People in Need, one of the biggest NGOs in Central Europe, he co-founded the group in 1992. Mr. Pánek has previously worked in various positions related to development aid and chaired the Czech Forum for Development Co-operation and served as foreign policy specialist on the Balkan region and human rights issues in the presidential administration of Václav Havel. Havel later singled him out as a possible future President of the Czech Republic. Mr. Pánek was one of the student leaders during the Velvet Revolution.



Krzysztof Persak
Director, Office of the President, Institute of National Remembrance, Poland

Director of the Office of the President at the Institute of National Remembrance in Poland. Dr. Persak has been a research fellow at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences since 1996 and also affiliated with the Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw since 2000. During his academic career, he was a visiting fellow at the Cold War International History Project of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C. and served as a consultant for the Hoover Institution Archives. Dr. Persak graduated from Warsaw University where he received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in History. He also studied at the Department of Law from Warsaw University.



Jerzy Pomianowski
Executive Director, European Endowment for Democracy, Belgium/Poland

Polish Diplomat and Executive Director of the European Endowment for Democracy. EED is a newly-founded political foundation based in Brussels, its goal is to foster democracy in Europe Neighbourhood countries (Arab and post-Soviet states). From 2008 to 2011 he worked for the OECD as the Director for Democratic Governance. Between 1997 and 2002, Mr. Pomianowski was Poland's ambassador to Japan. Prior to that, from 1991 to 1997 and between 2003 and 2008 he held senior posts at the Polish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, where he became the Undersecretary of State in 2011. As a student, Mr. Pomianowski was an active member of the democratic opposition movement. He graduated from the University of Warsaw in 1987, majoring in Sociology.



Jiří Příbáň
Professor of Law, Cardiff University, Member of Forum 2000 Program Council, United Kingdom/Czech Republic

Professor of Law at Cardiff University. Dr. Příbáň was appointed visiting professor of legal philosophy and sociology at Charles University in 2002 and at Cardiff University in 2006. He has also been a visiting professor or scholar at European University Institute in Florence; New York University (Prague Office); University of California in Berkeley; University of San Francisco; University of Pretoria; and University of New South Wales, Sydney. He has published extensively in the areas of sociology of law, legal philosophy, constitutional and European comparative law, and theory of human rights. He is a regular contributor to the BBC World Service, Czech public TV, newspapers and other periodicals. Dr. Příbáň graduated from Charles University in Prague.



Wojciech Przybylski

Editor-in-Chief, Respublica Nowa, Poland

Polish Journalist, Editor and Sociologist. Mr. Przybylski is the Editor-in-Chief of Res Publica Nowa, a Polish intellectual quarterly, and of Visegrad Insight, a journal on Central European affairs. He works as a Research Assistant at the University of Warsaw, Erasmus Chair. Mr. Przybylski is also a social entrepreneur and initiates programs and projects in Central and Eastern Europe. He recently edited a book on modern republican ideas called "Idée republikańskie". He has a master's degree in Sociology.



Lutz Rathenow

Ex-Commissioner in the Former GDR, Federal State of Saxony, Germany

Former Dissident, Freelance Author and the Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the Former GDR in the Federal State of Saxony. Mr. Rathenow is responsible for the preservation and analysis of former secret police (Stasi) documents. He was a vocal dissident and arrested for political reasons in the former German Democratic Republic. Mr. Rathenow is a freelance writer and a publisher of poetry as well as prose. He has authored several children's books, radio plays and essays. His most recent publication is "Ostberlin - Life before the Wall fell". Mr. Rathenow has received a number of literary prizes.



Daniela Retková

Special Programs, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Czech Republic

Coordinator of Special Programs at the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art. Daniela Retkova directs and produces the regular programs Under (Press)ure, roundtable discussions with journalists and commentators on current political, economic and social issues) and What is our vision of Prague?. She served as the Advisor to the Director of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (2009-2010) and as the Director of the Institute for International Sport (2006-2008), where she organized the World Scholar-Athlete/Scholar-Artist Games. In 1990-1991, she served as the Head of the Press Department and of the Advance Team for President Vaclav Havel. For a number of years, Dr. Retkova has been engaged with Sister Cities International. She received her doctoral degree in psychology from Charles University.



Mykola Riabchuk

Political and Cultural Analyst, Ukraine

Senior Research Fellow at the Ukrainian Center for Cultural Studies in Kyiv, and a Member of the Editorial Boards of Krytyka, Nowa Europa Wschodnia and the Journal of South Eastern Europe. He graduated from the Lviv Polytechnic Institute and the Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow, and has published a number of books and many articles on civil

society, state and nation building, nationalism, national identity, and post-communist transition in the post-Soviet countries, primarily in Ukraine.



Petre Roman

Politician, Former Prime Minister, Romania

Member of the Romanian Parliament and since 2003 Member of Club de Madrid. Mr. Roman served as Senator of the Romanian Parliament (2000–2004) and Coordinator of the Socialist International Working Group for the Stability Pact. He also served as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1999–2000), President of the Senate of Romania (1996–1999) and Special Rapporteur of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (1993–1996, 2001–2004). Mr. Roman was the first Prime Minister of Romania after the fall of communist dictatorship between 1989 and 1991. He holds a Ph.D. and lectures as a professor at the Faculty of Power Engineering and Management at the Polytechnic University of Bucharest.



Libor Rouček

Member of European Parliament, Czech Republic

Czech Politician and Member of European Parliament. Mr. Rouček has been a member of the European Parliament since 2004. He is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and served as Vice-Chairman of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2012. In 2002 he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, where he held the position of Vice-Chairman of the European Integration Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and the ČSSD Party Deputies Club. Mr. Rouček worked as the Government Spokesman from 1998 to 2002. Prior to the Velvet Revolution he lived in exile. He studied political sciences and sociology at the University of Vienna and has a Ph.D. in Foreign Relations.



Jacques Rupnik

Political Scientist, France

Director of Research at the Centre for International Studies and Research at Sciences-Po, Paris and Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges. He has been Visiting Professor at several European universities and at Harvard, and was Executive Director of the International Commission on the Balkans. He was consultant to the European Commission (2007–2010), member of the Independent International Commission on Kosovo (1999–2000) and is a Member of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation in The Hague since 2010. He has focused on democratization and European integration of East and Central European countries and nationalism and post-conflict reconciliation in the Balkans and has published several books on this topic. Dr. Rupnik completed his M.A. in Soviet studies at Harvard University (1974), and his Ph.D. at Université de Paris – Sorbonne (1978).



Bobby Sager
Philanthropist, USA

American Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Photographer. Mr. Sager, his wife and kids founded the Sager Family Traveling Foundation and Roadshow, which uses business principles, business accountability and fosters entrepreneurship. He is extensively engaged in the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO) and in 2001, he founded the YPO Peace Action Network, which convenes business leaders from different sides of conflicts. Mr. Sager currently serves as Honorary Consul General for the government of Rwanda and Honorary Consul General for the government of Nepal. He is also an author and has recently published "The Power of the Invisible Sun" (2009), and "Beyond the Robe" (2013). Mr. Sager holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Brandeis University, and Master's in Management from Yale University.



Yoani Sánchez
Blogger and Activist, Cuba

A Blogger and Activist. Her blog is available worldwide in more than 20 languages. She has received much international recognition for her work, including: the Ortega y Gasset Prize, Spain's highest award for digital journalism; the Maria Moors Cabot Prize from Columbia University; the World Press Freedom Hero Award from the International Press Institute; and the Prince Claus Award from the Netherlands. In 2008, Time magazine listed her as one of the world's 100 most influential people and Foreign Policy magazine named her one of the 10 Most Influential Latin American Intellectuals in 2008, and one of the World's Top Dissidents in 2010. She has recently published a book in English titled "Havana Real."



Mária Schmidt
Director, House of Terror, Hungary

University Professor of History and Director General of the House of Terror Museum in Budapest. Dr. Schmidt is also the General Director of both the 20th Century Institute and the 21st Century Institute. She has lectured at Pázmány Péter Catholic University since 1996. From 1998 to 2002 she served as chief advisor to the Prime Minister. As a post-graduate scholarship winner and guest professor, she has visited many renowned universities across the world, most notably Oxford University, Stanford and the University of Vienna.



Jiří Schneider
First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and Secretary of State for the European Union. Previously Program Director at the Prague Security Studies Institute

(2005–2010) and Partner at Keynote Inc. (2007–2010). Former Political Director and Director of the Policy Planning Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1993–1994, 1999–2001, 2003), Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Israel (1995–1998). He served as an International Policy Fellow at the Open Society Institute in Budapest (2002) and as Member of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (1990–1992). Prior to 1989 and his entry into public service, he was employed as a forestry surveyor. Jiří Schneider holds a Diploma in Religious Studies from the University of Cambridge.



Amanda Schnetzer
Director, Human Freedom, George W. Bush Presidential Center, USA

Director for Human Freedom at the George W. Bush Presidential Center. Ms. Schnetzer leads the Institute's efforts to promote democracy and freedom around the world. She most recently served as president of the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations. Previously, she was director of studies and senior fellow with Freedom House and a co-organizer of the first World Forum on Democracy in Warsaw. Ms. Schnetzer has conducted research at the American Enterprise Institute on U.S. foreign policy, human freedom, and the impact of ideas and values on international politics. She received an M.A. from Georgetown University and B.A. from Southern Methodist University.



Karel Schwarzenberg
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the TOP 09 party. He has already served as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007–2009) and was a member of the Senate of the Czech Parliament (2004–2010). During the first half of 2009, he also served as the President of the Council of the European Union. He was President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (1984–1991) and former Chancellor to President Václav Havel. In 1991, he was awarded, together with Lech Walesa, the Council of Europe's Human Rights Award.



Roger Scruton
Philosopher, Political Scientist, United Kingdom

A Philosopher and Political Scientist, he is a Fellow of Blackfriars Hall at Oxford University, and Visiting Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Dr. Scruton has written more than 40 books including "A Political Philosophy" (2006), "England: an Elegy" (2006) and "Beauty" (2009). He taught at the University of London (1971–1990) and at the University of Boston (1990–1993), before becoming a full-time writer and consultant. During the 1980s he played a part in founding and supporting underground universities in Prague, Brno and Bratislava. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Cambridge.



Tomáš Sedláček

Chief Macroeconomic Strategist, ČSOB Bank, Member of the Forum 2000 Corporate Council, Czech Republic

Chief of Macroeconomic Strategies of ČSOB Bank and a former member of the National Economic Council (NERV). Mr. Sedláček was advisor to the late President Václav Havel and to the Minister of Finance (2004–2005). Dr. Sedláček lectures on Philosophy, Economics and the History of Economic Theories at Charles University. He is the author of numerous articles and a best-selling book "The Economics of Good and Evil." He studied at Yale University and holds a Ph.D. in Theoretical Economics from Charles University.



Alisher Sidikov

Director, Radio Ozodlik (Uzbek Service), RFE/RL, Czech Republic/Uzbekistan

Journalist, Radio Host and the Director of RFE/RL's Uzbek Service. Prior to his appointment as director, Alisher worked as a broadcaster for the radio's Uzbek Service. Mr. Alisher's writings focus on terrorism and human rights in Central Asia, and Western foreign policy vis-a-vis the region. Prior to joining RFE/RL, he served as a correspondent and broadcaster for the BBC's Uzbek service in Tashkent, and in London. He is the author of "The Fourth Power," a special program designed to promote Freedom of Speech in the region. Mr. Alisher was one of a limited number of journalists to cover the 2005 Andijon massacre in Tashkent, later addressing NATO's Euro-Atlantic Council Security Forum on the event. He also covered NATO's 2006 Riga summit and the 2008 Bucharest summit.



Miroslav Singer

Governor, Czech National Bank, Czech Republic

Governor of the Czech National Bank. Mr. Singer served as member of the CNB Bank Board and as Vice-Governor before his appointment as the central bank's Governor in 2010. He was previously a member of the statutory bodies of financial and industrial corporations, held managerial posts in a number of companies, and also worked as a researcher and lecturer, and later as Deputy Director for Research at the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE) at Charles University. After graduating from the University of Economics in Prague (1991), he obtained a postgraduate fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in 1995.



Krzysztof Stanowski

Executive Director, Solidarity Fund, Poland

Executive Director of the Solidarity Fund, Poland. The Solidarity Fund is registered as an NGO but in fact is a Polish democratization

agency closely cooperating with Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Stanowski was the Deputy Minister of Education (2007–2010) and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (2010–2012) responsible for development aid and cooperation. He served as a trainer of education and democratization programs in CIS countries and Mongolia. Until November 2007 he was the head of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy. He was the first Leader of the independent Boy Scout movement in Poland. Prior to 1989 he organized the underground activities of the movement. During the communist era he was a member of Solidarity and served jail as a political prisoner.



Ivana Štefková

Member of the Forum 2000 Board of Directors, Czech Republic

Responsible for Public Affairs of the company RWE Transgas. Previously she held the function of the External Communications Director and Spokesperson of the Czech Securities Commission. Between the years 2000–2004 she was the Marketing Director of the Investment Company of the Czech Savings Bank. Since 1998 she has acted in the function of the Executive Director of the Bohemiae Foundation. She has participated for many years in the realization of international projects in the fields of film, commercials, and music.



Caroline Stoessinger

Author, President, The Mozart Academy, Professor, The City University of NY, USA

Author, Pianist, President of The Mozart Academy and a friend of Václav Havel and Elie Wiesel. Ms. Stoessinger has served as a producer and advisor to Forum 2000 since the inaugural year in 1997. She is the artist-in-residence at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Professor of Music at the City University of New York. She is the founder and director of The Mozart Academy of New York, which provides classical music instruction at no cost to immigrant children from the Developing World. Stoessinger is the author of the book "A Century of Wisdom", about the incredible life of Alice Herz-Sommer, the world's oldest Holocaust Survivor and Concert Pianist who will celebrate her 110th birthday next month still performing Bach and Chopin. Ms. Stoessinger is working on a documentary film about Alice and writing a Memoir.

Helena Štohanzlová

Project Manager, Department of Human Rights and Transition Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Project Manager at the Department of Human Rights and Transition Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Štohanzlová is responsible for transformation cooperation projects with Belarus and used to coordinate the ministry's democracy support effort in the framework of the Transition Promotion Program (2007–

2011). Before joining the ministry in 2004, she worked as an Assistant to the Political Director of the Office of the President Vaclav Havel (2002-2003). Ms. Štohanzlová studied Political Science and Czech-French translation at the Charles University.



Michaela Suchardová

Analyst, Anti-Corruption Fund, Czech Republic

Analyst at the Anti-Corruption Fund. Michaela Suchardová has gained extensive experience through work in the EU and Czech public services. She is currently cooperating with the Anti-Corruption Endowment and other anti-corruption NGOs. She works as an EU legal expert for the Czech Republic within the service of the European Commission called Your Europe Advice – free EU legal counselling. Before that she worked for the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the SOLVIT centre that helps to enforce EU rights for citizens and businesses. She started her career as a legal advisor. Ms. Suchardová received a Master of Law in EU law from Stockholm University.



Tamara Sujú

Human Rights Lawyer, Venezuela

A Human Rights Lawyer, she is President of New National Awareness Foundation, which promotes human rights, and democratic principles and provides legal support to political prisoners. Ms. Sujú is also founder of Fundapres O.S., a foundation that provides aid to prisons throughout Venezuela, and Director of the Ladies in White – a group of wives, mothers and daughters of political prisoners. She has a Law Degree from Universidad Católica Andres Bello in Caracas.



Jiří Suk

Historian, Czech Republic

Historian and Researcher at the Department of Contemporary History at the Academy of Science. Mr. Suk is a historian and publisher focusing on the contemporary history of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, especially during the communist/socialist era from 1948 to the democratic transition of 1989. He is the author of several studies, essays and books. Mr. Suk studied History and Political Science at the Faculty of Philosophy at Charles University.



Veton Surroi

Journalist, Politician, Kosovo

Journalist, Writer, Politician and a Senior Member of the Kosovo Negotiations Unity Team. The Kosovo Negotiations Unity Team negotiated the independence of Kosovo in the Vienna Negotiations (2005–2007). Mr. Surroi was a Member of Parliament of Kosovo as president of the ORA Reformist party (2005–2008). He was a signatory of the Rambouillet

accords for Kosovo at the negotiations in 1999. In 1990 he founded the independent weekly KOHA and later the daily KOHA Ditore (1997), still the leading Kosovo daily newspaper. From 1982 until 1989 he worked as a reporter at the daily newspaper Rilindja. He graduated at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in 1982.



Susanna Hla Hla Soe

Director, Karen Women Empowerment Group, Burma

Director of the Burmese civil society organization Karen Women Empowerment Group (KWE). Apart from directing KWE, Susanna Hla Hla Soe is also currently serving as a Chairperson of Women Organization's Network of Myanmar (WON) – an umbrella group of 30 local women organizations. Prior to KWE, she worked at World Vision Myanmar for 12 years, where she held several positions as Administration Secretary, Customer Relations Officer and Area Development Manager. Later, she worked as a Community Development Supervisor for 3 years at an oil and gas company within a corporate social responsibility program. Susanna Hla Hla Soe earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Zoology from Rangoon University, and also earned an MBA from Eastern University, USA.



Jan Švejnar

Director, Center on Global Economic Governance, Columbia University, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, USA/ Czech Republic

Founder and Chairman of the Executive and Supervisory Committee of CERGE-EI, he was runner-up in the 2008 Czech presidential election. Dr. Švejnar is Director of the Center on Global Economic Governance and Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. Prior to this he was the Director of the International Policy Center at the University of Michigan, where he was also a Professor of Business, Economics and Public Policy. He served as Economic Advisor to President Václav Havel as well as the Founding Director of the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (1992–1999). He has a Ph.D. from Princeton University.



Robert Templer

Professor, Central European University, Hungary/New Zealand

Professor of Practice at the School of Public Policy, Central European University (CEU), in Budapest; and Director of the CEU's Center for Conflict, Negotiations and Recovery, a multi-disciplinary research institute focusing on the resolution of conflict and recovery from violence. Mr. Templer was formerly director of the Asia Program at the International Crisis Group, where he opened a dozen offices across that region and led the production of a third of the organization's reports. He is the author of "Shadows and Wind: A View of Modern Vietnam".

Speaker Profiles



Jan Urban

Journalist, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic

Journalist and one of the leading dissidents during the communist regime, he is a Professor at New York University in Prague. Mr. Urban was a member of the International Independent Commission on Kosovo and he worked in Iraq training journalists and on heritage preservation projects (2003–2006). He served as a war correspondent in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1993–1996) and was the publisher of *Transitions* magazine (1997–1999). Mr. Urban made two documentary films on the Kosovo conflict and in November 1989, helped to found the Civic Forum, working as its spokesman. He studied History and Philosophy at Charles University.



Ludmila Vacková

Program Officer, Freedom House, Lithuania/Czech Republic

Human Rights Activist and Program Officer for Freedom House. Ms. Vacková joined Freedom House in 2012, as a Program Officer for the Eurasia program, and is responsible for the activities of the Vilnius office. Previously she worked for the renowned Czech humanitarian organization People in Need. She is focusing in her work on the issues of human rights, democracy assistance and support of civil societies in Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions. Ms. Vacková graduated from Charles University in Prague with a degree in International Territorial Studies (focusing on Russia and Eastern Europe modern history and politics).



Dagoberto Valdés Hernández

Founder and Editor, Vitral Magazine, Cuba

Editor of Vitral Magazine and Founder and Director of the Civic and Religious Education Center. Mr. Valdés Hernández is the Founder of Vitral magazine, which he directed between 1993 and 2007. He was a member of the Presidency of the Cuban Ecclesial National Gathering (1996) and Founder and President of the Catholic Commission for Culture in the Pinar del Río diocese (1987–2006). He was appointed a full member of the Justice and Peace Pontifical Council of Vatican by Pope John Paul II (1999–2005). He is also the holder of several awards and prizes. Mr. Valdés Hernández has a degree in Agronomic Engineering from the University of Pinar del Río (1980).



Rostislav Valvoda

Head of East European Program, People in Need, Czech Republic

Head of East European Program for the renowned Czech non-profit organization People in Need. He is also a translator and interpreter, specializing in Russian and English, lecturing at the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University. Over the years Mr.

Valvoda has been involved in a variety of charitable and non-profit projects at home and abroad.



Viphandh Roengpithya

Founder and President, Asian University, Thailand

Founder and President of Asian University. Dr. Viphandh has decades of experience founding successful companies. He was Vice Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (1998–2002) after serving as an advisor to the Deputy Minister of Finance. Prior to that, he was an Outside Director of the Stock Exchange of Thailand and an advisor of the Ministry of Science and Technology (1984–1985). He is a guest lecturer at the Healthcare mini MBA program and has been a guest speaker at local universities and abroad. He hosts an educational morning television program, for which he won an award in 2001. Dr. Viphandh holds a Bachelor in Science degree and a Ph.D. from Imperial College London.



Alexandr Vondra

Politician, Diplomat, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (2006–2007). He served as Foreign Policy Advisor to President Havel (1990–1992), the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1992–1997), Czech Ambassador to the U.S. (1997–2001) and Czech Government Commissioner for the 2002 Prague NATO Summit. In 1989, he was the spokesman for Charter 77 and co-founder of the Civic Forum. In 2007, he was appointed the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Republic.



Tomáš Vrbá

Chairman of the Forum 2000 Board of Directors, Czech Republic

Chairman of the Board of Forum 2000 Foundation and President of the Board of Directors at Theater Archa. Professor at New York University in Prague. Founder and former President of the Czech section of the Association of European Journalists. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the monthly magazine *Nová Přítomnost* (1997–2000) and of the Czech and Slovak edition of *Lettre Internationale Quarterly* (1990–1995), International Vice President of the Association of European Journalists (2002–2004) and Chair of the Czech News Agency Council (ČTK, 2004–2007). Mr. Vrbá was a member of the Civic Forum and a signatory of Charter 77. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Charles University.



Christopher Walker

Executive Director, International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, USA

Executive Director of the National Endowment for Democracy's International Forum for Democratic Studies. Mr.

Walker previously served in Freedom House's New York office as Vice President for Strategy and Analysis overseeing a team of analysts and senior scholars in devising overall strategy for Freedom House's analytical projects. His articles on media freedom and democracy have appeared in a wide range of publications, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Foreign Policy. He has served as an adjunct professor of global affairs at New York University and holds degrees from Binghamton University and Columbia University.



Ken Wollack

President, National Democratic Institute, USA

Journalist, politician, President of the National Democratic Institute and a member of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid. Mr. Wollack co-edited the Middle East Policy Survey, a Washington-based newsletter, wrote regularly on foreign affairs for the Los Angeles Times and served as Legislative Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee – AIPAC (1973–1980). He served as Chairman of the board of directors of the U.S. Committee for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Mr. Wollack graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and was a senior fellow at UCLA's School for Public Affairs.



Karla Wursterová

Executive Director, International Visegrad Fund, Slovakia

Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the International Visegrad Fund is to promote development of closer cooperation among the Visegrad Group countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Ms. Wursterová has been the head of the fund since August 2012. She served as Second Secretary at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Prague (2005–2009) and before that held a position at the Slovakian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Wursterová graduated in Business Management at the University of Economics in Bratislava and Ecole Nationale d'Administration Publique in Paris.



Yang Jianli

Dissident, President and Founder, Initiatives for China, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, USA/China

Dissident, Co-author of a Democratic Constitution for China and President of Initiatives for China. He witnessed the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, and escaped to the United States afterwards. In 2002, he returned to China to help the labor movement with non-violent struggle strategies, was arrested and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for “spying”. He was released in 2007. Mr. Yang is a signatory of the Charter 08 – a manifesto of Chinese intellectuals calling for political reform in China. He holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Political Economy from Harvard University.



Grigory Yavlinsky

Economist, Politician, Russia

Professor of Economics at the State University – Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Co-founder and former Chairman of the Russian Democratic Party Yabloko (1993–2008). In 1996 and 2000 Mr. Yavlinsky was Yabloko's official candidate for the Russian presidency. He served as a member of the Russian State Duma (1993–2003). He is Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Economic and Political Research. Since the mid-1990s, he has focused his efforts on tax and budget reforms. He studied at the Plekhanov Institute of the National Economy in Moscow.



Michael Žantovský

President, Aspen Institute Prague, Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Member of the Forum 2000 Program Council, Czech Republic

President of the Aspen Institute Prague and Czech Ambassador to the United Kingdom, he was previously member of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic (1997–2003), Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense and Security and President of the Civic Democratic Alliance. Amb. Žantovský has also served as Czech Ambassador in the USA and in Israel and as spokesman and political director of the President's office for President Václav Havel. He is a founding member of the Civic Forum and of the Czech P.E.N. He has taught American Studies at Charles University and Euro-American relations at New York University in Prague. Amb. Žantovský studied Psychology at Charles University in Prague and at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Themes and Panels

Conference Themes

Societies in Transition: Do We Have Universal Aspirations?
Transitions of the Political System
Society
Economics
Religion and Ethics
External Influences
Transition Processes
Special Focus
Accompanying Events

Societies in Transition: Do We Have Universal Aspirations?

Changing Europe: Its Global Role in the 21st Century?

Working Breakfast – In cooperation with the Embassy of France

By special invitations only.

The Eurozone crisis is changing the institutional structure of the European Union. EU countries are looking for mechanisms that could tackle or prevent the emergence of similar financial crises in the future and are applying measures that aim to stabilize the current situation. These changes are likely to have significant implications for the EU's role in global affairs. While recent years have seen Europe shift attention inward, once the financial crisis is overcome, Europe may find itself and its new structure more suitable for pushing for its agenda.

- Will institutional changes in the EU result in a more unified voice?
- Will the EU play a more active role in global affairs after the Eurozone crisis?
- Should the EU attempt to become a more assertive global player?

Forum 2000 Democratic Transitions Workshop

Closed Workshop, 2 Parts – In cooperation with the International Visegrad Fund

By special invitations only.

Transitions in the recent past, despite optimistic expectations, have had mixed results. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989, and subsequent transformation of the communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, produced several successful open democratic societies,

but also other models, including family-dominated autocratic regimes. More recently, the so-called Arab Spring swept away, with astonishing speed, a series of authoritarian regimes in the MENA region. It is still unclear, however, how this change will eventually play out. This is also the case of another recently launched transition process in Burma. In all these cases, and others, the international community, both governmental and nongovernmental, has played a significant role, supporting, facilitating and financing democratic transitions.

Part I – Framing the Transitions

- How significant are the current changes? Are the forces behind these changes weak and temporary – or deeper and persistent?
- In the recent cases, is a liberal democracy still the main goal? If not, what is the alternative system to which these societies aspire?
- What are the key differences between the transitions that took place after communism and the more recent developments emerging within the context of the Arab uprisings?
- How should observers define a successful transition outcome? What should be the expectation?

Part II – Democratic Transitions: The Way Forward and the Role of the Visegrad Countries

- What are the lessons for democracy assistance practitioners from the past two-plus decades of transitions?
- What are the recommendations for external actors to successfully support a transition – and what are the priorities? What should be done first? How should the process of assisting a transition to democracy be concluded? What should be avoided?
- Who are the partners on the ground – the most effective agents of positive change?
- How can the West contribute to the successful outcome of transitions around the world?
- What has been the role of the Visegrad countries (relatively young democracies with their own transitional experience) in this process? What are the lessons from the recent transitional efforts in the MENA region?
- How can the Visegrad countries most effectively contribute to the global transitional efforts?

Power of Powerless Revisited

Roundtable, Krakow – In cooperation with the Villa Decius Association and the International Visegrad Fund

There has been a dramatic expansion in the size, scope and capacity of civil society over the past two decades throughout the world. This has been aided by

globalization, expansion of democratic governance, telecommunications, and economic integration. Civil society organizations (CSOs) became significant players in development assistance and delivery of social services. They entered fields in which public institutions did not perform, failed to perform, or didn't realize they should perform. CSOs filled the void and created spaces for intellectual and intercultural exchange, for cooperation and the development of local and international communities.

- Are CSOs satisfied with their achievements?
- Where do they go from here? Are there threats to further CSO development?
- Are there universal, shared values and fields for international cooperation? If so, what are they?

Risks of Transitions

Panel – In cooperation with the International Herald Tribune

Governments, business and citizens alike cherish stability. Large-scale social transitions are, however, unstable by definition and bring about serious risks of conflict, anarchy and economic chaos, which can in turn threaten the transition itself. The balancing of the opportunities of a transition against its risks determines its ultimate success.

- What is the relationship between the speed of a transition and its success? What are the advantages of a radical approach as opposed to a gradualist strategy?
- Should the transition strive for a universal support of the population at the risk of compromising its goals or should it aim to reach clearly defined practical results at the risk of antagonizing parts of its constituency?
- How important are external support mechanisms for maintaining the speed and the direction of a transition? When can external players be helpful and when do they become a nuisance?
- Is justice an essential part of a successful transition or should a line be drawn behind the past?

Societies in Transition: Do We Have Universal Aspirations?

Opening Panel

When popular movements forced out Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Tunisia and later Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, the overwhelming assumption was that the uprisings were motivated by the desire for freedom and respect for human rights, and that the outcome would eventually be a set of new democracies across the Middle East. After all, young people, not dissimilar to Czechoslovak students in 1989, were at the forefront of the protests. The continued turmoil in the region, growing violence, and religious radicalization suggest that perhaps large groups in the societies in question had different expectations from the change. Similarly, transitions in countries like Ukraine or even Hungary, and perhaps other Central European countries, have seemingly lost a clear objective. There seem to be huge differences between countries, and social,

religious and ethnic groups, in both their aspirations and expectations.

- What motivates us to seek a dramatic change in a social and political system?
- Is a liberal democracy in the Western sense the desired outcome?
- What roles do culture and religion play in how a transition is approached?

The Values We Share

Closing Panel

"I traveled to dozens of countries, and I was always aware of one thing and that was that the religious foundations, the religious points of departure, the traditions of various civilizational spheres, include something which is common to all. The common denominator is an elementary set of moral imperatives that are modified in different ways and which, in their general form, are valid everywhere. I ask myself whether we shouldn't search for those things that cultures have in common, something which I call the 'moral minimum.' Should this not be the thing from which the norms of coexistence among nations and supranational communities grow?"

So, the question which I would like to pose to this distinguished conference is whether there is a possibility of articulating such a minimum ..."

Václav Havel, Forum 2000, October 2006

Transitions of the Political System

The Burdens of History

Panel – In cooperation with Respekt

As the author William Faulkner once wrote: "The past isn't dead. It isn't even past." History has a way of resurfacing over and over again. In societies in transition, various factions often seek to use (re)interpretations of history to aid their own causes. At the same time, history forms an essential part of a country's political and social culture. Shedding history's burdens while embracing its lessons remains a challenge in even the most consolidated democracies.

- How have various post-communist states dealt with their 20th century history during the transition period?
- How important is it for countries to have some kind common narrative or understanding of the past?
- In societies undergoing great upheaval, is it possible to look to the past for some positive foundation for the future?

Dealing with the Past

Panel – In cooperation with Political Prisoners.eu, Goethe-Institut, Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union, and European Affairs Information Department of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

The transformation from an authoritarian to a democratic society inevitably forces a reckoning with the past. The traumas caused during a totalitarian or autocratic rule can reverberate for decades after the regime's end. Public memory is often divided, and history can be used as a political tool. In this complicated state of affairs, a serious tension between the common public interest and the right to privacy emerges.

- What solutions do we have for accessing sensitive information of national interest produced by totalitarian or autocratic regimes in the recent past?
- What lessons can we learn from how different formerly authoritarian states have dealt with these issues?
- What are the options for coping with contemporary political pressure and institutional instability, even as society comes to grips with past traumas?

Political Parties in Transitional Processes

Roundtable

Political parties play a significant role in democratic societies. Their role is particularly important in places undergoing a transition from authoritarianism to democracy. This role is adversely affected, however, when political parties give in to personal and factional interests, or when they are unable to establish themselves effectively in the public sphere.

- Are political parties playing a constructive role in building democratic societies?
- What factors are hindering or facilitating them playing such a role?
- Is there any alternative democratic model to the one based on political parties?

The Road to Good Governance

Panel

A truly democratic society is comprised of more than just regularly held elections. While elections are important, so too are democratic institutions that can deliver the promise of upholding the common good and maintaining dignity for all citizens. It is only with the building of stable, responsive institutions that the promise of democracy is fulfilled.

- What is meant by good governance? How is it measured?
- What are the key elements of good governance?
- What are the main risks on the road to good governance?
- Is it possible to have good governance without democracy and vice versa?

Tahrir, Taksim, Sao Paulo: A New Generation of Politics?

Panel – In cooperation with the Vodafone Czech Republic Foundation

Starting with the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi in Tunisia, through Tahrir Square and Gezi Park, to Sao Paulo, a new pattern of social and political protest has significantly influenced the global political landscape. These protest movements vary in many ways, but they also share a number of common features: they are mostly started and driven by tech-savvy youth; they begin with economic, social or environmental motivations, and acquire a set of political demands; they are usually highly critical of multiple aspects of the existing system, including corruption, nepotism and a lack of accountability; and they usually are – or at least seem to be – spontaneous, grass-roots driven, and lack a clear leader (such as a Havel or a Mandela).

- What is the true impact of technology on the development of these movements?
- Do such movements and their characteristics herald a new political system?
- Given that these movements seemingly demand a more direct role in governance, does this open the door to populism?

Society

The Asian Drama Today

Panel

Though Asia has taken an increasingly ascendant role in international affairs and it looks far different from when Gunnar Myrdal published the Asian Drama in 1968, a drama of epic proportions is playing out even today. Asians are contending with the need to reconcile equality with enterprise, stability with freedom, and sustainability with growth. As Asia struggles to deal with persisting poverty and growing inequalities, questions that influence varying domains of social life arise.

- What types of societies are emerging in Asia today?
- What are the issues of transition or transitions? How unique are they?
- Could some different Asian variation of democracy emerge from these processes?

Civil Society: Still a Force for Positive Change?

Panel

Civil society is a key building block of a healthy society. In times of social upheaval and political change, civil society groups often stand at the forefront of events, shaping and directing them. In the subsequent process of building something new, civil society can be an intermediary between citizens and the power: a watchdog, an expert voice providing important know-how to the newly established

state institutions. Civil society actors, however, are also often criticized for being unelected, and exercising undue influence.

- What is the role of civil society today? What is the Central European experience?
- What role does civil society play in current transitions, such as in Burma or Egypt?
- Under what conditions should civil society partner with government, and when should it serve as a countervailing force?

Corruption as an Anti-Transformation Force

Panel

Corruption is a problem for all societies, but it can be a particularly acute challenge as a society seeks to move from a closed state-centric to an open market economy. Where corruption is deeply entrenched, it can also serve as a near-permanent firewall against change, with those benefitting from corruption doing all they can to protect their own interests. In the worst of transition scenarios, there is a risk that corrupt actors use the new openness that society is pursuing to gain power and assets, which they then use to reverse progress.

- Is there a universal definition of the word “corruption”? Does it mean different things in different cultures?
- How big a risk for countries now in transition is a so-called “Russian scenario,” where the reform process is hijacked by a small group of individuals?
- As reformists seek to gain power, what risks do they face when having to work within a corrupt system? Can they avoid becoming corrupted and still accomplish anything?

Do Environmental Causes Transform Civic Engagement?

Roundtable

Less than a week before the Prague student demonstration of November 17, 1989, which triggered the end of communism in Czechoslovakia, hundreds of people gathered to protest in North Bohemian city of Teplice. Their concerns? A critical environmental situation in the region, heavy smog, and a number of related illnesses. The protests gradually grew into political ones, with the regime becoming the main target. Similarly, protests against highway construction through the Chimki forest in Russia, or against the demolition of Gezi Park in Istanbul with a shopping mall, have activated civil society and resulted in political demands.

- To what extent do environmental causes lead to civil engagement or even to political protests?
- Are some of these notable cases isolated incidents or something larger?
- Could such activism prove relevant in countries like China, or in Africa, Latin America, and poorer Asian countries?

Education and Democracy

Working Breakfast – In cooperation with the Embassy of Germany

By special invitations only.

Education plays a vital role in responsible decision-making by citizens. It enables them to better participate in the governing process and exercise control over the performance of the authorities. It can also be claimed that an educated citizen achieves better employment and higher pay, therefore strengthening the middle class so crucial to the development and functioning of liberal democracy. Schools have a role to play in helping create effective, engaged citizens.

- What are the main challenges for educational systems around the world?
- Can democracy be taught in places where there is no historical precedent?
- What comes first, a functioning democracy or an effective education about democracy?

How Has a Media in Transition Impacted the Transition of the Media in Post-Communist Countries?

Panel – In cooperation with Transitions Online

Over the past decade, traditional media in Central and Eastern Europe, and to a lesser extent in the former Soviet Union, have been hit hard by the same trends transforming the media around the world. Among them are the rapid explosion of alternative forms of entertainment, the growth of social media, decreased advertising revenues associated with the growth of the Internet, and general economic malaise. But in a post-communist environment, the effects of these changes could be much different.

- Have these general media trends helped or hindered the strength of powerful, independent media?
- In environments where there is less of a precedence of independent media, how do the effects of technological changes differ?
- How has the ownership and consolidation of post-communist media been affected? Are there more or fewer voices?

Philosophy Underground and Overground

Panel – In cooperation with the Václav Havel Library

The presentation will concern the recently published book *Philosophy Underground and Overground*. This collection is divided into two parts. The first is devoted to Czech philosophy in the so-called normalization period, with a particular emphasis on the Prague underground seminars. The second focuses on the 1990s, when many personalities from the underground appeared in academia to re-establish philosophy departments in universities. The event will be led by Roger Scruton, a visiting lecturer in the 1980s to the Prague (and Czechoslovak) clandestine study circles and one of the foremost organizers of foreign

support for parallel education in Czechoslovakia; Czech historian Jiří Suk, from the Institute of Contemporary History, will also make a presentation on the subject.

Radio: Inspiring Democratic Change

Panel – In cooperation with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Radio Prague

Today's globalized world has in many ways simplified the spread of information, but access to free, reliable, factual media is still not the norm in much of the world. Censorship remains in countries as diverse as Cuba, China and Russia, for example. In the past, people in unfree societies relied on radio for information, and many still do.

- What is the role of international broadcasters today?
- In what ways do traditional broadcasters harness the power of 21st century technology to reach their audiences?
- In societies where online censorship is common, can radio offer benefits that new technologies do not?

Trust, the State, and the Rule of Law

Panel – In cooperation with the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

Trust is a critical component of the rule of law. Law can rule only if citizens believe in its promise of justice. Trust is the hallmark of social solidarity that enables democratic institutions to function properly. A breakdown in social trust – both among citizens, as well as between citizens and state institutions – is thus a breakdown in democratic life proper.

- How can state institutions work to foster trust in the rule of law and to reduce civic apathy?
- How have post-communist transitions, in particular, affected the ability of police, state prosecutors, and members of the judiciary to confront pervasive institutional corruption and to prevent “state capture”?
- What are the socioeconomic dimensions of trust in the rule of law, and how do state policies toward marginalized communities affect broader issues of public trust?

Volunteering as the Base of Civil Society

Panel – In cooperation with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Czech Republic Foundation

Volunteers are the driving force of civil society. When giving one's time for free to the community becomes a mainstream practice, it brings along with it a greater feeling of responsibility for the community. Citizens begin to take an active approach towards bringing about positive change. Volunteering is at the same time a source of learning among various generations and social groups and brings otherwise disparate interests together into a multi-faceted but common civil society.

- What is the role of volunteering in helping to construct civil society in places where it was previously

absent?

- How or why is volunteering not widely recognized by schools, the general public or employers as central to their own goals?
- What are some examples of how volunteers have jump-started civil society in transitioning societies?

Economics

Democratic Capitalism: Still a Model to Follow?

Panel – In cooperation with the Center of Global Governance, Columbia University

For decades, the democratic capitalist model of the type practised in the United States and Western Europe was the system to which most other countries aspired. Modernizers pursued this goal nearly universally as a means of developing prosperous economies. It became conventional wisdom that successful democracies are based on prosperous capitalist economies and free market principles – and vice versa. That may no longer be the case, as the economic rise of China, the Gulf states, Singapore and others also seem to offer other viable paths to prosperity.

- How true is it to directly link democracy with free market capitalism?
- Is the Chinese model serving as an aspirational path for countries elsewhere in the world?
- How many different models for economic transition do we now see in the world? Where?

Economy, Culture and Free Enterprise: Case Study of the Visegrad Group

Panel – In cooperation with the Legatum Institute and the International Visegrad Fund

Following the collapse of communism, a wave of democratic transition swept through Europe in the 1990s. But along with opportunity came many challenges – and while some countries prospered, others faltered. All things considered, the Visegrad Group (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) can be counted among the success stories, though not without struggles.

- What role did economic reform and growth play in moving these countries forward to democratic success?
- What were some of the differences in the transition process between the Visegrad countries?
- What are some of the missteps during transition that we can pinpoint in hindsight?

Gift Economy: Are Traditional Economic Relations Changing?

Panel – In cooperation with Hearth.net

Rarely do we truly think about how our economies work. Much of the discussion on economic issues focuses on

tinkering with existing practices, not rethinking economic relationships. This discussion will consider options for the transformation of society through changing the economic system and focusing on the impact of the “gift economy” on the behavior of individuals and society – and the resulting transformation of relations.

- What is the impact of an economic system on relations in society?
- What is the gift economy and what core values does it represent?
- How could social relations differ in market versus gift economies?

The Role of Multinational Companies in Transitional Societies

Working Breakfast – In cooperation with the Business Leaders Forum

By special invitations only.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is becoming an integral part of core business strategies and everyday business. The new generation of consumers represents value-sensitive purchasing power. Companies that want to stay successful will have to keep in mind the demand for ethical, environmental and social consciousness. Among some employees the company itself can show the best practice for everyday functioning and inspire social responsibility on the level of the individual. Companies themselves can become the examples of responsible and honest approach and influence the behavior of all company stakeholders. Corporate leaders have a role to play in paving the way towards social change.

- How can CSR impact the behavior of individual stakeholders?
- What is the role of a leader in a multinational corporation in terms of communicating CSR?
- What is the impact of a leader’s ethical approach to sustainable community development?

Unemployment and Inequality: True Reasons for Middle East’s Revolutions?

Working Breakfast – In cooperation with the U.S. Embassy

By special invitations only.

While the demand for greater freedoms did play a role in the Arab Spring, the practical realities of high unemployment, growing inequality and rising food costs were even bigger motivations. The previous regimes failed to offer most people access to basic necessities, and so bred resentment as cronyism saw others living lives of plenty. These are not problems quickly and easily resolved by new governments

- To what degree were the Arab Spring uprisings a reaction to dire economic conditions?
- What role does economic development play in a successful transition?

- How can transitioning countries cope with persisting frustrations even as they move towards resolving the greatest injustices of the earlier regimes?

World in Transition: A Business for Business?

Panel – In cooperation with the UN Information Centre Prague and the Czech Business Council for Sustainable Development

The world is at a critical juncture economically, socially and environmentally. More than a billion people lack access to viable food sources, electricity and safe drinking water. The gap between rich and poor is widening, and the world’s ecosystems are under threat. Climate change and population growth – especially in some of the poorest parts of the world – further exacerbate such situations. These realities are challenges not just for humanity at-large, but for the business community as well.

- What role can private enterprises play in dealing with the 21st century’s biggest global challenges?
- What constitutes corporate responsibility in social, environmental and ethical terms?
- How can the private sector work in conjunction with governments and international organizations?

Religion and Ethics

Democracy, Human Rights and Religious Freedom in East Asia

Roundtable – In cooperation with the Faculty of Arts, Charles University

By special invitations only.

In recent decades most countries in East Asia have experienced increased demand for democracy and the respect of human rights. In some countries, especially in Burma, significant progress has been achieved. For countries like China and North Korea, however, gross violations of human rights and basic liberties are still an everyday reality. The strong repression of political and media freedoms are partnered with harsh restrictions on religious expression. The level of respect for religious freedoms is a universal measure of the level of development of a society, as free religious contemplation contributes to the creation of a sound moral and political culture.

- In which East Asian countries are the most serious human rights violations taking place and which rights are most repressed?
- Which countries are making the most progress in improving the human rights situation and can serve as an inspiration?
- What position does freedom of religious expression hold in a society’s democratic transition?

The Role of Religion in Transitional Processes

Panel

Religion is a social phenomenon that rarely remains on the sidelines during social transitions. In many cases, religious institutions themselves play the role of progressive facilitators of social change; and religious leaders, or their ideals, make up the driving force of transformation processes moving from authoritarianism towards free societies. In other cases, however, conservative religious influences preserve the social status quo and contradict transformation tendencies. Religious institutions can even become an instrument of stability for authoritarian regimes.

- In which countries and religious societies do we currently see the examples of such tendencies?
- Which of these two tendencies is generally more characteristic of religion?
- When does religion's society stabilizing role serve as a positive contribution to society, and when does it act as an inhibitor of positive change?
- Are there any universal principles valid for all religions, or are individual religious traditions different?

External Influences

Building Democracy in Transitional Countries: Assistance of the Czech Republic

Panel – In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Protecting and promoting human rights, along with promoting democracy, are among the key objectives of Czech foreign policy. Based on the country's recent experience with social transition, democracy building and non-violent resistance against a totalitarian regime, the Czech Republic shares its knowledge with other countries now beginning this process. Among them are countries like Georgia, Belarus, Burma, Kosovo, Moldova, and Cuba. The Czech Republic promotes transition to democracy by supporting various projects promoting the development of civil society, media independence and education for active citizenship.

- How can the Czech transition experience be mobilized to help improve the situations in targeted countries?
- How is the exchange of transition experiences perceived in the international context and by direct beneficiaries?
- What are the main challenges that transition countries and their partners face?

Burma's Transition: The Need for New Approaches by the International Community

Panel – In cooperation with Zaostřeno and People in Need

The international architecture for managing transitions

and peacebuilding is not working well. Iraq and Afghanistan are the two most notable examples, but, according to some, the approaches being used in Burma further illustrate the problem. Instead of building integrated approaches to democratization, security, development and peacebuilding, donors are criticized for following their standard tactics while ignoring many pledges by governments to improve their approaches to aiding transitions. Without a change of course, there is supposedly a risk of more wasted resources and lost opportunities.

- What are possible solutions to the issue of mismanaged national transitions?
- Are the mistakes the international community makes systemic, or are we not paying enough attention to country-specific issues?
- Are we making any progress in how we approach transition issues, or are we repeating our failures?

Democracy Assistance in the External Relations of Visegrad Countries

Working Breakfast – In cooperation with the International Visegrad Fund

By special invitations only.

The Visegrad (V4) countries are among the new democracies playing an active role in supporting the development of democracy, human rights and civil society internationally. Their recent transition histories lend these efforts a certain real-life know-how. This, along with their vibrant civil societies engaging with democratization efforts abroad, make the V4 countries natural, credible, well-positioned actors in this field. Still, more remains to be done for greater cooperation, coordination and division of (specialized) labor.

- Are there niches where the V4 can do more to promote democracy than they do now?
- What are the main shortcomings of current V4 policies towards promoting democratization abroad?
- How should the V4 work in this field vis-a-vis their counterparts in the rest of the EU and in the United States?

European Relations with the Mediterranean

Working Lunch – In cooperation with the Embassy of France

By special invitations only.

The Mediterranean region has historically served as an important area of economic and cultural exchange between Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. The political changes brought forward by the Arab Spring present an important dynamic in the region's relations with the rest of Europe. A politically unstable North Africa will present problems for both sides of the Mediterranean. Energy security, trade and the issues of illegal immigration and refugees are among the more pressing issues in maintaining stability in the Mediterranean.

- How have Europe's relations with North Africa changed since the Arab Spring?
- Does the EU aim to strengthen its ties with the rest of the Mediterranean region?
- Does the EU have a unified stance on the issues in the Mediterranean?

The Role of External Actors in Transforming Countries

Panel

The transition of totalitarian regimes to freer societies often occurs with a varying degree of support (or interference, according to some) from external actors. In particular, the subsequent transitional periods are very fragile, and external funding plus the transfer of know-how can be a decisive influence on which direction the transitioning country heads. In this processes, both governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can play a role.

- Who are currently the main players in the transitional support field, and has that changed over the past two decades?
- How can governments and NGOs support democratic transitions efficiently? What are some lessons of recent practice?
- Is there a risk that excessive support slows the natural development of a transitioning society's institutions?

The Role of Human Rights in Czech Foreign Policy

Panel – In cooperation with DEMAS – Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights

Since its establishment, the Czech Republic has made the defense of human rights an important aspect of its foreign policy. Consistent and outspoken support for democratic principles is among the most important issues making the country visible in the international arena. Nearly a quarter-century after the Velvet Revolution, the Czech Republic still exports its transformation experience to countries where human rights are routinely violated or where the transition from an authoritarian regime is underway.

- How should democracy promotion and human rights support be reflected in Czech foreign policy?
- Can outspoken support for human rights harm the country's economic strength by alienating potential export markets?
- As the Czech Republic undergoes its own political turmoil, should it still play a role in exporting advice and experience on democratization?

Transitions in the Post-Soviet Space: The Russia Factor

Panel

Democratic transitions in the former Soviet republics, with the bright exceptions of the Baltic States and perhaps one or two others, are at best stalled, and at worst

degenerating into various forms of autocratic regimes. Russia remains a key player in its "near abroad," influencing its neighbors through diplomatic, political, as well as economic and other means.

- What specific tactics does Russia use in these countries to pursue its interests?
- How will Russia's domestic politics influence its policies towards the "near abroad"?
- Where is the region going? Where will it be in 10 or 20 years?

Transition Processes

Azerbaijan: Forever Young... Democracy?

Panel – In cooperation with People in Need

Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union, its former republics have been considered "emerging" or "young" democracies. These expressions were initially meant to underline the vision of their common future within the community of free nations. Some 22 years later, however, some are still using these terms. Azerbaijan's so-called transition has by any measure skipped most of the processes associated with political democratization. With social tensions rising, Azerbaijani authorities are closing all the channels through which anger might flow. The real transition still lies ahead.

- How relevant is it today to think of Azerbaijan as a post-Soviet country?
- How strong are the Arab Spring parallels in this case, and has the EU learned any lessons?
- Is it possible to prepare for a democratic transition ahead of time?

China: Totalitarianism or Transformation?

Panel, Ostrava – In cooperation with Antiquarian Bookshop Fiducia

China aspires to be a world superpower. While living standards for many ordinary people have improved markedly in recent years, social tensions and conflict also appear to be rapidly escalating. International media focus on China's economic growth, but have recently taken on Internet piracy and the suppression of human rights as well. Along with environmental problems, corruption and one-party rule, it is clear that significant challenges remain.

- Is China a totalitarian country or a country where democratic transition is underway?
- How evenly are the benefits of a growing economy distributed across Chinese society?
- Can China continue its economic transformation without transforming itself politically?

Civil Society in Middle Eastern Transitions

Roundtable

Civil society in the Western context is one of the pillars of tolerance and of open democratic societies. However, in some parts of the Middle East, where authoritarian Arab nationalist regimes were entrenched for decades, it was in the mosques and through Islamist movements that political opposition and discussion of alternatives was most widespread. The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt (and its offshoots elsewhere) is perhaps the clearest manifestation of this phenomenon. Civil society truly has many faces.

- How do civil society groups turn themselves into successful political movements and parties?
- Are Islamist groups the primary civil society actors in the Arab World, or were they merely the best organized for quickly pursuing political power?
- How does democracy look in societies where Islamist groups enjoy genuine widespread public support?

EaP Countries: Transition in Progress or Decay?

Panel – In cooperation with Freedom House

The Eastern Partnership initiative is an ambitious project encompassing a geographically, politically and culturally diverse region on the European Union's periphery. The EU had high expectations that it would contribute to the rapid transformation of at least some of the EaP countries, but events have tempered the optimism with which the initiative was launched. Any number of options are up for consideration, including a redoubling of efforts, a mere tweaking of strategy, or a wholesale change of course.

- How realistic was it to group countries as diverse as Belarus and Azerbaijan into the same program?
- Are transitions lessons learned in Central and Eastern Europe applicable in the EaP countries, or are the situations too different?
- What are reasonable short-, medium- and long-term goals for this program?

From Oppressors to Guardians? Role of the Security Apparatus in Countries Affected by the Arab Spring

Panel – In cooperation with the Prague Security Studies Institute

The role of the security apparatuses in countries affected by the Arab Spring has mostly escaped media attention. Prior to the revolutions, the police and armies were only rarely serving the people as guardians of a democratic system, constitutional order, or of human or political rights. Mistreatment of citizens and a heavy-handed approach in suppressing public discontent and political opposition were common traits. It remains unclear how much has changed.

- Has the role of the security apparatuses changed in countries seeking to transition from an authoritarian

to a democratic system?

- Are the security apparatuses in Arab countries part of the problem or part of the solution when it comes to the transition to democracy?
- What can civil society, NGOs, and the West do to help make sure a country's security apparatus is a democratically controlled institution?

International Development Aid in the Context of Democracy Assistance

Panel – In cooperation with FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Cooperation

Democracy and development are two important concepts, but thus far rarely discussed together. Global deliberations are now focused on what should come after 2015, when the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expire. Sustainable development with the economic, social and environmental pillars is the key focus, but one specific goal missing from the MDGs is an emphasis on democratic governance. Development is not merely an economic issue, but rather a means to empower people; it is not about accumulating wealth, but about changing societies and people's access to a better life.

- How does sustainable development cooperation intersect with good governance and democratic control?
- How can the understanding of good governance and democracy be extended to a (sustainable) development perspective and vice-versa?
- In what way should donors be active in supporting and promoting innovative and accountable relationships between citizens and their governments?

"Slovak Path": Lessons for Democrats (and Autocrats)

Panel, Bratislava – In cooperation with the Institute for Public Affairs and the International Visegrad Fund

In the mid-1990s Slovakia remained outside the mainstream of social transformation in the post-communist countries of the Visegrad region. There was frequent speculation that the country's future development path would prove catastrophic. And yet the country succeeded in its struggle to implement democratic rules and in consolidating democracy. It is now among the biggest transition success stories.

- Why did the transition of Slovakia prove more complex and cumbersome than some of its neighbors?
- Which factors led to the country eventually catching up with the rest of the Visegrad group?
- Has Slovakia rid itself of nationalism and authoritarianism amid less favorable structural conditions useful for countries not immediately successful in their post-communist transformations?

Transition in a Multiethnic Society: A South African Experience

Working Breakfast – In cooperation with the Embassy of South Africa

By special invitations only.

Among the late 20th century's most successful transitions was, arguably, South Africa's move from apartheid to a democratic state. Given the stark, inhumane divide that had existed in society for many of the previous decades and the country's international isolation, the relative lack of violence that accompanied this transition is truly remarkable. Today South Africa is a thriving modern society and one of Africa's economic engines, but these developments were hardly guaranteed.

- Can the truth and reconciliation process followed in South Africa serve as a model for other transitioning societies?
- What role does a unifying political figure, like Nelson Mandela, play in a successful transition?
- Can we say that South Africa has completed its transition or is the transition still underway?

Travails of the Current Transitions in the Middle East

Panel

The "Arab Spring" rushed onto the scene in 2011, bringing hundreds of thousands to the streets with calls for freedom, dignity and prosperity. Two dictators fell within weeks; a third fought hard and lost it all. Two and a half years on, the picture is less rosy. Tunisia has seen opposition politicians murdered and is still mired in crisis. Lawlessness and political malaise are on the rise in Libya. Egypt's abusive though democratically elected President was deposed in what was no doubt a 21st century military coup; hundreds were killed plunging the country into widespread violence. And Syria remains an abhorrent slaughterhouse.

- Will a democratic political culture be able to develop in the Arab World?
- Could Syria's barbaric sectarian war spread and draw in other regional players?
- What are the prospects of the Muslim Brotherhood in the region in the near- and long-term?

Venezuela, Cuba: What Lies Ahead?

Roundtable – In cooperation with People in Need

Venezuela and Cuba are closely linked by the economic and security cooperation and mutual support of their leftist governments. Cuba is ruled by a totalitarian regime that exercises enormous control over all sectors of society, and a nationalized economy; Venezuela has a democratically elected government, which nonetheless regularly shows authoritarian tendencies. It is highly likely that both countries will undergo some kind of transition to a more open and liberal system in the foreseeable future.

- What are some of the likely transition scenarios in these countries?
- Where is the first place a reformist government should start in each country?
- How likely is it that these transitions take place gradually as opposed to suddenly?

Yugoslavia: How a Transition Can Go Terribly Wrong

Roundtable

The transition from communism in former Yugoslavia during the 1990s led to the bloodiest war Europe has witnessed since World War II. A series of ethnic and nationalist conflicts lasting nearly a decade led to the death of some 140,000 people, massive economic disruption and collapse before a group of newly independent democratic countries finally emerged.

- What was at the roots of the bloody Yugoslav wars of the 1990s?
- Are the factors that lead to these conflicts now truly a thing of the past?
- What are the lessons for other multi-ethnic societies facing transition?

Special Focus

Business and Water: New Channels for Breaking the Impasse in the Middle East?

Panel – In cooperation with The Coca-Cola Company

Turbulent events in the Middle East can lead to unexpected and sudden changes. At the same time, most countries in the region remain economically and politically stagnant and natural resources, water especially, remain scarce. Without the socio-political transition and related economic growth, which also depends on the access to water and other natural resources, the chance for a better future is slim. There may be other channels for breaking this continued deadlock.

- Can we see a new alignment of power or alliances emerging in the Middle East?
- Is there a role for the private sector to play in generating more regional cooperation?
- Can competition over limited resources, like access to water, serve as a roadblock to regional cooperation? Can such issues serve as a starting point for more productive relationships?

Challenges for Democracy in Latin America

Working Breakfast

By special invitations only.

Brutal autocratic regimes of the 1970s and 1980s are a thing of the past in Latin America. Most countries in the region are democracies, with freely elected governments,

competing political parties, independent media and active civil societies. Despite the generally positive picture, there are worrying developments in some countries: authoritarian behavior of the government in Venezuela, ruled by the late Hugo Chávez's handpicked successor Nicolás Maduro; the questionable new media law in Ecuador; or perhaps Nicaragua, where President Daniel Ortega has solidified control through cronyism, giving economic perks to friends and allies.

- What are the current challenges for Latin American democracy?
- What is now the regional role of Cuba and Venezuela?
- With the PRI back in power in Mexico and the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, what are the implications for democracy?

The Perspectives of the Cross Straits Relations

Working Breakfast – In cooperation with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office

By special invitations only.

The People's Republic of China and Taiwan share common cultural roots and a common Confucian heritage, yet tensions between the two countries are historically very high. The so-called rise of China is changing the political and economic landscape of East Asia and cross straits relations are gaining a new dynamic. Bilateral economic ties are strengthening; however, political disputes seem to persist.

- Are we likely to see a rapprochement between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, or will tensions continue rising?
- Can common culture and Confucian ethics provide a key to the settlement of disputes?
- What influence can cross straits relations have in the context of South China Sea territorial disputes?

Transforming Cities: Towards Smart Forms of Governance?

Panel – In cooperation with the Aspen Institute Prague

Central European cities are very much a part of the global transformation of economies, the environment, and governance in urban areas. Creative and cultural industries now account for a growing share of cities' economic strength. This, in combination with modern technologies, has the potential to aid in the creation of "smart" (or at least smarter) cities. Most of these initiatives are bottom-up and enter the public sphere via modern communication technologies. Social networks can quickly and effectively spread such initiatives, but they are often limited in their influence and outreach in comparison to local governments. There must be ways to bring these two worlds together.

- How can technology harness citizen input to improve quality of life and city governance?

- How can an environment that favors dialogue between the various sectors participating in urban transformation be created?
- Will citizen initiatives become politicized and compete with traditional political parties in local elections?

Transnistria: From the Inside

Panel – In cooperation with People in Need

Transnistria is a disputed "breakaway" territory. It is an example of a frozen conflict, as well as a separatist and authoritarian regime. It is also home to a new generation born into the reality of so-called "independent" Transnistrian Moldovan Republic. As such, this generation does not feel any connection towards the Republic of Moldova, but nor do they necessarily support the present repressive Transnistrian authorities. Continued international isolation limits the impact of an emerging independent civil society.

- What effect does international isolation have on the development of civil society?
- Should disputes over political recognition or legal status of a territory be an impediment to cooperation with NGOs and other groups?
- How can the international community best promote democracy, human rights and pluralism without interceding in complicated territorial issues?

Under (Press)ure

Panel – In cooperation with the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

In conjunction with a regular series of a roundtable discussions at the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, a distinguished group of foreign journalists will consider current political, economic and social issues. At this special Forum 2000 edition the panel will consider the loss of trust in the rule of law plaguing both long-established liberal democracies and newly emerged democracies.

- How similar are attitudes towards the rule of law in developed, developing and the transitioning countries?
- What are the causes of the current deficit in public trust (institutional corruption, organized crime, social marginalization, etc.)?
- How can public institutions help restore a sense of trust, especially in the post-Communist context?

Accompanying Events

Amazing Azerbaijan!

Film Screening – In cooperation with the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, People in Need and Pilsen – European Capital of Culture 2015

Azerbaijani state officials like to portray their country as a dynamic eagle, naturally linking the cultures of the West and East. Skyscrapers are going up in this oil-rich country, Azerbaijan is on the UN Security Council, and President Ilham Aliyev presses the flesh with some of the world's most important statesmen. When an Azerbaijani duet wins the apolitical Eurovision song contest, the president declares the victory a national success. Amazing Azerbaijan! is the story of a country with two faces. International human rights groups say that behind the shiny façade is a repressive and corrupt regime that severely suppresses free speech. The state shows opponents no mercy. It arrests inconvenient journalists on trumped-up charges or has them killed. Violence is a tool for suppressing any dissent.

Compassion and Respect in Today's Society

Public Talk by His Holiness the Dalai Lama

For ticket holders only.

Love, compassion and respect are necessities of modern life, and yet all too often they are treated as luxuries. Amid the distractions of contemporary media, the rush of the working world and injustices so apparent across the globe, it is easy to look past these most basic of concepts. By taking just a few moments to pause and consider the most important things in one's life, the transience of much of what troubles us on a daily basis becomes apparent. In a public address at the Tipsport Arena, His Holiness the Dalai Lama will seek to return minds and souls to the timeless simplicities that present-day society nonetheless manages to complicate.

The Fortress

Film Screening – In cooperation with the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival and Film Distribution Artcam, "Dělární kino" Project

More than 20 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there is still a state in Europe where a bronze statue of Lenin looks down from its column, where the good old Soviet times are nostalgically remembered, and where it is strictly forbidden to take photographs at railway stations. Welcome to the dark, open-air museum of communism, the unrecognized Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic. Told through several characters, this poetic documentary by young Czech filmmakers Klára Tasovská and Lukáš Kokeš details daily life in the picturesque Transnistria. Standing at the head of this unrecognized republic is Igor Smirnov, a tragicomic figure seemingly straight out of the 1980s. He has built a Moscow satellite out of the territory on the right bank of the Dniester River. Weapons, drugs

and human organs flow through on their way to Europe. Everything is controlled by the secret police and managed by mafia power structures. Will a presidential election offer the chance for change?

The Power of Forgiveness – Presentation of Caroline Stoessinger's Book "A Century of Wisdom"

Book Presentation – In cooperation with Jota Publishing House, the Czech PEN Club and the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

Author Caroline Stoessinger will speak about the amazing life of the world's oldest living Holocaust survivor, Alice Herz-Sommer. Born in Prague in 1903, she lived through both World Wars and transcended the Holocaust to live a brilliant life free of bitterness and hatred. Alice, whose mind and thoughts remain clear, looks forward to celebrating her 110th birthday this November. She lives alone and regularly grants interviews about her universal message of forgiveness, and her friendships with Franz Kafka, Max Brod, Leo Baeck, Sigmund Freud and Gustav Mahler. A former concert pianist who performed before the war with the Czech Philharmonic, Alice continues to practice Bach and Chopin three hours daily. Film clips of Alice and music will add to the program.

Tibet at the Crossroads

Exhibition – In cooperation with M.O.S.T. Civic Association

The exhibition reflects the cultural and political situation in Tibet as depicted through recent events there. The viewer is drawn into the life stories both of Tibetans at home and of those living in exile in India. Stories of child refugees and nomads shed light on key contemporary global issues, including human rights violations, migration, and military conflict. Information is also available on how foreign aid and humanitarian projects can help Tibetans both in Tibet and in India. The exhibition is part of the educational project "Tibet and Burma at a Crossroads."

Tibet Burns Us Up

Campaign – In cooperation with Amnesty International Czech Republic

China has occupied Tibet since 1959 and has systematically suppressed Tibetan culture and violated human rights ever since. Tibetans are not allowed to communicate freely with the outside world or practice their faith. Many have been arrested and harshly punished for acts of resistance. More than a hundred Tibetans have self-immolated in recent years to protest Chinese repression. These alarming events demand a response. By joining the "Tibet burns us up!" campaign, you can address Chinese authorities and urge them to respect human rights in Tibet. You can also send a photo-message expressing your concern and your support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people.

Conference Outcomes

Should you wish to review the conference speeches and discussions, visit our website at www.forum2000.cz. All the outcomes are available in the section Forum 2000 Conferences under the respective year.

Social Media

You can track Forum 2000's activities both during the conference and all year long by engaging with us on social media. Follow us on Twitter at @Forum_2000 or via #Forum2000 or Like us on Facebook and visit www.facebook.com/forum.2000

Online Live Video Broadcast

Panels in the Forum Hall and the Conference Hall of Žofín Palace and several other events will be broadcast live on our website in the section Video. This section will later contain video recordings from all these sessions and from our past events.

Panel Summaries

All conference panels are briefly summarized and available on the Forum 2000 website during the course of the conference. They provide a general overview of the speeches and remarks made by the delegates.

Press Releases

Press Releases highlight the most interesting and most important moments of the individual conference days offering statements, quotations and ideas and summarizing the course of the conference for media.

Photo Gallery

We do our best to capture the significant moments of the conference. A selection of photographs taken during the conference will be available soon after its close. Please visit the Photo Gallery in the Conference 2013 section of our website.

Video Gallery

Many panels and discussions will be recorded and posted on our website. Click on the link Video Recordings and choose the video you want to watch.

Conference Report

The Conference Report comprises transcripts of the main panels, delegate profiles, overview of all events and other information related to the conference and the Forum 2000 Foundation. The Conference Report will be available in early 2014. Previous Forum 2000 Conference Reports may be purchased from the information stand of the foundation located in the Žofín Palace, together with other publications and materials of the Forum 2000 Foundation.

Practical Information

Please, kindly note the following information related to various organizational matters associated with the conference.

Language

English is the working language of the conference.

Some events will be translated or held in other languages. Please, see the program for details.

Accessibility of Venues and Events

Panels and discussions held at Žofín Palace are accessible to the public only with pre-registration. Discussions and events held at other venues are open to the general public without the need to pre-register.

Due to the large number of participants and limited capacity, early arrival is highly recommended.

Please kindly note that the Delegates Lounge – Žofín Palace Garden – is only accessible to participants wearing a Forum 2000 Foundation, Delegate or Guest badge.

Food and Beverages

Small meals and snacks will be sold at the Žofín Palace restaurant and café throughout the conference. Coffee, tea and other non-alcoholic beverages will be available for no charge during all breaks.

Refreshments will also be available at Langhans Café and Globe Café. Globe Café will provide a 10% discount to all Forum 2000 Conference badge holders.

Smokers

Žofín Palace is a no-smoking zone. Smoking is only permitted outside conference venues.

Photography and Video Recording

All conference participants are permitted to take pictures and record video. We ask photographers not to use flash.



Get Involved

The Forum 2000 Foundation is committed to supporting the values of democracy and respect for human rights. All of our activities would not be possible without the help of a thriving community of supporters and the generosity of our donors.

Join the Forum 2000 Community

Join us on Facebook and Twitter, be informed of the latest news, discuss and share your opinions. Use your voice to help us to take the mission of Forum 2000 further.

Volunteers are the cornerstone of Forum 2000, and we are grateful to those who have devoted their time to support us. Increase your impact on our mission by volunteering, becoming a fundraiser, or just spreading the word.

Support Our Mission by Making a Donation

Become a Friend of Forum 2000

By donating regularly, you can help us plan our long-term strategy more effectively. If you wish to provide regular support, look for the Friends of Forum 2000 sign at the conference venues and ask our staff for assistance. More information is also available on our website.

Corporate Support

At Forum 2000, we understand the importance of a mutually beneficial partnership. You can choose to support the entire mission, a specific project, or an event organized by the Forum 2000 Foundation – and get a special recognition within these respective activities.

In-Kind Support

One of the ways you can contribute to our mission is to provide in-kind support: equipment, products or services that are necessary for us to function. Such a donation is just as important as any other help to us.

Philanthropy Program

Join a group of private philanthropists supporting democracy and human rights and connect with global leaders from business, politics, civil society and philanthropy in a private setting.

By making a much-needed donation today, you will help the Forum 2000 Foundation support the values of democracy and respect for human rights. Find out more detailed information on our website or contact us at secretariat@forum2000.cz.

Thank you!



Forum 2000 Foundation

Mission

The Forum 2000 Foundation pursues the legacy of Václav Havel by supporting the values of democracy and respect for human rights, assisting the development of civil society, and encouraging religious, cultural and ethnic tolerance. It provides a platform for global leaders, as well as thinkers and courageous individuals from every field of endeavor, to openly debate and share these critical issues.

Origins

Forum 2000 was founded in 1996 by Czech President Václav Havel together with Japanese philanthropist Yohei Sasakawa and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel.

Core Activities

Forum 2000 Conference

The annual Forum 2000 Conference in Prague assembles global thought leaders and offers a voice to dissidents from non-democratic countries, facilitating the development of a worldwide network of those who support the core principles of Havel's legacy. Among the speakers at our annual conference are world-renowned personalities such as His Holiness the Dalai Lama, President Clinton, Madeleine Albright, Prince El Hassan bin Talal and numerous Nobel Laureates including Elie Wiesel, Shirin Ebadi and Joseph Stiglitz.

The conference is unique in being open to the public and attracts over 3,000 attendees and more than 3,000 online followers each year, mostly from the Czech Republic and

Central Europe, but with an increasingly international audience. These include representatives from politics, civil society, media, diplomacy, academia and business.

Interfaith Dialogue

The Interfaith Dialogue is an integral element of the annual conference and facilitates a unique dialogue between secular humanism and the world's spiritual traditions. Participants seek better understanding and deepening cooperation between world religions and political, scientific and economic leaders.

Regular Contributors

- **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, *Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Tibet*
- **Shirin Ebadi**, *Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Iran*
- **Vartan Gregorian**, *President, Carnegie Corporation of New York, USA*
- **Tomáš Halík**, *Sociologist, President, Czech Christian Academy, Czech Republic*
- **Gilles Kepel**, *Political Scientist, France*
- **Ashis Nandy**, *Political Psychologist, Sociologist of Science, India*
- **Rabbi David Rosen**, *International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee, Israel*

Shared Concern Initiative

The Shared Concern Initiative unites political and spiritual leaders and offers them a common voice in support of political dissidents living in non-democratic regimes and in condemnation of human rights violations. It also sponsors research into democratic developments in non-democratic or newly democratic regimes. The joint statements of the Initiative are regularly published by significant media outlets around the world.

SCI Membership

- **Prince El Hassan bin Talal**, Chairman, West Asia-North Africa Forum, Jordan
- **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Tibet
- **Frederik Willem de Klerk**, Former President, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, South Africa
- **André Glucksmann**, Philosopher, France
- **Vartan Gregorian**, President, Carnegie Corporation of New York, USA
- **Hans Küng**, President, Foundation for Global Ethics, Germany
- **Michael Novak**, Theologian, Political Scientist, USA
- **Shimon Peres**, President, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Israel
- **Yohei Sasakawa**, Chairman, The Nippon Foundation, Co-Founder, Forum 2000 Foundation, Japan
- **Karel Schwarzenberg**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, South Africa
- **Richard von Weizsäcker**, Former President, Germany
- **Grigory Yavlinsky**, Economist, Politician, Russia

NGO Market

Our annual NGO Market has become the largest exhibition of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe and offers non-profit organizations the opportunity to showcase their activities to potential corporate partners and the general public. During the event, NGOs share best practices and are able to draw on international experience.

Water in the Middle East

This year marks the eighth year that the Forum 2000 Foundation has addressed the issue of water scarcity in the Middle East through its initiative. The aim of the initiative is to comprehensively address the issue through a series of events, which keep abreast of political, economic, and technological developments. The ultimate goal is to help facilitate a peaceful, equitable, and stable resolution that is shared by all stakeholders.

Forum 2000 Supporters

Together with our many supporters, we are determined to take forward Václav Havel's legacy and to firmly establish Forum 2000 as the primary global platform for dialogue about democracy, human rights and freedom.

"I would like to thank Forum 2000 for making this issue a really significant one in our century. With your help we shall be able to go forward in our process of democratization: with your help the world will know how important Rule of Law is."

Aung Sang Suu Kyi, Political Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Burma

Addressing the Forum 2000 Conference, October 2011

"Havel will continue to inspire all of those who believe in the rights of every citizen to dignity, self-esteem and the fundamental freedoms upon which principled societies and governments are based."

Yang Jianli, Dissident, President and Founder, Initiatives for China, USA/China

"The void left by the death of Václav Havel is enormous, but his legacy lives on, and will continue to inspire us to aim for the high peaks of freedom, equality, justice, human rights and human dignity."

Shimon Peres, President, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Israel

"Václav Havel was the moral voice of his country and his era. His humanity, humility and decency were an example for us all. In the face of the great challenges today that shall test a newer generation, let his profile in courage be our inspiration."

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations, USA/South Korea

"I know Forum 2000 will keep up the spirit of Havel's tireless work with renewed vigor and determination. I look forward to working in close cooperation with your foundation towards building a more peaceful, open and just world."

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Spiritual Leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, India/Tibet

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Aung San Suu Kyi



Prince El Hassan bin Talal



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