



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Challenges to European security: parliamentary perspectives and responses

Monday 15 – Wednesday 17 February 2016 | WP1441

In a changing geopolitical landscape, Eastern Europe is becoming more militarised and its future stability much less certain, largely in response to the challenges posed by Russia. Its actions not only threaten former states of the Soviet Union, but the wider region as a whole, and European states and institutions need to adapt to a new security environment in which an assumed trajectory for post-Cold War era relations is being challenged and often diverted in unexpected ways.

With the fallout from the global financial crisis, and ongoing Eurozone crises, fringe political movements and radical parties are finding success at the ballot box. Russian destabilisation efforts, across the hybrid spectrum, are only exacerbating these trends. This is an issue that goes to the heart of European parliamentary democracy, and frank discussion between parliamentarians is required.

Russian action in Ukraine has raised concern over hybrid conflict to acute new levels, not least due to the possibility that Moscow could employ these tactics elsewhere in Europe. Russia's disinformation campaign and covert tactics in Ukraine have been particularly prominent. It is clear that given the nature of the threat, the full toolbox of instruments available to European nations needs to be marshalled in response. This reassessment needs to include areas such as border security, economic levers, counterpropaganda capabilities, and new mechanisms for the rapid deployment of civilian and military observers.

The parliamentary role will be central to the discussions in every session. Given their access to all government ministries, what coordination role can parliaments play? What place do cross party select committees have in this? How best could parliaments' intelligence, defence, and foreign policy oversight responsibilities be utilised?

In association with British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

(Speakers invited and themes proposed; ^ denotes expected, role in programme to be confirmed; * denotes to be confirmed)

Monday 15 February

1300-1430 Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500 **Welcome and introduction**

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Rick Nimmo

Director, British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union, London

Donald Anderson

House of Lords, London

1515-1645 **1. The contemporary challenge to security in Europe**

What are the key challenges to European security in 2015? Why have these challenges emerged? To what extent are there still common security interests and shared norms and values across the Euro-Atlantic area? What are they and is it possible to build on them? How can the key European organisations with security responsibilities – OSCE, NATO, EU, CoE - help the most threatened states in dealing with new security challenges? What is the interaction between internal and external threats to national resilience? How can building capacity against the one reinforce the resilience against the other?

Sven Mikser

Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Estonia, Tallinn

Péter Balás

Conseiller Hors Classe, Special Adviser to the Director General, DG Trade, European Commission, Brussels

1645-1730 Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900 **2. Building national resilience against hybrid threats**

What is national resilience? What are its key elements? How do parliamentarians help build this in the face of the increasing and uncertain security threats related to hybrid conflict? Where are the vulnerabilities? How can parliaments ensure that resilience and capacity building is sustainable and lasts longer than the election cycle? How can parliaments help address a method of conflict that will not just blend conventional and irregular capabilities and tactics, but also incorporate political, economic, information, humanitarian and other non-military instruments? What role can parliaments play in domestic capacity building?

Aapo Cederberg

Associate Fellow, Global Fellowship Initiative, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Geneva

Dragan Šormaz

Member of Parliament, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade

1900 Reception followed by conference dinner

After dinner speaker: **Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, President of the World Leadership Alliance - Club de Madrid; Former President, Republic of Latvia, Riga

Tuesday 16 February

0800-0845 Breakfast

0900-1045

3. Countering hybrid threats: strategic communications and coordination of messaging

What is the impact of Russian messaging towards neighbouring states and beyond? What role can parliamentarians play in providing compelling alternatives to this Russian messaging? Is there a role for potential sharing of lessons and coordination across affected countries?

Jochen Bittner

Political Editor, Die Zeit, Hamburg

Ivanna Klympush-Tsyntsadze

First Deputy Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Committee, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Kyiv

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1245

4. Minority rights and nationalist movements

How can the complex dynamics of nationalist movements, minority rights and shifts in the socio-economic fundamentals be unpacked and understood? How do these trends play across the EU and with its near neighbours? How important are Europe-wide links between nationalist parties as well as influence on them from outside Europe? What kind of challenges to political stability and national resilience do these dynamics present, and how can those challenges be addressed?

Boriss Cilevičs

Member of Parliament, Saeima (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia, Riga

Jennifer Jackson-Preece

Associate Professor of Nationalism, London School of Economics and Political Science

1300-1430

Lunch

1500-1630

5. Corruption and good governance

What is the impact of pervasive corruption on national resilience? What role can parliamentarians play in countering corruption, organised crime, and racketeering? How far can pervasive corruption be eradicated from within a country's institutions? How can this be done in the face of state corruption? Where could parliamentary committees and debates be augmented and bolstered? In what ways can other IPU members assist in capacity building to aid state reform?

Emma Udwin

Deputy Head, Cabinet to Commissioner Hahn, European Commission, Brussels

Bojan Dobovšek

Member of Parliament, National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

6. Breakout groups on building national resilience

Group 1. Promoting political stability

Co-chairs:

Alexandra Hall Hall

HM Ambassador to Georgia, British Embassy, Tbilisi

Milan Šarapatka

Member, Chamber of Deputies Parliament of the Czech Republic, Prague

Group 2. Good governance and corruption

Co-chairs:

Daniel Bilak
Managing Partner, CMS Cameron McKenna LLC, Kyiv

Bojan Dobovšek
Member of Parliament, National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

Group 3. Strategic communications

Co-chairs:

Simon Rupert West

Chief Operations Support, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Riga

Ivanna Klympush-Tsyntsadze

First Deputy Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Committee, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Kyiv

Group 4. The role of external organisations

Co-chairs:

Walter Kemp

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, International Peace Institute, Vienna

Sven Mikser

Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Estonia, Tallinn

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Wednesday 17 February

0800-0845

Breakfast and checkout

0900-1030

7. Breakout groups continued on building national resilience

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1110

8. Completion of eQuestionnaire

1110-1230

9. Breakout group feedback and conclusions

What can parliamentarians do to build national resilience in the face of Russian hybrid threats? How far is this a purely national effort? How much coordination can and should occur between parliaments? How best can parliamentarians future proof resilience building measures in the face of election cycles without circumventing democratic processes?

Ivan Vejvoda

Senior Vice President, Programmes, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington DC

John Spellar

Member of Parliament, House of Commons, London

1230

Lunch

1345

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

Enquiries about participation to: Sandry Koo, Project Manager
T: +44 (0)1903 817765 | F: +44 (0)1903 879231 | E: sandry.koo@wiltonpark.org.uk

Enquiries about the programme to: Robert Grant, Programme Director
T: +44 (0) 1903 817797 | F: +44 (0)1903 879231 | E: robert.grant@wiltonpark.org.uk

