

Panel Discussion in the framework of the
“Future of Europe Reflection Initiative”

**Towards more Coherence in the European Union:
Is there an East-West Divide to bridge?**

7 November 2019, 17h00-19h00

House of the European Union, Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Vienna

Fifteen years have passed since the 2004-enlargement round to Central and Eastern Europe. But the Union today has not become as strong as it should have, following its historical step. Multiple crises, both internal and external, have shattered the confidence many EU citizens had placed in the Union and given Euroscepticism a new impetus throughout Europe. Brexit illustrates the challenge the EU faces in its plainest form: the EU cannot thrive in the absence of a shared vision. How to accommodate the different visions held by the Member States? How to increase coherence in the European Union, when its premises are questioned by rise of populism? Is there an East-West divide to bridge with the Visegrad countries? What are its roots, beyond the migration crisis, and its consequences for the pursuit of reforms in Europe? Where do East-West visions differ most, with regards to the widening or deepening of the Union, and where do they converge? And how much unity is there within the East and the West on the most sensitive topics?

17h00 Opening Speech

Hatto KÄFER, Economic Policy Adviser Internal Market for the Representation of the European Commission in Austria, Vienna

17h15 Discussion and Questions

Maurice GOURDAULT-MONTAGNE, former Secretary General, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris

Tom DE BRUIJN, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Clingendael Institute, The Hague

Lucia NAJSLOVA, Lecturer, Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education - Economics Institute, Charles University, Prague

Peter BALÁZS, Director of the Centre for European Neighbourhood Studies, Central European University, Budapest

Moderation: **Hans Dietmar SCHWEISGUT**, Secretary General, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna

18h50 Concluding Remarks

Kinga BRUDZINSKA, Senior Research Fellow, GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava

19h00 End of the event

The working language will be English. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/2n6AY7z>

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