

## Side-event at Globsec Bratislava Forum

### Should the EU recalibrate its approach towards Russia?

7 October 2020, 14:00 - 15:15

Bratislava & online

EU-Russia relations have barely improved since the outbreak of the Ukrainian crisis in 2014. Geopolitical tensions remain vivid in the East and have rendered the situation across the EU's neighbourhoods particularly volatile. During his visit in Warsaw in February 2020, President Macron therefore underlined the importance of an "architecture of stability, of peace, of trust in Europe". But it remains unclear, under the current circumstances, how such an architecture should look like. Different threat perceptions and economic interests among the Member States, e.g. with regards to Nord Stream 2, hinder the development of a more robust strategy towards Russia. The presumed poisoning of the most prominent Russian opposition candidate Navalny and the unstable situation in Belarus represent further points of friction. The challenge in this context is not limited to recalibrating EU-Russia relations, given the role Russia plays especially in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood and the Middle East. The discussion should be part of a wider reflection on the role the EU ambitions to play at the global level.

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**Hans Dietmar SCHWEISGUT**, Secretary General, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna (online)

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**Roland FREUDENSTEIN**, Policy Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, Brussels (online)

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Moderation: **Kinga BRUDZINSKA**, Programme Director of Future of Europe, GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava