



## Central European Perspectives on the Future of Europe

An Austro-French Dialogue with the Visegrad states

Part IV : Poland, the Visegrad Four and the European Union

13 April 2021, 18:00 - 19:00 CET

Zoom Webinar/ Youtube Live Stream (PISM)

### Coordination

Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (ÖFZ/CFA), Vienna  
Institut Montaigne, Paris

### In cooperation with

Globsec Policy Institute, Bratislava  
EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague  
Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Budapest  
The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) Brussels Office

### Context and Objectives

The manifold crises that have affected the European Union in the past ten years have strained the ambition of an ever-closer Union playing a leading role in global politics. After the economic and migration crises, Brexit and rising instability in the EU's neighbourhood, the EU is now confronted with an unprecedented pandemic and the return of geopolitics. The need for concerted action guided by a common vision is as pressing as ever. The Conference on the Future of Europe is accordingly intended to reinforce the Union in its plurality of perspectives.

The objective of this series of four Webinars is to shed light on perspectives from Central Europe; to examine, more specifically, how the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia view the role of the Visegrad Four in tomorrow's Europe and how their visions for the future of Europe intersect with French and Austrian perspectives in a post pandemic world.

The fourth webinar is devoted to Poland and its role in the Visegrad group and within the EU. It will explore the expectations for the Future of Europe Conference and in this context also address energy as the one of the most salient EU policies. The widely debated concept of energy sovereignty with its European, regional and national dimensions will be in the center of the discussion. The panellists will try to explain how the changing economic and geopolitical landscape can affect the energy resilience of the EU and its member states. They will also address the question how policies aimed at enhancing energy sovereignty fit into the wider context of the EU's energy transition.





### Introductory remarks

- **Hans Dietmar SCHWEISGUT**, Secretary General, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna
- **Łukasz JURCZYSZYN**, Director of Brussels Office, The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Brussels

### Speakers

- **Leonore GEWESSLER**, Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria
- **Michał KURTYKA**, Minister for Climate and Environment, Poland
- **Jean-Bernard LÉVY**, President of Électricité de France, Paris

### Moderation

- **Georgina WRIGHT**, Head of Europe Program, Institut Montaigne, Paris

