

Public discussion

Enlargement in the geopolitical age The European Union, Moldova, and the European Political Community

Thursday, 18th May from 18h00 to 20h00, Radisson Blu Legrand Chisinau

The Russian invasion of Ukraine marks a *Zeitenwende* for the European Union's geopolitical ambitions. It also brings enlargement back on the EU's strategic map, albeit in a renewed configuration. In June 2022, the European Council approved Ukraine and Moldova's bid to join the EU and granted Georgia European perspectives. The expansion of the EU's accession policy onto the shores of the Black Sea is a watershed for the EU's geostrategic ambitions. But it takes place against the backdrop of limited achievements in the Western Balkans, twenty years after the Thessaloniki Summit, and eroding credibility in EU accession matters. In Moldova, these European perspectives are a godsend for reformist forces, but they also hinge on a series of fundamental issues undermining the country's accession process. In the meantime, Chisinau prepares to host the next Summit of the European Political Community. What course can Moldova set for itself in the new geopolitical context? How serious is the EU in its expansion of the accession policy to the East? Should the accession policy be reformed to better address the geopolitical challenges in the East? What lessons should the EU and Moldova learn from the experience of the Western Balkans? And what is the potential of the European Political Community in this context?

Opening

Christos Katsioulis, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe, Vienna

Keynote speech

Cristina Gherasimov, Senior Advisor on Foreign Policy and European Integration in the Office of the President of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau

Discussion

Olivier Portoff, Policy Advisor at the Planungsstab, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Clotilde Warin, Policy Advisor at the Centre for Analysis, Planning, and Strategy (CAPS), French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Paris

Ruth Ferrero-Turrión, Professor at the Complutense Institute for International Studies, Madrid

Tomasz Żornaczuk, Head of Central Europe Department and Senior Research Fellow, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw

Moderation

Oana Popescu-Zamfir, Director, GlobalFocus Center, Bucharest

Takeaways

Felix Hett, Representative of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung for Ukraine and Republic of Moldova

Networking drinks