

Online conference in Austerlitz Plus Format

Has the European Union risen up to the challenges of geopolitics?

Europe after the Czech Presidency of the Council

Wednesday 8 February 2023, 14h00-15h15 on Zoom

The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation last year has completely overhauled the geopolitical situation on the European continent in 2022. It has exposed critical vulnerabilities in the European Union but also demonstrated that Europeans are able to act quickly, effectively, and in a united way. The EU's response has been far-reaching, with measures focusing both on the short-term, e.g. on refugees, sanctions, energy, defense, etc., and the long-run, e.g. on Ukraine's post-war recovery, European political community, etc.. After Paris in the first semester 2022, the Czech Presidency of the Council has played a key-role in advancing this strategic agenda. What assessment can be done of this Presidency of the Council and Prague's diplomatic efforts in turbulent times? What course has the EU set for itself in the new geopolitical context? What common horizon do France and the Czech Republic draw, together with Austria and Slovakia, for EU's global role in the age of uncertainty?

This online conference, organized by the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (Vienna) and the French Institute of International Relations (Paris), in cooperation with the Europeum Institute for European Policy (Prague), the Austrian Society for European Politics (Vienna), the Globsec Policy Institute (Bratislava) and the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (Vienna), will discuss these topics and many others.

14h00 Introduction

Dominique David, President of the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna (tbc)

Dietmar Schweisgut, Secretary General of the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna

14h05 Panel discussion

Martin Vokálek, Executive Director of the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague

Georgina Wright, Senior Fellow and Director of Institut Montaigne's Europe Programme, Paris

Vladislava Gubalova, Senior Research Fellow at the Globsec Policy Institute, Bratislava

Paul Schmidt, Secretary General, Austrian Society for European Politics, Vienna

Livia Benko, Research Fellow, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, Vienna

Moderation: **Dietmar Schweisgut**, Secretary General of the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna

15h15 End of the discussion