



POSITION OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND V4 COUNTRIES WITHIN THE EU

Even though it is still not clear if the EU will transform into two groups of member states, a recognizable core (with more integration) and the periphery (with less integration), there are certainly some proposals which lead to this direction. Thus, this is a topic of current public, diplomatic and expert discussions. Nevertheless, even within V4 Group we can observe different points of view on the future of the integration process. Slovakia declares that it must always stay within the core of Europe, alongside Germany and France. Moreover, Slovakia is a member of the Eurozone, whereas the rest of the group is not. Poland and Hungary, which are criticized for their authoritarian and illiberal tendencies, want to integrate less. The Czech Republic desires to be a part of the core, but in its own conception – outside of the Eurozone. Despite rather different approaches towards the EU, all Visegrad countries refuse as one-man mandatory migrant quotas.

What is the future of the Visegrad Group and can it get an inspiration from other regional groups within the EU, for instance from Benelux? European Commission is against multi-speed Europe, but what about Germany and France? Will intergovernmental arrangements strengthen? Will multi-speed Europe (if it happens) have economic and security impacts on the V4 countries? How will be all these issues reflected in a new EU's budget, which is becoming a very hot topic?

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

10.4.2018 | 7 PM – 9 PM

PRAGUE HOUSE AVENUE PALMERSTON 16 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Welcome by

Martina Dlabajová | Vice- President, European Liberal Forum, Member, European Parliament, (ALDE/ANO)

Discussion with

Martina Dlabajová | Vice- President, European Liberal Forum, Member, European Parliament, (ALDE/ANO)

Alexander Graf Lambsdorff | Deputy Chair, Group of Free Democrats in the German Bundestag

Aleš Chmelař | State Secretary for European Affairs, Government of the Czech Republic

Angelika Mlinar | Member, European Parliament, ALDE



Moderated by **Jan Macháček** | Chairman of the Board of Trustee, Institute for Politics and Society

Working language
English

A roundtable discussion organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF) with the support of **Institute for Politics and Society**. Co-funded by the European Parliament. The European Parliament is not responsible for the content of the programme, or for any use that may be made of it. These views do not necessarily reflect those of the European Parliament and/or the European Liberal Forum.

ABOUT THE RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES

By connecting the roundtable series with the name of Lord Dahrendorf, ELF wishes to underline his achievements. In his many functions he championed liberal democracy and European integration. He consistently promoted the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty. His wide experience combining science and politics provided an excellent background to his activity in the German Parliament for the liberal Free Democratic Party, as European Commissioner, as member of the British House of Lords and as Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (1982-1987).

During his four years in Brussels (1970 – 1974), Lord Dahrendorf was responsible for the European Community's Foreign Relations and Trade, and later for Research, Science and Education. He actively supported a stronger Europe. As Commissioner he was a sharp critic of European Union bureaucracy while he was passionately in favour of a European Parliament exercising greater power.