

Multiple Challenges for Transatlantic Partnerships 2019

Prague, September 19

The European Union was created more than sixty years ago to strengthen cooperation between European states and to prevent the events which led the world into two devastating conflicts from happening again. Now the European Union presents one of the most important actors on the international scene. But with the dynamic global environment and Donald Trump as a president of the United States, Europe and the European Union face many challenges that impact not only its effective functioning, but also cause tension between long-standing partners and allies on both sides of the Atlantic.

The main aim of the Multiple Challenges for Transatlantic Partnerships 2019 was to lead a discussion concerning the current challenges and issues of the European Union with an emphasis on the transatlantic partnership. The speakers of the conference discussed these issues in three panels: economic, political and security. The economic dimension focused on the establishment of tariffs and trade wars waged by the United States to create “fairer“ trade deals. The political dimension was devoted to the increasing nationalism and to the implementation of Donald Trump’s “America First” campaign in international relations. The security dimension touched on the issue of tense relations within NATO, mainly due to disputes over required defense spending or the question of greater military and strategic independence of the European Union from the United States.

In general, it can be stated that transatlantic relations are currently weakening. This is primarily due to the efforts of the European Union to achieve greater autonomy and independence from the United States. On the other hand, it is caused by the United States giving preference of its national interests over common ones. Moreover, there are many different positions that can be seen between the states within transatlantic partnership on important international issues. It is essential to support the discussion on the challenges that endanger the long-standing transatlantic partnership in order to make it stronger again and restore its ability to face global threats in the present and in the future.