Europe’s Geopolitical Future: Mapping Perspectives on EU Policy in its Eastern Neighborhood

Conference organized by the University of Zurich’s Center for Eastern European Studies (CEES) in cooperation with the Department of World Politics and International Relation at the Russian-Armenian University in Yerevan

Venue and date: University of Zurich, March 10–11, 2022

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PROGRAMME (DRAFT AS OF 21 FEBRUARY 2022)
Location: University of Zurich, Room KOL-G-217

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

16.15-19.00, conference opening with keynote speech & panel discussion

Introduction & welcome address

- Jeronim Perović, Director, Center for Eastern European Studies, University of Zurich
- Armen Darbinian, Rector, Russian-Armenian University, Yerevan

Keynote address: “The EU and its Eastern Neighborhood”

- Stefan Meister, Head of Program, International Order and Democracy, German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin

Panel 1: Europe, its Eastern Neighborhood and Great Power Competition
Chair: Nada Boškovska (Zurich)

- Vardan Oskanyan (Yerevan): Rising Great Power Competition in the EU’s Eastern Neighborhood: Challenges and Prospects for the future TBC
- Andriy Tyushka (Natolin): External Differentiated Cooperation and Integration in the EU’s CFSP and the Eastern Partnership’s ‘Association Trio’
- Agha Bayramov (Groningen/Zurich): The Eastern Partnership Countries Meet the “Green Transition”
- Vicken Cheterian (Geneva): The EU’s Eastern Neighborhood. Russia, Turkey and Geopolitical Hybridity

19.15: Welcome dinner with conference participants and invited guests at Restaurant Zum Kropf, In Gassen 16, 8001 Zürich (TBC)
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022
Location: University of Zurich Room KOL-G-217

9.15-11.00
Panel 2: Russia, the EU and Eastern Europe
Chair: Jeronim Perović (Zurich)
- Cornelia Sahling (Dresden): Central Banking in EU-Russia Relations: Rethinking the Politics of Monetary Sovereignty
- Nikolai Silayev (Moscow): Russia and the EU in a Shared Neighborhood. Building a Secure Future
- Ruben Elamiryan (Yerevan): Russia in the EaP Region. Interests, Aspirations, and Potential for Cooperative Coexistence
- Nikolett Garai & Máté Szalai (Budapest): Eastern European Small States in the New Competition Between Great Powers – Balancing Between Leverage and Security

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-13.00
Panel 3: Perspectives from the Region on Europe (I)
Chair: Vicken Cheterian (Geneva) TBC
- Lia Tsuladze (Tbilisi): Euro-Optimism Intertwined with Pragmatism in the Elite and Popular Discourses on Georgia’s Europeanization
- Nora Gevorgyan (Yerevan): The Arduous Path of Armenia’s European Integration. From Civilizational Choice to U-Turn
- Rustam Anshba (Sukhum): Georgian-Abkhaz Relations in the Context of the New Regional Realities
- Louise Amoris (Brussels): Liminality and Armenia. A Bridge Between the EU and Russia?

13.00-14.30 Lunch at ETH Dozentenfoyer

14.30-16.00
Panel 4: Perspectives from the Region on Europe (II)
Chair: Ruben Elamiryan (Yerevan)
- Armen Ashotyan (Yerevan): “EU in Changing Geopolitical Landscape of the South Caucasus: View from Armenia”
- Najmin Kamilsoy (Prague): Perceptions of the EU in Azerbaijan: “Abandoned” Civil Society and Limited Visibility
- Narek Sukiasyan (Yerevan): The Idea of “Europe” in Armenia

16.00-16.15 Break
16.15-18.00

**Panel 5: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, and the Role of Europe**

Chair: Stefan Meister (Berlin) TBC

- Karen Mirzoyan (Yerevan): EU, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and Regional Developments in the South Caucasus: Prospects for the Future
- Nargiz Hajiyeva (St. Gallen): The EU and Karabakh. Change in Balance of Power and New Status Quo
- Sossi Tatikyan (Yerevan): The Potential EU Involvement in the Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Process in the Aftermath of the 2020 War

*End of conference*
List of conference participants

1. Louise Amoris, PhD candidate, Ghent University, Sorbonne Nouvelle, United Nations University-CRIS; louise.amoris@ugent.be
2. Rustam Anshba, UNICEF Abkhazia Zonal Office, Sukhum; anshba10@gmail.com
3. Armen Ashotyan, Former Co-Chair of the Armenia-EU Parliamentary Partnership Committee, Yerevan; ashotyan@gmail.com
4. Agha Bayramov, Lecturer in International Relations, University of Groningen; CEES Fellow Center for Eastern European Studies (CEES), University of Zurich; a.bayramov@rug.nl
5. Nada Boškovska, Full Professor of Eastern European History, Department of History Department of History, University of Zurich; bonada@hist.uzh.ch
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24. Lia Tsuladze, Executive Director, Center for Social Sciences, Associate Professor of Sociology, Tbilisi State University; lia.tsuladze@tsu.ge
25. Andriy Tyushka, Senior Research Fellow, European Neighborhood Policy Chair, College of Europe in Natolin; Email: andriy.tyushka@coleurope.eu