

The Eastern Partnership: what lies in store after the Vilnius summit?

15 November 2013, 12.30-14.40

Centre for European Policy Studies, conference room
1, Place du Congrès, Brussels

The Eastern Partnership, established in May 2009 and based on the institutional structure and financial instruments of the European Neighbourhood Policy, has been developed extensively in political terms. The EaP has led not only to an intensification of political contacts between the EU and its six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), but also to the acceleration of negotiation processes on new types of association agreements, DCFTAs, and deals on visa issues. The inclusion of these neighbours in the EU's common area of free trade and internal market rules and standards, in addition to the enhancement of human mobility across borders, would constitute the most effective means to stimulate economic growth and bind this region with the EU. The Vilnius summit will provide answers as to which countries may progress in contractual relations with the EU in these areas. However, consideration should also be given as to whether the current scheme of the Eastern Partnership is as effective as possible in terms of meeting its goals: what improvements might be made in the near future? How greatly might this new generation of association agreements and DCFTAs impact the EaP countries? Is EU financial assistance being used effectively in the Neighbourhood to support a reform-oriented agenda? What are the expectations of partner countries, and how can they be met?

Programme:

12.30-13.00 **Lunch**

13.00-13.10 **Welcome:**

Daniel Gros, Director of Centre for European Policy Studies

13.10-14.40 **Presentations:**

Hrant Kostanyan, Research Fellow, the Centre for European Policy Studies

Elżbieta Kaca, Research Fellow, the Polish Institute of International Relations

Discussants:

Kostiantyn Yelisieiev, Head of Ukraine's Delegation to the EU

Archil Karaulashvili, Head of the European Integration Coordination Department, Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Jacek Saryusz – Wolski, EP rapporteur on Eastern Neighbourhood before Vilnius Summit, Vice-President of EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly

Chair:

Andrew Rettman, Reporter, the EUobserver.com

Q&A