

LEADING SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY CONFERENCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE  
SHAPING EURO-ATLANTIC SECURITY AGENDA



# GLOBSEC 2011

## MEDIA MONITORING

BRATISLAVA  
GLOBAL SECURITY  
FORUM

**Energy Security among Hot Topics of the Bratislava Forum****Bne.eu, 22.2.2011**

One of the main topics of this year's GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum will be energy security from the point of view of the V4 countries. The importance of energy cooperation is emphasised by the recent agreement between the governments of the Slovak Republic and Hungary about the construction of a gas interconnection.

[http://www.bne.eu/archive\\_blob.php?id=224401&words\[\]=globsec](http://www.bne.eu/archive_blob.php?id=224401&words[]=globsec)

**Assistant Secretary Gordon's Travel to Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia, February 28, March 4 2011****State.gov, 28.2.2011**

Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon traveled to Bulgaria, Greece, and Slovakia from February 28 to March 4. In Sofia, Bulgaria, he met senior Bulgarian government officials to discuss bilateral issues. He then traveled to Athens, Greece, on March 2 to meet with senior Greek government officials and political leaders. Assistant Secretary Gordon concluded his trip in Bratislava, Slovakia. On March 3, he delivered a keynote address on the U.S.-Central European relationship at the annual Slovak government-hosted GLOBSEC security conference. Assistant Secretary Gordon also held bilateral discussions with senior Slovak government officials as well as with key officials from other states in the region who participated in the conference.

<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/157564.htm>

**Л.Рэгак: Мы маем абавязак дапамагаць братам у несвабодзе****[L. Reháč: We have a duty to help the brothers in the lack of freedom]****New.racyja.com, 1.3.2011**

Шостая па ліку канферэнцыя «Globsec», прысвечаная тэме бяспекі і палітыкі ў Цэнтральнай Еўропе распачне працу ў Браціславе. Прадстаўнічыя дэлегацыі з краінаў ЕС і ЗША абмяркуюць шэраг пытанняў, сярод якіх і пытанне Беларусі.

<http://new.racyja.com/node/10067>

**Ministar Božinović na konferenciji "GLOBSEC 11"****[Minister Božinović at the "GLOBSEC 11" conference]****Morh.hr, 2.3.2011**

Ministar obrane RH Davor Božinović sudjelovat će na konferenciji „GLOBSEC 11“ koja se održava od 2. do 4. ožujka 2011. u Bratislavi (Republika Slovačka). Ministar Božinović bit će i jedan od glavnih govornika na Konferenciji, a u uvodnom dijelu održat će izlaganje na temu „[Sposobnosti obrane protiv štednje u obrani: Gdje naći ravnotežu?](#)“. Također, tijekom konferencije ministar Božinović će održati bilateralni sastanak s domaćinom Konferencije, ministrom obrane Republike Slovačke Lubomirom Galkom.

<http://www.morh.hr/hr/vijesti-najave-i-priopcenja/najava/ministar-bozinovic-na-konferenciji-globsec-11.html>

**У Браціславе будуць гаварыць пра Беларусь****[Belarus will be one of the topics in Bratislava]****Svaboda.org, 2.3.2011**

Сёння ў Браціславе пачынаецца сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў краін Вышаградзкай групы – Польшчы, Славакіі, Чэхіі і Вугоршчыны. Спецыяльнае запрашэнне на яе атрымаў лідэр руху "За свабоду" Аляксандар Мілінкевіч. Таксама ў Браціславе 2-4 сакавіка адбудзецца міжнародная канферэнцыя па бясьпецы "Globsec-2011". Яе ўдзельнікі абмяркуюць сытуацыю ў Беларусі.

<http://www.svaboda.org/content/article/2325260.html>

**Мілінкевіч сустрэнецца з кіраўніком МЗС Славаччыны****[Milinkevich met with Slovak Foreign Minister]****Svaboda.org, 2.3.2011**

Размоваі зь міністрам замежных спраў Славаччыны Мікулашам Дзурындам сёння ўвечары пачынаецца візыт у Браціславу лідэра руху "За свабоду" Аляксандра Мілінкевіча. Сёння ён таксама выступіць на імпрэзе ў падтрымку палітычных вязьняў у Беларусі.

<http://www.svaboda.org/content/article/2325680.html>

**Мілінкевіч і Дзурінда ўзялі ўдзел у акцыі салідарнасці ў Браціславе****[Milinkevich and Dzurinda participated in the action of solidarity in Bratislava]****Svaboda.org, 2.3.2011**

Лідэр руху «За свабоду» Аляксандар Мілінкевіч разам зь міністрам замежных спраў Славацчыны Мікулашам Дзуріндам узялі ўдзел у акцыі салідарнасці з палітвязьнямі Беларусі.

<http://www.svaboda.org/content/article/2326284.html>

**Ці забайцца Менск эўрапейскіх санкцыяў?****[Will Minsk be touched by european sanction?]****Poslkieradio.pl, 2.3.2011**

У бліжэйшыя дні ў Браціславе будзе актыўна абмяркоўвацца сытуацыя ў Беларусі. Сёння пра гэта будуць размаўляць міністры замежных спраў Вышаградзкай групы. А ў наступныя дні - эўрапейскія экспэрты ды палітыкі. У Браціславу накіравалася беларуская незалежная дэлегацыя.

<http://www2.polskieradio.pl/zagranica/pl/news/artikul150442.html>

**Milinkevich: EU is right to contact with the official Minsk at the level below ministers****Pyx.by, 2.3.2011**

The leader of the Movement For Freedom (MFF) Alaksandr Milinkevich together with the Slovakian foreign minister Mikuláš Dzurinda took part in the action of solidarity with the Belarusian political prisoners.

[http://pyx.by/eng/news/media\\_about\\_movement/477/](http://pyx.by/eng/news/media_about_movement/477/)

**Вышаградзкая група абмяркуе сытуацыю ў Беларусі****[Visegrad group discusses about situation in Belarus]****n-europe.eu, 2.3.2011**

Сёння ў Браціславе пачынаецца сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў краін Вышаградзкай групы – Польшчы, Славакіі, Чэхіі і Вугоршчыны. Спецыяльнае запрашэнне на яе атрымаў лідэр руху "За свабоду" Аляксандар Мілінкевіч. Таксама ў Браціславе 2-4 сакавіка адбудзецца міжнародная канфэрэнцыя па бясьпецы "Globsec-2011". Яе ўдзельнікі абмяркуюць сытуацыю ў Беларусі.

[http://n-europe.eu/news/2011/03/02/vyshagradzkaya\\_grupa\\_abmyarkue\\_sytuatsyyu\\_u\\_belarusi](http://n-europe.eu/news/2011/03/02/vyshagradzkaya_grupa_abmyarkue_sytuatsyyu_u_belarusi)

<http://www.belaruspartisan.org/bp-forte/?page=100&backPage=1000&news=78002&newsPage=0>

<http://ru.delfi.lt/abroad/belorrussia/vyshegradskaya-gruppa-obsudit-situaciyu-v-belarusi.d?id=42637635>

**Azerbaijan to attend Eastern Partnership and Visegrad Four talks****En.trend.az, 2.3.2011**

Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Mahmud Mammadgulyev will represent the country at an extended meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Visegrad Four V4 (Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia) with the representatives of member countries of the European Eastern Partnership, Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry's spokesman Elkhan Polukhov told Trend.

<http://en.trend.az/news/politics/1838519.html>

**Expanded ministerial summit of the V4 and Eastern Partnership in Bratislava****Eurobelarus.info, 2.3.2011**

Within the framework of the Slovak Presidency of the Visegrad Group (V4) and on invitation of the Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs **M. Dzurinda**, an expanded ministerial summit of the V4 member states and those from the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) will convene in Bratislava on 3 March 2011.

[http://eurobelarus.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=14505&Itemid=78](http://eurobelarus.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14505&Itemid=78)

**GLOBSEC 2011: Belarus – Threat to EU and NATO****news21.by, 3.3.2011**

<http://news21.by/politics/2011/03/03/265156.html>

<http://vsekommentarii.com/news/2011/03/03/3451167.htm>

[http://naviny.by/rubrics/politic/2011/03/03/ic\\_news\\_112\\_362547/](http://naviny.by/rubrics/politic/2011/03/03/ic_news_112_362547/)

[http://news.date.bs/politics\\_220397.html](http://news.date.bs/politics_220397.html)

<http://new.racyja.com/news/u-bratsislave-pachalasya-kanferentsyya-%C2%ABglobsec-2011%C2%BB>

<http://telegraf.by/2011/03/belarus---threat-to-eu-and-nato-globsec-2011.html>

**Martonyi szerint jó lenne, ha az EU előre látná az eseményeket****[According to Martonyi it would be good if the EU could foresee the events]****Hirszerzo.hu, 3.3.2011**

A szomszédsgpolitika rendkívül fontos, az európai uniós biztonságpolitika legfontosabb eleme - jelentette ki Martonyi János külügyminiszter csütörtökön Pozsonyban, miután részt vett a GLOBSEC biztonságpolitikai konferencia egyik beszélgetésén.

[http://hirszerzo.hu/kulfold/20110303\\_szomszedsagpolitika\\_martonyi](http://hirszerzo.hu/kulfold/20110303_szomszedsagpolitika_martonyi)

**Участник конференции Globsec 2011: Беларусь — вызов для безопасности ЕС и НАТО****[Participant of the conference GLOBSEC 2011: Belarus – a challenge for the security in the EU and NATO]****N1.by, 3.3.2011**

Участники международной конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011 в Братиславе 3 марта обсуждали белорусскую ситуацию, сообщает официальный сайт мероприятия, пишет БелаПАН.

<http://n1.by/news/2011/03/03/74832.html>

**The U.S. Relationship with Central Europe under the Obama administration****State.gov, 3.3.2011**

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Thank you very much, Robert. I appreciate the personal touch and the kind introduction. It really is a pleasure for me to be here at GlobSec 2011. I think this conference has clearly established itself as one of the premier venues for a discussion of global and European security, not just in Central Europe, but in all of Europe. I really am delighted to be here, particularly with so many good friends and old colleagues in the room.

<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/rm/2011/157707.htm#>

**Assistant Secretary of State for Europe Phil Gordon in Bratislava****Slovakia.usembassy.gov, 3.3.2011**

A/S Gordon: Thanks. I will be very brief. Really, just to thank you for coming out and apologies for being late. I was delighted to have a chance to be in Bratislava today for this conference. It's an opportunity to talk about the way the United States sees Central Europe and Europe and its role in global security, but also to have an opportunity to meet with counterparts. I met with foreign ministers and senior officials from Visegrad-4 countries, from Baltic countries and other Central European counterparts.

[http://slovakia.usembassy.gov/globsec\\_media\\_availability.html](http://slovakia.usembassy.gov/globsec_media_availability.html)

**Беларуская дэлегацыя сустрэлася з кіраўніком МЗС Славакіі****[Belarusian delegation met with Slovak Foreign Minister]****New.racyja.com, 3.3.2011**

Сустрэчай з міністрам замежных спраў Славакіі Мікулашам Дзурындам пачаўся візіт дэлегацыі беларускай апазіцыі на міжнародную канферэнцыю «Globsec», якая пачала працу ў Браціславе.

<http://new.racyja.com/node/10133>

**Вышэградзкая чацьвёрка кажа пра далейшыя санкцыі супраць Лукашэнкі****[Visegrad group talks about further sanctions against Lukashenko]****Svaboda.org, 3.3.2011**

Чэхія, Славаччына, Вугоршчына і Польшча працягваюць ціск на аўтарытарны рэжым Аляксандра Лукашэнкі ў Беларусі, паведамляе чэскае агенцтва ШТК. Міністры замежных спраў гэтых чатырох краінаў – гэтак званая Вышэградзкая чацьвёрка – сёння на сустрэчы ў Браціславе, у якой прыняў удзел і міністар замежных спраў Нямеччыны, заклікалі Лукашэнку вызваліць усіх палітычных вязьняў і спыніць пераслед апазіцыі. У супрацьлеглым выпадку Менску пагражаюць далейшыя санкцыі, адначае ШТК.

<http://www.svaboda.org/content/article/2327444.html>

**С. Шушкевіч: Эўропа павінна прызнаць бясплатныя візы для грамадзянаў Беларусі****[S. Shushkevich: Europe has to recognize free visas for citizens of Belarus]****Poslkieradio.pl, 3.3.2011**

Эўропа павінна прызнаць бясплатныя візы для грамадзянаў Беларусі, каб тыя мелі магчымасьць пабачыць, як жывецца ў Эўропе, паколькі сёння яна не даступная для большасці беларускага грамадства, заявіў у інтэрвію для вядучай славацкай штодзёнкі "SME" былы старшыня Вярхоўнай рады

беларускага парламэнту Станіслаў Шушкewіч. Сьтуацыя ў Беларусі й эўрапейскія санкцыі былі вядучымі тэмамі інтэрвію.

<http://www2.polskieradio.pl/zagranica/by/news/artukul150544.html>

### **Новости :: Новости Беларуси**

[News: News about Belarus]

**Odsгомel.org, 3.3.2011**

Милинкевич и Дзуриндо приняли участие в братиславской акции солидарности

<http://odsgomel.org/rus/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/%D0%B1%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81%D1%8C/2220/>

### **На новыя прысуды — новыя санкцыі**

[To new judgments – new sanctions]

**Svaboda.org, 3.3.2011**

Новыя прысуды палітычным вязьням у Менску паскараюць увядзеньне новых санкцыяў супраць беларускіх чыноўнікаў. Такая думка сёньня гучала ў Браціславе, дзе знаходзіцца група беларускіх актывістаў апазыцыі. Яны ўдзельнічаюць у мерапрыемствах у рамках сустрэчы міністраў замежных спраў «Вышаградзкай чацьвёркі» з прадстаўнікамі краін «Усходняга партнэрства» і міжнароднай канфэрэнцыі па бясьпецы «Globsec — 2011».

<http://www.svaboda.org/content/article/2327178.html>

### **Milinkevich: EU's attention isn't a mere echo of presidential election**

**Pyx.by, 3.3.2011**

An important international security conference named Globsec-2011 takes place in Bratislava from March 2 to March 4. It is attended by influential experts from many European countries, by ministers, by deputy foreign ministers, and by ministers of defence of the region's states.

<http://pyx.by/eng/news/movement/480/>

### **Глава МИД Словакии поддержал белорусскую оппозицию**

[Slovak Foreign Minister supported the belarusian opposition]

**News.vtme.by, 3.3.2011**

- Я хотел бы передать послание людям Беларуси о том, что они не одни. Я верю, что в недалеком будущем они смогут насладиться свободой, - сказал министр иностранных дел Словакии Микулаш Дзуринда 2 марта на встрече в Братиславе с представителями белорусской демократической оппозиции. Его слова приводит БелаПАН.

<http://www.news.vtme.by/view/1485916/>

### **Белорусы смогут насладиться свободой в недалеком будущем, уверен министр иностранных дел Словакии**

[Slovak foreign Minister said: I am sure that Belarusians will be able to enjoy freedom in near future]

**Belapan.com, 3.3.2011**

Минск, 3 марта. Министр иностранных дел Словакии Микулаш Дзуринда 2 марта принял в Братиславе представителей белорусской демократической оппозиции.

Как сообщает сайт МИД Словакии, министр выразил солидарность с белорусским народом: "Я хотел бы передать послание людям Беларуси о том, что они не одни. Я верю, что в недалеком будущем они смогут насладиться свободой".

[http://belapan.com/archive/2011/03/03/eu\\_453979/](http://belapan.com/archive/2011/03/03/eu_453979/)

[http://belapan.com/archive/2011/03/03/eu\\_eu\\_453979\\_453988/](http://belapan.com/archive/2011/03/03/eu_eu_453979_453988/)

<http://www.belarus.kz/aktueler/8-1/1/4821>

[http://naviny.by/rubrics/politic/2011/03/03/ic\\_news\\_112\\_362526/](http://naviny.by/rubrics/politic/2011/03/03/ic_news_112_362526/)

### **Беларусь — вызов для безопасности ЕС и НАТО, считает участник конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011**

[Belarus – a challenge for the security of the EU and NATO, said a participant of the conference about security Globsec 2011]

**Belapan.info, 3.3.2011**

Минск, 3 марта. Белорусская ситуация обсуждалась 3 марта на международной конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011 в Братиславе, сообщает официальный сайт мероприятия.

[http://belapan.info/archive/2011/03/03/eu\\_454020/](http://belapan.info/archive/2011/03/03/eu_454020/)

[http://belapan.com/archive/2011/03/03/eu\\_eu\\_454020\\_454036/](http://belapan.com/archive/2011/03/03/eu_eu_454020_454036/)

[http://news.date.bs/politics\\_220397.html](http://news.date.bs/politics_220397.html)

[http://naviny.by/rubrics/politic/2011/03/03/ic\\_news\\_112\\_362547](http://naviny.by/rubrics/politic/2011/03/03/ic_news_112_362547)

<http://charter97.org/ru/news/2011/3/3/36492/>

### **МИД Словакии: Белоруссия стала главной проблемой Европы**

**[Slovak Foreign Minister: Belarus became Europe's main problem]**

**Newsland.ru, 3.3.2011**

Лукашенко намекнули, что ему пора уходить вслед за диктаторами на Ближнем Востоке. Накануне представительного международного форума по глобальной безопасности GlobSec-2011, который откроется 3 марта в столице Словакии, в центре Братиславы состоялся пикет солидарности с белорусскими политзаключенными, сообщает СВОБОДНЫЙ ПОРТАЛ со ссылкой на Хартия\*97

<http://www.newsland.ru/news/detail/id/647424/>

<http://www.postsovet.ru/blog/belorussia/74399.html>

### **Slovak Foreign Minister: Belarus became Europe's main problem**

**Charter97.org, 3.3.2011**

Lukashenka was given a hint that it's time for him to go following the dictators in the Middle East. A picket of solidarity with Belarusian political prisoners was held in Bratislava, Slovakia's capital, ahead of GLOBSEC 2011 Global Security Forum opening on March 3.

<http://charter97.org/en/news/2011/3/3/36478/>

### **Alyaksandr Kazulin: How many people must be killed and imprisoned in Belarus?**

**Charter97.org, 3.3.2011**

The Global Security Forum GLOBSEC 2011 opened in Bratislava with discussing the situation in Belarus.

<http://charter97.org/en/news/2011/3/3/36492/>

### **V4 to stay active player in Eastern Partnership (adds GLOBSEC)**

**Englishdemo.mti.hu, 3.3.2011**

Neighbourhood policy is the most important element of the European Union's security policy, Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi said at a GLOBSEC conference in Bratislava on Thursday.

<http://englishdemo.mti.hu/demo/Pages/News.aspx?id=2096796>

### **Bozinovic and Galko open the "GLOBSEC" conference**

**Morh.hr, 4.3.2011**

Review and modification of strategic documents in the field of defence and security, cutting unnecessary costs in the defence and cooperation with partners on specific projects within NATO and in the region, are some of the possibilities how the states can find a balance between the defence capabilities and costs of the sector. The Defence Minister of the Republic of Croatia Davor Bozinovic said that at the opening of the GLOBSEC 2011 conference today, Thursday, 3 March 2011, in Bratislava.

<http://www.morh.hr/en/news-press-releases-annoucments/press-release/bozinovic-i-galko-otvorili-konferenciju-globsec%E2%80%9C.html>

### **GLOBSEC 2011 in Bratislava**

**German.cri.cn, 4.3.2011**

Das Internationale Sicherheitsforum GLOBSEC 2011 ist am Mittwoch in der slowakischen Hauptstadt Bratislava eröffnet worden. Mittlerweile sind sich die vier Staaten der Visegrad-Gruppe in immer mehr Punkten einig. Sie wollen innerhalb der EU eine wichtigere Rolle spielen. Unter diesen Umständen wird die diesjährige Konferenz weltweit mit großer Aufmerksamkeit verfolgt.

<http://german.cri.cn/1565/2011/03/04/1s153065.htm>

<http://big5.chinabroadcast.cn/gate/big5/german.cri.cn/1565/2011/03/04/1s153065.htm>

**Datum pregovora na jesen****[Date of negotiations in the autumn]****Pobjeda.co.me, 4.3.2011, Author: Marija Jovičević**

Visoki evropski zvaničnik poručuje da naša zemlja neće čekati susjede u regionu i odbacuje navode da bi, „zbog racionalnosti“, Crna Gora, Srbija i Makedonija trebalo zajednički da uđu u EU

<http://www.pobjeda.co.me/citanje.php?datum=2011-03-04&id=202724>

**Demokratska stagnacija brine Zapad****[Democratic stagnation bothers West]****Pobjeda.co.me, 4.3.2011, Author: Marija Jovičević**

Evropska unija i NATO moraju pronaći efikasnije mehanizme kako bi se na pravi način izborile sa velikim promjenama u arabijskom svijetu, ali i sa demokratskom stagnacijom zemalja Istočnog partnerstva - poručeno je sa Globalnog bezbjednosnog foruma Globsec 2011, koji se održava u Bratislavi.

<http://www.pobjeda.co.me/citanje.php?datum=2011-03-04&id=202730>

**Croatia accession cup is either half full or half empty****Bne.eu, 4.3.2011, Author: Nicholas Watson**

Depending on whom you speak to, the latest interim report on Croatia's bid to join the EU that was approved by the European Commission on March 2 either showed the Balkan country the route needed to follow to wrap up the negotiations by the target date of the end of June, or was so critical that it effectively ended any remaining hopes it could meet that date.

[http://www.bne.eu/story2551/Croatia\\_accession\\_cup\\_is\\_either\\_half\\_full\\_or\\_half\\_empty](http://www.bne.eu/story2551/Croatia_accession_cup_is_either_half_full_or_half_empty)

**Global Security Forum opens with discussion about Belarus****Spring96.org, 4.3.2011**

The Global Security Forum GLOBSEC 2011 opened in Bratislava with discussing the situation in Belarus. The first forum session "Belarus after the elections: will sanctions work?" was devoted to Belarus. First head of the independent Belarus Stanislau Shushkevich, former presidential candidate and political prisoner Aliaksandr Kazulin, chairman of the For Freedom movement Aliaksandr Milinkevich, Slovak human rights activist Balázs Jarábik, representative of the European Humanities University Aliaksei Pikulik, representative of Brussels-based Centre for European Studies Eugeniusz Smolar, and former foreign minister of Slovakia Pavol Demeš took part in the conference.

<http://www.spring96.org/en/news/41591>

**У Браціславе адбылася канферэнцыя «Globsec 2011»****[The GLOBSEC 2011 conference took place in Bratislava]****New.racyja.com, 4.3.2011**

Пазіцыя Еўропы ў дачыненні да Беларусі прынцыповая – няма дыялогу з афіцыйным Мінскам на высокім узроўні пакуль ў турмах будуць палітвязні, – сказаў беларускай дэлегацыі прысутнай на канферэнцыі «Globsec» у Браціславе вярхоўны камісар Штэфан Фюле.

<http://new.racyja.com/news/u-bratsislave-adbylasya-kanferentsyya-%C2%ABglobsec-2011%C2%BB>

**Karabakh conflict may stop being frozen due to miscalculations, U.S. official says****PanARMENIAN.Net, 4.3.2011**

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Philip Gordon said that the Karabakh conflict is considered to be frozen, but ceasefire violations are often recorded on the contact line.

<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/63269/>

<http://news.am/eng/news/50187.html>

<http://www.armenianroots.org/?section=showarmeniannews&id=4289&lang=en>

**Catherine Ashton: EU supports Eastern Partnership Program countries****En.trend.az, 04.03.2011**

The EU is committed to promoting cooperation with the member states of the Eastern European Partnership Program, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton said on Thursday in Bratislava. Ashton made the statement following an extended meeting between the Visegrad Group foreign ministers and representatives of the Eastern Partnership Program, RIA Novosti reported.

<http://en.trend.az/news/politics/1839966.html>

**Globsec 2011: Беларусь - угроза для ЕС и НАТО****[GLOBSEC 2011: Belarus – threat to the EU and NATO]****Postsovet.ru, 4.3.2011**

В четверг 3 марта в столице Венгрии Братиславе прошло заседание международной конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011, в ходе которого его участники обсудили ситуацию в Беларуси.

<http://www.postsovet.ru/blog/belorussia/74531.html>

<http://lipski.livejournal.com/357971.html>

<http://telegraf.by/2011/03/globsec-2011-belarus---ugroza-dlja-es-i-nato.html>

**Belarus - Threat to EU and NATO, Globsec 2011****Telegraf.by, 4.3.2011**

The Slovakian capital Bratislava hosted a meeting of an international security conference Globsec 2011 on Thursday, March 3, during which participants discussed the situation in Belarus. Thus, the representative of the nonprofit organization Pact in Belarus and Ukraine, Yarabik Balash, considered Belarus a challenge to the security of the EU and NATO.

<http://telegraf.by/2011/03/globsec-2011-belarus---ugroza-dlja-es-i-nato.html>

**USA trusts Moscow on NK settlement****Mediamax.am, 4.3.2011**

Yerevan, March 4. /Mediamax/. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon disagrees with the opinion that initiating meetings with Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents, Russia gradually takes the Karabakh peace process "under its control."

<http://mediamax.am/en-news-3-174.html>

**Martonyi János a GLOBSEC biztonságpolitikai konferencián****[Martonyi János at the GLOBSEC security conference]****Kormany.hu, 4.3.2011**

Az európai szomszédságpolitika fontosságát hangsúlyozta Martonyi János külügyminiszter a pozsonyi GLOBSEC biztonságpolitikai konferencia után. Mint mondta, erre mutat rá az észak-afrikai eseménysorozat is.

<http://www.kormany.hu/hu/kulugyminiszterium/hirek/martonyi-janos-a-globsec-biztonsagpolitikai-konferencian>

**Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia took part in Bratislava Global Security Forum****estonia.mfa.gov.ge, 4.3.2011**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Grigol Vashadze took part in the panel discussion on the Eastern Partnership, held within Bratislava Global Security Forum (GLOBSEC).

[http://estonia.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=443&info\\_id=10015](http://estonia.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=443&info_id=10015)

**А.Мілінкевіч: Эўропа спыняе супрацоўніцтва з урадам да вызвалення вязняў****[A. Milinkevič: Europe stops working with the government to release prisoners]****Svaboda.org, 4.3.2011**

Міністры замежных спраў краін «Вышаградскай групы» – Вугоршчыны, Польшчы, Славацкіны і Чэхіі – а таксама Нямеччыны зрабілі напярэдадні ў Браціславе заяву па Беларусі. Яны заклікалі Аляксандра Лукашэнку вызваліць усіх палітычных вязняў і спыніць пераслед апазыцыі. У адваротным выпадку Менску пагражаюць далейшыя санкцыі. Таксама ў Браціславе 2-4 сакавіка адбываецца міжнародная канфэрэнцыя па бясьпецы "Globsec-2011". Яе ўдзельнікі абмяркоўваюць сытуацыю ў Беларусі. У гэтых і іншых міжнародных мерапрыемствах у Браціславе бярэ ўдзел лідэр руху "За свабоду" Аляксандар Мілінкевіч.

<http://www.svaboda.org/content/article/2327680.html>

<http://www2.polskieradio.pl/zagranica/by/news/artykul150591.html>

<http://www.belmy.by/articles/news/bad/15483.html>

**Мілінкевіч па выніках сустрэчы з Фюле: ЕС прыпыняе супрацу з урадам да вызвалення вязняў****[Milinkevich after a meeting with Fule: EU suspends cooperation with the government to release prisoners]****nn.by, 4.3.2011**

Міністры замежных спраў краін «Вышаградскай групы» — Вугоршчыны, Польшчы, Славацкіны і Чэхіі — а таксама Нямеччыны зрабілі напярэдадні ў Браціславе заяву па Беларусі. Яны заклікалі Аляксандра

Лукашэнка вызваліць усіх палітычных вязняў і спыніць пераслед апазіцыі. У адваротным выпадку Менску пагражаюць далейшыя санкцыі. Ад Беларусі ў Браціслаўскіх сустрэчах браў удзел лідар Руху за свабоду Аляксандр Мілінкевіч. Ён меў сустрэчу з еўракамісарам па пытаннях краін-суседзяў Штэфанам Фюле. Вось што раскажаў Мілінкевіч па выніках сустрэчы:

<http://nn.by/?c=ar&i=51305>

**Мілінкевіч: Еўропа прыстанавіла супрацоўніцтва з беларускім правительством**  
[Milinkievich: Europe suspended cooperation with belarusian government]

*Ale.by, 4.3.2011*

Лідер руху "За свабоду" Аляксандр Мілінкевіч сказаў, што сустрэўся з еўракамісарам па пытаннях краін-суседзяў Штэфанам Фюле. Па словах беларускага палітыка, Еўросоюз заявіў аб прыпынку супрацоўніцтва з правительством Беларусі да вызвалення ўсіх заключаных па справе "19 снежня".

<http://ale.by/news/bc95e7b1-13f4-4471-914b-ee036a174189>

**V4 and eastern partnership summit is held in Slovakia**

*En.slowakei-netz.de, 4.3.2011*

<http://en.slowakei-netz.de/174/2011-0165/slovakia-partn-en.html>

**USA believes that Minsk Group Co-chairs work perfectly**

*News.az, 4.3.2011*

Process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations is currently suspended.

<http://www.news.az/articles/armenia/32382>

**Armenian-Turkish normalization not bound to other problems, U.S. official says**

*Panarmenian.net, 4.3.2011*

Normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations should not be bound to other problems, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs said.

[http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/63192/ArmenianTurkish\\_normalization\\_not\\_bound\\_to\\_other\\_problems\\_US\\_official\\_says](http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/63192/ArmenianTurkish_normalization_not_bound_to_other_problems_US_official_says)

<http://news.am/eng/news/50184.html>

**EU Commissioner: Instability in Arab East not to shake EU's cooperation with Eastern Partners**

*En.trend.az, 4.3.2011*

In the turmoil and exuberance of the past weeks in the Arab East, a number of voices have questioned the future direction of the EU's relations with the Eastern Partners, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule said. <http://en.trend.az/news/politics/1840117.html>

**GORDON: The problem is not in Minsk Group**

*Iragir.com, 4.3.2011*

Philip Gordon, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State commented on the Karabakh issue and the Armenian and Turkish relations.

<http://www.iragir.am/engsrc/politics20954.html>

**In Bratislava, Lithuanian foreign Vice-minister and the U.S. Assistant Secretary of state discuss regional security**

*Urm.lt, 4.3.2011*

At the GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum on 3 March, Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Evaldas Ignatavičius and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Assistant for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon discussed issues of regional security policy and bilateral relations.

<http://www.urm.lt/index.php?1385119081>

**Korak naprijed, dva koraka nazad**

[Step forward, two steps back]

*Pobjeda.co.me, 5.3.2011, Author: Marija Jovičević*

Slovački šef diplomatije kazao da je za EU i NATO važan nastavak proširenja da bi se redukovale zone nestabilnosti BRATISLAVA - NATO mora preći sa riječi na djelo, jer Alijansa poslije Lisabonskog samita više oklijeva nego li pokazuje spremnost da se suoči sa izazovima - poručeno je sa bezbjednosnog foruma GLOBSEC, koji je održan u Bratislavi.

<http://www.pobjeda.co.me/citanje.php?datum=2011-03-05&id=202836>

### **Az USA nem akar döntőbíró lenni**

**[The U.S. does not want to be a referee]**

**Új szó, 5.3.2011**

Pozsony. Az Egyesült Államok nem kíván döntőbírói szerepet vállalni a magyar kettős állampolgársági törvény következtében fennálló szlovák-magyar feszültséggel kapcsolatban.

<http://ujsoz.com/napilap/kozelet/2011/03/05/roviden>

### **Mikuláš Dzurinda: Belarus became Europe's main problem**

**Charter97.org, 3.3.2011**

**Telegraf.by, 3.3.2011**

**Ciwr.org, 5.3.2011**

**Portal.arcana.pl, 5.3.2011**

Lukashenka was given a hint that it's time for him to go following the dictators in the Middle East. A picket of solidarity with Belarusian political prisoners was held in Bratislava, Slovakia's capital, ahead of GLOBSEC 2011 Global Security Forum opening on March 3.

[http://www.ciwr.org/article\\_en/2011/03/05\\_bratislava.html](http://www.ciwr.org/article_en/2011/03/05_bratislava.html)

<http://www.portal.arcana.pl/Globsec-2011-bialorus-iest-glownym-problemem-europy.851.html>

<http://charter97.org/en/news/2011/3/3/36478/>

<http://eurobelarus.info/content/view/14695/78/>

[http://telegraf.by/print/2011/03/belarus\\_is\\_europes\\_major\\_problem\\_slovakian\\_foreign\\_ministry.html](http://telegraf.by/print/2011/03/belarus_is_europes_major_problem_slovakian_foreign_ministry.html)

<http://telegraf.by/2011/03/belarus-is-europes-major-problem-slovakian-foreign-ministry.html>

### **Lajcak: No reasons to postpone beginning of negotiations**

**Emg.rs, 5.3.2011**

Everything is ready for the beginning of the dialog between Belgrade and Pristina, to be mediated by the European Union, and there are no reasons for postponing them, Director for Russia, Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans in the EU's External Action Service Miroslav Lajchak stated on Friday.

<http://www.emg.rs/en/news/serbia/149169.html>

### **Belarus lambasted for detention of activists, media**

**Indybay.org, 5.3.2011**

The U.S. Department of State in its Daily Press Briefing March 4 severely criticized what it called the "draconian actions" of the post-election government in Belarus saying among other things that the United States is "gravely" concerned about crackdowns by the newly elected government on independent media and political opposition.

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/03/05/18673891.php>

<http://www.raisethefist.com/?Belarus+lambasted+for+detention+of+activists,+media+:+Indybay-33>

### **US-Central Europe Partnership Plays a Crucial Role in Promoting Democracy**

**Newsblaze.com, 5.3.2011**

**Poland.usembassy.gov, 8.3.2011**

Assistant Secretary of Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon today underscored the vital role of U.S.-Central Europe partnership in promoting stability and democracy in Europe and across borders at the Global Security 2011 Forum Bratislava, Slovakia.

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20110305141549stat.nb/topstory.html>

<http://poland.usembassy.gov/gordon4.html>

### **Phillip Gordon: the United States has strongly supported reaching progress on normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey**

**Arminfo.info, 5.3.2011**

The United States has strongly supported the normalization process and the protocols signed between Armenia and Turkey, US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs Phillip Gordon said when making a speech at Globsec (Global Security) conference in Bratislava.

<http://www.arminfo.info/english/politics/article/05-03-2011/07-05-00/displaypageArticleWithComment>

### **Leaders look east from Bratislava**

**Sme.sk, 7.3.2011**

SUPPORT for the EU's Eastern Partnership programme and calls for the Belarusian authorities to democratise and release political prisoners were voiced during a ministerial meeting of Visegrad Group countries and Germany held in Bratislava on March 3.

[http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/41845/2/leaders\\_look\\_east\\_from\\_bratislava.html](http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/41845/2/leaders_look_east_from_bratislava.html)

### **INTERVIEW: Miklos leads Slovakia into Eurozone's awkward squad**

**Bne.eu, 7.3.2011, Author: Nicholas Watson**

Slovakia has only been a member of the euro for just over a year, but it has already kicked up a fuss about contributing to the bailout fund for other Eurozone members and now looks as though it might've managed to kill a Franco-German proposal to harmonise corporate tax rates across the bloc.

[http://www.bne.eu/story2552/INTERVIEW\\_Miklos\\_leads\\_Slovakia\\_into\\_Eurozones\\_awkward\\_squad](http://www.bne.eu/story2552/INTERVIEW_Miklos_leads_Slovakia_into_Eurozones_awkward_squad)

### **Crnoj Gori sve ide od ruke**

**Pobjeda.co.me, 7.3.2011, Author: Marija Jovičević**

Ljudi su globalno povezani i dok god je tako ne možemo okretati glavu na ono što se dešava u Libiji, pa ni u Avganistanu. Sve to će, prije ili kasnije, uticati direktno na nas, naše prijatelje i porodicu -kaže Babst

<http://www.pobjeda.co.me/citanje.php?datum=2011-03-07&id=202976>

### **GLOBSEC 2011 - Globális kül- és biztonságpolitikai fórum Pozsonyban**

**[GLOBSEC 2011 – Global Foreign and Security Forum in Bratislava]**

**Biztonságpolitika.hu, 7.3.2011**

2011. március 2-4. között hatodik alkalommal került megrendezésre a [Szlovák Atlanti Bizottság \(Slovak Atlantic Commission – SAC\)](#) égisze alatt a GLOBSEC névre keresztelt kül- és biztonságpolitikai konferencia. Az elmúlt évek során a rendezvény rendkívül látványosan fejlődött, miközben eredeti célkitűzéseihez mindvégig hű maradt; nevezetesen, hogy felhívja a társadalom figyelmét a 21. századi biztonsági kihívásokra, valamint a transzatlanti partnerség globális biztonsági környezetben betöltött szerepére.

<http://www.biztonsagpolitika.hu/index.php?id=16&aid=993>

### **UE: Debata o Partnerstwie Wschodnim na Bratislava Global Security Forum**

**[EÚ: Discussion about Eastern Partnership at Bratislava Global Security Forum]**

**Eastbook.eum 7.3.2011**

Minister Spraw Zagranicznych i Integracji Europejskiej Republiki Mołdowy Iurie Leanca i przewodniczący Projektu Przemian na Rzecz Demokracji -Bruce Jackson byli jednymi z prelegentów na wyżej wymienionym panelu dyskusyjnym. Aktywnym uczestnikiem dyskusji okazał się także Minister Spraw Zagranicznych Gruzji Grigol Vashadze, który w bardzo rzeczowy sposób przedstawił gruziński punkt widzenia proprytetów PW.

<http://eastbook.eu/2011/03/material/news/ue-debata-o-partnerstwie-wschodnim-na-bratislava-global-security-forum/>

### **Dialogue with Turkey always possible, Armenian MP says**

**News.am, 7.3.2011**

Mr. Philip Gordon's statement is one more piece of evidence that the United States still highlights Armenian-Turkish reconciliation, Artak Zakaryan, a Parliament member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), told Armenian News-NEWS.am as he commented on U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon's statement that the U.S. disagrees with official Ankara's position that Turkey can ratify the Armenian-Turkish protocols provided the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process shows progress.

<http://news.am/eng/news/50609.html>

### **Leaders Look East from Bratislava**

**Data.minsk.by, 7.3.2011**

**Democraticbelarus.eu, 8.3.2011**

SUPPORT for the EU's Eastern Partnership programme and calls for the Belarusian authorities to democratise and release political prisoners were voiced during a ministerial meeting of Visegrad Group countries and Germany held in Bratislava on March 3.

<http://www.data.minsk.by/belarusnews/032011/96.html>  
<http://democraticbelarus.eu/node/11734>

**US Department of Imperial Expansion**

**Freewestradio.com, 8.3.2011 Autor: Tony Cartalucci**

Deeper down the rabbit hole of US-backed color revolutions.

Believe it or not, the US State Department's mission statement actually says the following:

"Advance freedom for the benefit of the American people and the international community by helping to build and sustain a more democratic, secure, and prosperous world composed of well-governed states that respond to the needs of their people, reduce widespread poverty, and act responsibly within the international system."

<http://freewestradio.com/category/world-politics/>

**CONFERENCE CALL: Minsk on my mind**

**Bne.eu, 9.3.2011, Author: Nicholas Watson**

The problem of what to do about Belarus was exercising the minds of the great and the good at the Globsec 2011 conference in Bratislava on March 3. While state officials from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland were delivering a "tough message" to the Belarusian deputy foreign minister in a closed-door session, in the nearby auditorium the country's beleaguered opposition and its supporters were discussing what the outside world could, and should, do to help bring about change in this remaining authoritarian corner of Europe.

[http://www.bne.eu/story2558/CONFERENCE\\_CALL\\_Minsk\\_on\\_my\\_mind](http://www.bne.eu/story2558/CONFERENCE_CALL_Minsk_on_my_mind)

**That at Poles instead of ballistic missiles**

**Vikno.eu, 9.3.2011**

A role of the one whom hill, at conference on safety in Bratislava Globsec last week has incurred Filip Gordon (Philip Gordon), whose post on old manners can be described as a post of the head of department concerning Europe and Eurasia of US State department. Knowing people say that it was more amusing and is more compliant, when was an analyst of non-governmental institute Brookings but since it works for administration, it has turned in a cracker. In Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw and in other cities he explains that Obama's administration did not throw the Central Europe for a board in Russian mouth and that within the limits of "reboot" of relations with Russia priorities have simply changed.

<http://vikno.eu/eng/politics/politics/that-at-poles-instead-of-ballistic-missiles.html>

**Белорусская секция на GlobSec 2011**

**[Belarusian section on Globsec 2011]**

**Community.livejournal.com, 9.3.2011**

Видеозаписи выступлений экспертов и дебатов на белорусской секции конференции Global Security Forum 2011, 2-4 марта, Братислава. Там со второй части идет очень интересная тема "Кого и как финансировать в Беларуси после 19 декабря" (откровенно выступают Смоляр, Янукевич и Шушкевич), феерическое выступление про Ленина и агентов влияния Германии Сергея serkiz Кизимы, у которого в конце концов отобрали микрофон.

[http://community.livejournal.com/by\\_politics/2986294.html](http://community.livejournal.com/by_politics/2986294.html)

**Armenian-Turkish Rapprochement Should Not Be Linked to Other Problems, Phillip H. Gordon Says**

**Thearmenianobserver.com, 9.3.2011**

U.S disagrees with Turkey that it will ratify the Armenian-Turkey accords if Karabakh peace process achieves progress, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Phillip H. Gordon stated in his GLOBSEC security conference speech hosted by the Slovakian government.

<http://www.thearmenianobserver.com/>

### **10 that exciting east half of EU**

**Vikno.eu, 10.3.2011**

Conference on safety Globsec, passing in Bratislava, seemingly, has found the place in the all-European calendar. I just have visited there (I give the full report: my flight and hotel accommodation has been paid), having spent multipolar discussion of multipolarity and podxalturiv as the expert across the Near East on unpersuasive enough basis of that in 1999 I has spent week in holiday in Dubai. Fortunately, at some of other participants the track record was better.

<http://vikno.eu/eng/politics/politics/10-that-exciting-east-half-of-eu.html>

### **Globsec Security Conference a big success**

**Remadeinholland.wordpress.com, 10.3.2011, Author: Daphne Bergsma**

Last week the Globsec Security Conference -edition 2011- took place in Bratislava. It was a major success, with over 500 attendants from all over the world taking part in a wide range of discussions on some very challenging issues. The Embassy was there and fed its feelers with all kinds of fascinating information.

<http://remadeinholland.wordpress.com/2011/03/10/globsec-security-conference-a-big-success/>

### **10 тем, волнующих восточную половину ЕС**

**[Ten topics that are vexing the EU's eastern half]**

**Inosmi.ru, 10.3. 2011**

Конференция по безопасности Globsec, проходящая в Братиславе, похоже, нашла свое место в общеевропейском календаре. Я только что побывал там (предоставляю полный отчет: мой перелет и проживание в гостинице были оплачены), проведя многополярное обсуждение многополярности и подхалтурив в качестве эксперта по Ближнему Востоку на довольно неубедительном основании того, что в 1999 я провел неделю в отпуске в Дубае. К счастью, у некоторых из других участников послушной список был получше.

<http://www.inosmi.ru/europe/20110310/167231832.html>

### **Ten topics that are vexing the EU's eastern half**

**Europeanvoice.com, 10.3.2011, Author: Edward Lucas**

A trip to [Bratislava](#) brings to the surface some of the principal undercurrents in central and [eastern Europe](#). The Globsec security conference in Bratislava is carving out something of a niche in European calendar. The Globsec conference fits neatly into the calendar, after the plutocrats' shindig in Davos and the Wehrkunde security conference in Munich, and before the German Marshall Fund's Brussels Forum, with Estonia's Lennart Meri conference as a distant treat on the horizon. It is a sign of Slovakia's economic and political strength that few participants even bothered to ask about the health of the ruling coalition or the country's economic prospects. That at least is a sign of success.

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/ten-topics-that-are-vexing-the-eu-s-eastern-half/70499.aspx>

### **Демократия в ЕС мертва. Мое участие в отпевании на Форуме по глобальной безопасности в Братиславе**

**[Democracy in the EU is dead. My participation in the funeral at the Forum of the Global Security in Bratislava]**

**News.21by, 11.3.2011**

Об уровне мероприятия говорит то, что в качестве со-организаторов участвовали НАТО и Европейская комиссия, выступал еврокомиссар Фюле и 7-8 министров обороны и иностранных дел отдельных стран Евросоюза и стран Восточного партнерства.

<http://news.21.by/2011/03/11/268499.html>

### **ANASOFT - the partner of international security forum GLOBSEC 2011**

**Anasoft.com, 11.3.2011**

ANASOFT has become a partner of the unique international security forum GLOBSEC 2011. It is a regular forum of influential personalities from the field of high international politics, private non-governmental sector and intellectual sphere not only from both sides of the Atlantic, but also from a wider international security community.

[http://www.anasoft.com/en/press/GLOBSEC\\_2011.shtml](http://www.anasoft.com/en/press/GLOBSEC_2011.shtml)

**GLOBSEC: nikt nie chce słuchać Łukaszenki****[GLOBSEC: nobody wants to listen to Lukashenko]****Portal.arcana.pl, 12.3.2011**

W czasie dyskusji o Białorusi na Forum o światowym bezpieczeństwie w Bratysławie (GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum) reprezentanci oficjalnych władz białoruskich zostali pozbawieni głosu.

<http://www.portal.arcana.pl/Globsec-nikt-nie-chce-sluchac-lukaszenki,912.html>

**Interview: Miroslav Lajčák, izvršni direktor Evropske unije za Europu i Centralnu Aziju****[Interview: Miroslav Lajčák, Managing Director of the European Union's Europe and Central Asia]****Hercegbosna.org, 12.3.2011**

Bivši visoki predstavnik u Bosni i Hercegovini, odnedavno izvršni direktor za Evropu i centralnu Aziju pri zajedničkoj Službi vanjskih poslova EU-a, češki diplomata MIROSLAV LAJČÁK u razgovoru sa novinarkom „SB“ iznosi utiske nakon nedavnog susreta sa vodećim bh. političarima, govori o planovima Evropske unije u našoj zemlji, otkriva ovlasti i mandat koje će imati budući evropski predstavnik u BiH

<http://www.hercegbosna.org/vijesti/bih/interview-miroslav-lajcak-izvršni-direktor-evropske-unije-za-europu-i-centralnu-aziju-3090.html>

**What cuts in US defence budget will mean for the transatlantic alliance****Postonpolitics.blogspot.com, 15.3.2011 Author: Tomáš Valášek**

The US defence budget seems set to fall as Washington begins to restore order in its finances. Spending on the military has reached such heights –\$700 billion, or 20 per cent of the US federal budget – that it has become too large for deficit-cutters to ignore. Even traditionally pro-defence Republicans now argue that military expenditures need to be reduced along with other government expenses.

<http://postonpolitics.blogspot.com/2011/03/what-cuts-in-us-defence-budget-will.html>

<http://centreforeuropeanreform.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.liquid.com/article/18624773/nato-russia-european-allies/>

<http://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2011/03/16/what-us-defense-cuts-mean-to-the-transatlantic-alliance-99442.html>

<http://sargasso.nl/archief/2011/03/17/what-us-defence-budget-cuts-will-mean-for-the-transatlantic-alliance/>

**Dishing the Dirt, or the Polish Way****Tol.org, 16.3.2011 Author: Martin Ehl**

Earlier this month at the Globsec security conference in Bratislava, the role of punching bag fell to the lot of Philip Gordon, the section chief for Europe and Eurasia in the U.S. State Department. Experts say he used to be more entertaining and forthcoming when he worked as an analyst at the influential Brookings Institute think tank, but has dried up since going to work for the Obama administration. In Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw, and elsewhere Gordon's been explaining that Washington had no intention of tossing Central Europe overboard to the Russian shark, it's just that priorities have changed in the context of the reset in relations with Russia.

<http://www.tol.org/client/article/22249-dishing-the-dirt-or-the-polish-way.html?print>

**Azerbaijan Clarifies View of Baku-Ankara-Yerevan Normalization Process****Jamestown.org, 17.3.2011 Author: Vladimír Socor**

On March 3, 2011, US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon told the Global Security Forum in Bratislava (GlobSec) that the US strongly supports "normalization" between Turkey and Armenia through the Zurich Protocols. Acknowledging that this process had stalled, Gordon urged its continuation "to further trust and peace and stability." Recalling that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had promoted and witnessed the Turkish-Armenian protocols' signing, Gordon urged "the parties to move forward to peace and reconciliation."

[http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no\\_cache=1&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=37658](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=37658)

<http://www.turkishpolicy.com/news/190/eurasia-daily-monitor-azerbaijan-clarifies-view-of-baku-ankara-yerevan-normalization-process-17-march-2011/>

**Miroslav Lajčák on the European - Russian Cooperation****All4metin2.com, 23.3.2011**

Miroslav Lajčák, Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava, at the GLOBSEC 2011 -- Bratislava Global Security Cooperation

<http://www.all4metin2.com/video/aPIRCncuw88/Miroslav-Lajčák-on-the-European-Russian-Cooperation.html>

### **Back in the fold**

***Economist.com, 29.3.2011***

But the Slovaks reserve particular ire for the dictatorship in Belarus. During a recent security get-together in Bratislava, attended by dozens of prominent international policy-makers, the foreign ministry staged a public display (pictured) of solidarity with Belarusian political prisoners at the memorial to the Candle Demonstration.

[http://www.economist.com/blogs/easternapproaches/2011/03/slovakias\\_foreign\\_policy](http://www.economist.com/blogs/easternapproaches/2011/03/slovakias_foreign_policy)

### **Foreign ministry sacks seven suspected former secret agents**

***primepoliticsnewsnow.info, 7.4.2011***

Hungary's foreign ministry has sacked seven of its staff who have been identified as having served the state police as secret agents under the communist era, state secretary at the ministry told MTI on Friday.

<http://www.primepoliticsnewsnow.info/>

### **Announcements**

***Munkschool.utoronto.ca***

Rex Hughes, visiting fellow at the Canada Centre for Global Security Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto served as a panelist at Globesec 2011, held in Bratislava, Slovakia from March 2nd to 4th. Globesec, with participation level of around 500 key security and foreign policy figures from both sides of the Atlantic, GLOBSEC has become the leading annual forum on foreign policy and security in Central Europe. It has acquired a stable position in the calendar of major European conferences as the only annual forum of its kind in Central Europe.

<http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/canadacentre/news/view/12/>

### **FULL TEXT ARTICLES**

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#### **Energy Security among Hot Topics of the Bratislava Forum**

***Bne.eu, 22.2.2011***

One of the main topics of this year's GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum will be energy security from the point of view of the V4 countries. The importance of energy cooperation is emphasised by the recent agreement between the governments of the Slovak Republic and Hungary about the construction of a gas interconnection.

This, as a part of the North-South gas pipeline, will become a significant part of the European energy network. The Slovak Atlantic Commission, organiser of the GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum, published a study about the possibilities of energy cooperation among the countries of the Visegrad group as a part of the Visegrad Security Cooperation Initiative (VSCI), last summer. In the study, an international group of experts recommended, among others, the same North-South connection, which would facilitate the diversification of gas shipments through terminals located in Poland and Croatia.

The 6th annual GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum, which will take place on the 2nd - 4th March 2011 on the exclusive premises of the Kempinski Hotel River Park Bratislava, is taking place concurrently with a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad Group and the Eastern Partnership countries. The influence of this event is evident by the choice of topics and speakers, who will be addressing the perspectives of a closer cooperation in the region.

The year 2011 represents a unique opportunity for the Visegrad countries to increase their influence in the European Union as important topics for the Central European region will become a part of the EU agenda, thanks to the Hungarian and the ensuing Polish presidency. Priorities of the Hungarian presidency - energy security, all-European strategy of Roma integration, budget and agricultural policy, recovery of the Eurozone and the continuation of the EU enlargement process, constitute a promise that the needs and interests of the region will be handled on the European level.

The event is organised by the Slovak Atlantic Commission under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic H.E. Mikulš Dzurinda and in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in Slovakia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

**Assistant Secretary Gordon's Travel to Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia, February 28, March 4 2011**  
**State.gov, 28.2.2011**

Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon traveled to Bulgaria, Greece, and Slovakia from February 28 to March 4. In Sofia, Bulgaria, he met senior Bulgarian government officials to discuss bilateral issues. He then traveled to Athens, Greece, on March 2 to meet with senior Greek government officials and political leaders. Assistant Secretary Gordon concluded his trip in Bratislava, Slovakia. On March 3, he delivered a keynote address on the U.S.-Central European relationship at the annual Slovak government-hosted GLOBSEC security conference. Assistant Secretary Gordon also held bilateral discussions with senior Slovak government officials as well as with key officials from other states in the region who participated in the conference.

**Slovakia**

-03/03/11 Media Availability at the Global Security 2011 Forum; Assistant Secretary Philip H. Gordon, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; Bratislava, Slovakia

-03/03/11 The U.S. Relationship With Central Europe Under the Obama Administration; Assistant Secretary Philip H. Gordon, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; Remarks at the Global Security 2011 Forum; Bratislava, Slovakia

**Greece**

-03/02/11 Athens Press Roundtable; Assistant Secretary Philip H. Gordon, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; Athens, Greece

**Bulgaria**

-03/01/11 Interview with Bulgarian National Television; Assistant Secretary Philip H. Gordon, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; Sofia, Bulgaria

-03/01/11 Media Roundtable with Trud, 24 Hours, and Standart Dailies; Assistant Secretary Philip H. Gordon, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; Sofia, Bulgaria

**Л.Рэгак: Мы маем абавязак дапамагаць братам у несвабодзе**

**[L. Reháč: We have a duty to help the brothers in the lack of freedom]**

**New.racyja.com, 1.3.2011**

Шостая па ліку канферэнцыя «Globsec», прысвечаная тэме бяспекі і палітыкі ў Цэнтральнай Еўропе распачне працу ў Браціславе. Прадстаўнічыя дэлегацыі з краінаў ЕС і ЗША абмяркуюць шэраг пытанняў, сярод якіх і пытанне Беларусі.

Беларусі пасля выбараў будзе прысвечаная адмысловая дыскусія ў межах форуму. Да таго ж у дні форуму адбудзецца сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў Усходняга партнёрства ды Вышаградскай групы. Нягледзячы на падзеі ў Афрыцы Беларусь па ранейшаму застаецца ў полі зроку еўрапейскіх краінаў зазначыў у гутарцы са ЗК славацкі дыпламат, былы амбасадар Славацчыны ў Беларусі Любамір Рэгак.

PP: У межах канферэнцыі «Globsec» пройдзе адмысловая дыскусія «Беларусь пасля выбараў», прысвечаная сітуацыі ў Беларусі пасля 19 снежня. Наколькі, на вашу думку, беларускае пытанне цяпер выглядае важным у свеце апошніх падзей у Афрыцы?

– Так, падзеі ў Афрыцы турбуюць еўрапейскую палітыку, але сітуацыя ў Беларусі не менш, таму адна дыскусія на канферэнцыі «Globsec» будзе прысвечана перспектывам развіцця Беларусі пасля прэзідэнцкіх выбараў. На прыкладзе Афрыкі бачна, што ў аўтарытарных рэжымаў не хапае ініцыятывы і развіцця – раней або пазней такія рэжымы разбушацця. Калі няма цывілізаванай альтэрнатывы, уладу зноў могуць захапіць недэмакратычныя колы – шкадаваць, вядома, будзе народ.

PP: Ці на канферэнцыю запрасілі прадстаўнікоў афіцыйнага Мінска?

– На канферэнцыю была запрошана беларуская амбасада, але на гэтым тыдні ў Браціславе адбудзецца іншая важная сустрэча – сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў Вышаградскай чацвёркі з партнёрамі з краін «Усходняга партнёрства». У гэтай сустрэчы возьмуць удзел нямецкі міністр замежных спраў Гда Вестэрвеле, высокі прадстаўнік Еўрасаюза па замежнай палітыцы Кэтрын Эштан і еўракамісар Штэфан Фюле за Еўракамісію. Беларусь будзе прадстаўляць намеснік міністра замежных спраў спадар Варанецкі.

PP: Гучалі галасы, што варта было б прыпыніць сяброўства Беларусі ва «Усходнім партнёрстве». Як думаеце, ці варта размаўляць з Беларуссю?

– На маю думку варта размаўляць – праз дыялог мы можам зрабіць больш, чым праз ізаляцыю. Таму мы лічым, што вельмі важна падтрымліваць кантакты і з Беларуссю, і з афіцыйным Мінскам у тым ліку. Апроч гэтае сустрэчы наш міністр запрасіў у Браціславу таксама прадстаўнікоў грамадскай супольнасці. Прыедуць такія дзеячы як Станіслаў Шушкевіч, Аляксандр Мілінкевіч, Аляксандр Казулін ды іншыя.

PP: Славакія, як іншыя краіны Цэнтральнай і Ўсходняй Еўропы вядомыя сваёй падтрымкай для беларускай дэмакратыі. Наколькі пасля падзеяў 19 снежня краінам Цэнтральнай і Ўсходняй Еўропы лягчэй патлумачыць патрэбу падтрымкі дэмакратычнай Беларусі для дзяржаваў так званай “старой” Еўропы.

– На паседжанні Рады Еўрасаюзу ў студзені была размова аб падзеях у Беларусі. Усе дзяржавы Еўрасаюзу падтрымалі санкцыі, таму цяпер на маю думку няма краінаў, якія б не хацелі падтрымліваць грамадзянскую дэмакратычную супольнасць у Беларусі. Вы добра сказалі: падзеі 19 снежня адкрылі вочы ўрадам тых краінаў, якія хацелі большага супрацоўніцтва.

PP: Славакія ўжо доўгі час у розны спосаб дапамагае дэмакратычнай супольнасці ў Беларусі, яна сённяшні дзень выглядае гэтая дапамога?

– У Славакіі вельмі развіта супрацоўніцтва ўладаў з нездзяржаўнымі арганізацыямі, праз якія мы рэалізуем значную частку дапамогі развіццю будавання дэмакратычных інстытутаў. Славакія пасля выбараў у Беларусі ўзмацніла дапамогу грамадзянскай супольнасці. Напрыклад прапанавала дапамогу адлічаным студэнтам, сем'ям палітзняволеных і так далей.

PP: Славакія пасля атрымання незалежнасці ў 1993 годзе таксама мела свой кароткі досвед аўтарытарнага рэжыму, як выглядаў Славацкі досвед пераадолення аўтарытарызму.

– На маю думку аптычна такія рэжымы вельмі моцныя, але ўжо ў 1989 годзе хапіла не шмат, каб увесь гэты калос разваліўся. Потым яшчэ трыццаць гадоў Славакія шукала найлепшы шлях для краіны, але пасля ўваходу ў Еўрасаюз усталяваліся і стабільная сітуацыя і яўны накірунак развіцця дзяржавы. Раней, у часы несвабоды, рэпрэсаваныя грамадскія дзеячы ў Чэхаславакіі атрымлівалі дапамогу з Захаду. Таму ў нас таксама ёсць нейкі маральны абавязак дапамагаць братам, якія яшчэ жывуць у несвабодзе.

PP: Я не раз чуў як людзі параўноўваюць беларусаў менавіта са славакамі. На вашу думку ці падобныя беларусы да славакаў?

– Вельмі падобныя. І ведаеце што цікава: як мала гучыць беларуская мова ў Беларусі, гэтак жа мала гучала славацкая мова ў Славакіі падчас мадыярызацыі напачатку 20-га стагоддзя. Сёння мы бачым, што славацкая мова нармальна еўрапейская мова, развітая. Хацелася б каб беларуская мова таксама гучала ў Беларусі.

Цалкам гутарку слухайце ў прыкладзеным аўдыёфайле.

Гутарыў Зміцер Косьцін.

**Ministar Božinović na konferenciji "GLOBSEC 11"**  
**[Minister Božinović at the "GLOBSEC 11" conference]**

**Morh.hr, 2.3.2011**

Ministar obrane RH Davor Božinović sudjelovat će na konferenciji „GLOBSEC 11“ koja se održava od 2. do 4. ožujka 2011. u Bratislavi (Republika Slovačka). Ministar Božinović bit će i jedan od glavnih govornika na Konferenciji, a u uvodnom dijelu održat će izlaganje na temu „[Sposobnosti obrane protiv štednje u obrani: Gdje naći ravnotežu?](#)“. Također, tijekom konferencije ministar Božinović će održati bilateralni sastanak s domaćinom Konferencije, ministrom obrane Republike Slovačke Lubomirom Galkom.

„GLOBSEC“ je konferencija koja predstavlja vodeći forum za najvažnija politička i sigurnosna pitanja u srednjoj Europi, a održava se svake godine počevši od 2005. Konferencija okuplja vodeće dužnosnike iz područja sigurnosti iz cijelog svijeta, a glavne teme vezane su za sadašnje i buduće globalne sigurnosne izazove. Teme ovogodišnje konferencije, između ostalog, bit će „Transatlantski odnosi u 21. stoljeću – uloga Centralne Europe“, „Europska unija – danas i sutra“, „Novi izazovi za NATO“, „NATO i EU suradnja“, „NATO i transatlantski odnosi poslije Lisabonske konferencije“, i sl.

Osoba za kontakt je načelnik Službe za odnose s javnošću i informiranje MORH-a, mob: 098/312-839.

Više informacija o navedenoj konferenciji možete saznati na službenim stranicama ["GLOBSEC 11" konferencije](#).

**У Браціславе будуць гаварыць пра Беларусь****[Belarus will be one of the topics in Bratislava]****Svaboda.org, 2.3.2011**

Сёння ў Браціславе пачынаецца сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў краін Вышаградзкай групы – Польшчы, Славакіі, Чэхіі і Вугоршчыны. Спецыяльнае запрашэнне на яе атрымаў лідэр руху "За свабоду" Аляксандар Мілінкевіч. Таксама ў Браціславе 2-4 сакавіка адбудзецца міжнародная канфэрэнцыя па бясьпецы "Globsec-2011". Яе ўдзельнікі абмяркуюць сытуацыю ў Беларусі.

Абмяркоўваць беларускую сытуацыю на "Globsec-2011" будуць у фармаце слуханняў пад назовам "Беларусь пасья выбараў: ці спрацуюць санкцыі?". Аляксандар Мілінкевіч у размове са "Свабодай" напярэдадні вылету ў Браціславу асабліва адзначыў: гэта канфэрэнцыя выходзіць далёка за межы падобных мерапрыемстваў:

"Там будуць міністры замежных спраў выступаць, эўракамісар Фюле, многа экспертаў, аналітыкаў. Гэта вельмі сур'ёзная канфэрэнцыя, якая шмат у чым вырашае, што будзе рэалізавацца адносна Беларусі ў палітыцы Эўразьвязу".

Зацікаўленасць лёсам Беларусі у краін Вышаградзкай групы праявілася на юбілейным саміце гэтага міждзяржаўнага аб'яднання. Яны 15 лютага прынялі зварот да беларускіх уладаў. У дакумэнце ўтрымліваецца заклік вызваліць палітзняволеных, спыніць пераслед незалежных сродкаў масавай інфармацыі і апазыцыі, стварыць умовы для правядзення дэмакратычных выбараў.

Аляксандар Мілінкевіч упэўнены: і гэтым разам чальцы Вышаградзкай групы зоймуць адзіную пазыцыю, тым больш, што яны ўсе ўваходзяць у Эўразьвяз:

"Я думаю, у дачыненні да Беларусі пазыцыя ва ўсіх краін Эўразьвязу ідэнтычная. Гэта ва "Усходнім партнэрстве" не ўсе краіны на аднолькавых пазыцыях. А што тычыцца краін Эўразьвязу, то я тут не бачу розніцы".

Міжнародны аглядальнік Раман Якаўлеўскі лічыць, што Вышаградзкая група будзе прытрымлівацца агульных для Эўразьвязу падыходаў да Беларусі:

"І безумоўна, аніякіх іншых ацэнак, чым тыя, якія сёння дае Брусэль афіцыйнаму Менску, быць тут ня можа. Больш таго, сябры Вышаградзкай групы ставяцца жа Беларусі больш жорстка, чым некаторыя сябры Эўразьвязу. Я маю на ўвазе, напрыклад, Італію альбо Партугалію. А імкнуцца яны гэтай рэгіянальнай групойкай гаварыць адным голасам".

**Мілінкевіч сустрэнецца з кіраўніком МЗС Славаччыны****[Milinkevich met with Slovak Foreign Minister]****Svaboda.org, 2.3.2011**

Размовай зь міністрам замежных спраў Славаччыны Мікулашам Дзурындам сёння ўвечары пачынаецца візыт у Браціславу лідэра руху "За свабоду" Аляксандра Мілінкевіча. Сёння ён таксама

выступіць на імпрэзе ў падтрымку палітычных вязьняў у Беларусі.

А раніцай 3 сакавіка ў Браціславе ў фармаце слуханьняў пад назовам "Беларусь пасья выбараў: ці спрацуюць санкцыі?" беларускую сытуацыю абмяркоўваюць удзельнікі міжнароднай канфэрэнцыі па бясьпецы "Globsec-2011".

Тут таксама пройдзе сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў краін Вышаградзкай групы — Польшчы, Славачыны, Чэхіі і Вугоршчыны. Запрашэньне ўдзельнічаць у ёй атрымаў Аляксандар Мілінкевіч.

### **Мілінкевіч і Дзуринда ўзялі ўдзел у акцыі салідарнасьці ў Браціславе**

**[Milinkevich and Dzurinda participated in the action of solidarity in Bratislava]**

**Svaboda.org, 2.3.2011**

Лідэр руху «За свабоду» Аляксандар Мілінкевіч разам зь міністрам замежных спраў Славачыны Мікулашам Дзуриндам узялі ўдзел у акцыі салідарнасьці з палітвязьнямі Беларусі.

Сустрэчай зь міністрам замежных спраў Славачыны Мікулашам Дзуриндам пачаўся візыт Аляксандра Мілінкевіча ў Браціславу. Паводле беларускага палітыка, спадар Дзуринда вельмі актыўны ў адстойваньні прынцыпаў дэмакратыі ў Беларусі. Спачатку была сустрэча ў міністэрстве, а потым спадар Дзуринда прыйшоў на акцыю салідарнасьці, якую ладзілі грамадзкія актывісты. У акцыі таксама бралі ўдзел Станіслаў Шушкевіч, Аляксандар Казулін, Сяргей Калякін, Ірына Красоўская. Спадар Мілінкевіч распавёў:

Мілінкевіч: «Гэта была акцыя на тым месцы, дзе паступова пачалася славацкая рэвалюцыя супраць дэспатыі. І гэта была вельмі прыгожая акцыя. Людзі стаялі з партрэтамі палітвязьняў, гаварылі аб тым, што Эўропа павінна стаяць на сваіх каштоўнасьцях і будзе адстойваць вызваленьне гэтых вязьняў, пры тым без усялякіх умоваў. І ня можа быць ніякіх кантактаў з афіцыйным Менскам сёньня, апроч размоваў пра вызваленьне. Будзе вызваленьне, і тады магчымы пераход да іншых формаў дыялёгу. А сёньня толькі вызваленьне, і гэта было вельмі важна. І калі міністар прыйшоў на гэтую акцыю, ён зрабіў такі вельмі сур'ёзны грамадзянскі ўчынак. Мы яму вельмі ўдзячныя за гэта».

У Браціславе пройдуць сустрэчы міністраў замежных спраў краін Вышаградзкай групы — Польшчы, Славачыны, Чэхіі і Вугоршчыны, а таксама «Ўсходняга партнэрства» і Нямеччыны. У іх возьме ўдзел намесьнік міністра замежных спраў Беларусі Валеры Варанецкі. Спадар Мілінкевіч паведаміў, што ён таксама возьме ўдзел у большыні гэтых сустрэчаў. Ён сказаў, што ведае пра візыт спадара Варанецкага:

«На сёньняшні дзень, калі рэпрэсіі не перапыняюцца і ідуць суды з жорсткімі прысудамі, то ўзровень прадстаўніцтва Беларусі павінен быць ніжэй за міністра — што і адбываецца».

Аляксандар Мілінкевіч адзначае важнасьць запрашэньня дэлегацыі ад дэмакратычных сілаў Беларусі. Ён спадзяецца на жорсткі ціск на афіцыйны Менск дзеля вызваленьня палітвязьняў і на адчыненасьць да беларускага грамадства. Спадар Мілінкевіч спадзяецца, што Эўропа будзе мець кансалідаваную, супольную пазыцыю:

«Мы зноў кажам пра візы. Беларусы павінны як мага больш быць у Эўропе, каб параўноўваць і жадаць жыць па-эўрапейску. Мы будзем гаварыць пра супрацоўніцтва з грамадзянскай супольнасьцю, бо гэтая частка самая галоўная для дэмакратычных пераўтварэньняў у краіне. Вельмі важныя моладзевыя абмены і стыпэндый. Бо ня толькі палякі павінны цягнуць гэты цяжар стыпэндый, але і іншыя краіны. Сёньня міністар адзначыў, што будуць стыпэндый і славацкага ўраду, і ў іншых краінах. Гэта надзвычай важна».

### **Ці забяіцца Менск эўрапейскіх санкцыяў?**

**[Will Minsk be touched by european sanction?]**

**Poskieradio.pl, 2.3.2011**

У бліжэйшыя дні ў Братыславе будзе актыўна абмяркоўвацца сытуацыя ў Беларусі. Сёньня пра гэта будуць размаўляць міністры замежных справаў Вышаградзкай групы. А ў наступныя дні - эўрапейскія экспэртны ды палітыкі. У Братыславу накіравалася беларуская незалежная дэлегацыя.

3 2-га па 4-га сакавіка ў Братыславе праходзіць уплывовы міжнародны форум пад назвай «Globsec-2011», які прысьвечаны патаньням глянбальных выклікаў для Цэнтральнай Эўропы. У форуме бяруць удзел больш за

500 прадстаўнікоў палітычных эліт з Эўропы ды ЗША. Заўтра на форуме адбудзецца дыскусія, прысьвечаная паслявыбарчай сытуацыі ў Беларусі. Заходнія адмыслоўцы будуць разважаць над тым, ці запрацуюць санкцыі ў дачыненні да беларускага рэжыму. Сёння ж беларускую тэму будуць абмяркоўваць у Братыславе міністры замежных спраў краіна Вышаградзкай групы – Польшчы, Чэхіі, Славачыны ды Вугоршчыны. На гэтыя абмеркаваньні запрошаны Аляксандар Мілінкевіч, лідар Руху “За свабоду”. Перад самым вылетам у Братыславу Аляксандар Мілінкевіч сказаў нашай службе, што распавядзе заходнім палітыкам пра важнасць салідарнасці зь Беларусью ды вызвалення ўсіх палітычных вязняў.

Аляксандар Мілінкевіч: Я й сябры дэлегацыі, якія там будуць, мы прытрымліваемся аднолькавай думкі, што сёння, калі ў Беларусі ідуць жорсткія рэпрэсіі супраць палітычных лідараў ды грамадзянскай супольнасці, самае галоўнае – гэта салідарнасць зь імі ды вызваленне. Таму што для ўладаў сёння самае галоўнае нагнятанне страху ў краіне. Якімі сродкамі? Тут патрэбны паслядоўны ды адпаведны ціск з выкарыстаннем усіх наяўных магчымасцяў. Вельмі важнай рэччу зьяўляецца падтрымка грамадзянскай супольнасці ды вольных СМІ, каб разбурыць прапаганду ды хлусню дзяржаўных СМІ. Трэба змагацца за праўдзівае слова.

Гэта ня першая міжнародная канфэрэнцыя, дзе абмяркоўваецца пытаньне Беларусі. Нядаўна вялікая канфэрэнцыя адбылася ў Польшчы. Ці змогуць краіны Цэнтральнай Эўропы знайсці новую стратэгію ў дачыненнях зь Беларусью? Пра гэта мы размаўляем з прафэсарам Лодзінскага ўнівэрсытэту, знаўцам міжнародных адносін Аўгустынам Жураўскім-вэль-Граеўскім.

Аўгустынаў Жураўскі-вэль-Граеўскі: Цяпер склалася вельмі неспрыяльная міжнародная кан'юнктура, калі казаць пра Беларусь. Вышаградзкія краіны могуць нешта прапанаваць, але шанцы прасунуць гэтую прапанову на ўзроўні ЭЗ у кантэксце падзеяў у краінах Паўночнай Афрыкі вельмі малыя. Калі ў 2009 годзе падчас саміту Ўсходняга партнэрства з боку заходніх краінаў быў малы інтарэс да Беларусі, то сёння большай зацікаўленасці ня будзе. Таму трэба разьлічваць на ўласныя сілы, на сілы Вышаградзкай групы.

Якія сілы ды магчымасці маюць Вышаградзкія краіны? На думку нашага суразмоўцы, Вышаградзкая група павінна сканцэнтраватца на некалькіх элементах сваёй палітыкі ў дачыненні да Беларусі. Гэта спрашчэнне візавага рэжыму, дапамога палітычным вязням і падтрымка грамадзянскай супольнасці, беларускай культуры й мовы, каб спрыяць зьменам у мэнталітэце беларусаў.

Аўгустынаў Жураўскі-вэль-Граеўскі: Тут, на жаль, няма падставаў для якога аптымізму. Унутры групы ёсьць напружанні, якія тармозаць супрацоўніцтва. Больш за тое, актыўная палітыка па прыцягванні Беларусі на Запад азначае палітычнае суперніцтва з Масквой. На гэта ў Цэнтральнай Эўропе ніхто не гатовы. Таму трэба канцэнтраватца на гэтак званай “арганічнай працы” – сацыяльнай ды культурнай падтрымцы беларускага руху, дапамозе рэпрэсаваным асобам, у тым ліку з Вышаградзкага фонду, падтрымцы незалежных СМІ ды спрашчэнню візавага рэжыму. Трэба таксама запрасіць да супрацоўніцтва Летуву. Яшчэ адна рэч – адчыніць магчымасць для стварэння істотных твораў для беларускай культуры, каб уплываць на зьмены мэнталітэту шырэйшых слаёў грамадства. Калі б зьявіўся, напрыклад, фільм, які ўздзейнічаў на гістарычную сьвядомасць беларусаў, гэта прынясло б больш карысці, чым дзясяткі канфэрэнцый.

Заходнія краіны канцэнтруюць цяпер сваю ўвагу на падзеях у арабскіх дзяржавах. Ініцыятыва па беларускаму пытанню знаходзіцца цяпер па баку краін Цэнтральнай Эўропы. Спачатку Польшча, а цяпер краіны Вышаградзкай групы разважаюць над тым, што яны могуць зрабіць, каб спрыяць дэмакратычным пераменам у Беларусі.

Падрыхтаваў Юры Ліхтаровіч

**Milinkevich: EU is right to contact with the official Minsk at the level below ministers**  
**Рух.by, 2.3.2011**

The leader of the Movement For Freedom (MFF) Alaksandr Milinkevich together with the Slovakian foreign minister Mikuláš Dzurinda took part in the action of solidarity with the Belarusian political prisoners.

Milinkevich's visit to Bratislava began with the meeting with Slovakia foreign minister Mikuláš Dzurinda. According to the Belarusian politician, Mr. Dzurinda is very active in defending democracy principles in Belarus. First, the meeting in the ministry took place, and afterwards Mr. Dzurinda came to the solidarity action performed by civil activists:

"This action was held at the place where the Slovakian revolution against despotic government has gradually begun. In fact, this was a very beautiful action. People were standing with the photos of political prisoners, and were saying that the EU should hold to its values, and that it will struggle to free the prisoners subject to no conditions. No contact could exist with the official Minsk today, except the talks about the release of prisoners. The transfer to other forms of dialogue is possible only when the prisoners are freed. So, when the minister came to this action, he made a very important civil act. We thank him very much for this".

The meetings will be held in Bratislava of the foreign ministers of the Visegrád Group member states (Poland, Slovakia, Czechia, and Hungary), the Eastern Partnership Initiative, and Germany. The deputy foreign minister of Belarus Valery Varanietski will take part in them. Mr. Milinkevich said he will also take part in most of these meetings. He said he knows of the visit of Mr. Varanietski:

"Today, when repressions don't stop, and trials with tough sentences are going on, the level of representation of Belarus should be below ministers, which is exactly what's happening".

According to [Radio Liberty](#), Milinkevich points out the importance of invitation of the delegation of the Belarusian democratic forces. He hopes for a strong pressure on the official Minsk for the sake of release of political prisoners, and for the openness towards the Belarusian society. Mr. Milinkevich hopes that the EU will have a consolidated, common position:

"We are speaking about visas once again. Belarusians should visit the EU as often as possible in order to make comparisons, and to have a desire to live a European way. We would speak about the cooperation with the civil society, since this is the most important part for democratic transformations in any country. Youth exchange and scholarships are very important. However, this weight of scholarships shouldn't be carried by Poles alone but by other countries, too. The minister has pointed out today that there will be scholarships of the Slovakian government, as well as of the governments of other countries. This is extremely important".

### **Вышаградская група абмяркуе сытуацыю ў Беларусі**

**[Visegrad group discusses about situation in Belarus]**

**n-europe.eu, 2.3.2011**

Сёння ў Браціславе пачынаецца сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў краін Вышаградзкай групы – Польшчы, Славакіі, Чэхіі і Вугоршчыны. Спецыяльнае запрашэнне на яе атрымаў лідэр руху "За свабоду" Аляксандар Мілінкевіч. Таксама ў Браціславе 2-4 сакавіка адбудзецца міжнародная канфэрэнцыя па бясьпецы "Globsec-2011". Яе ўдзельнікі абмяркуюць сытуацыю ў Беларусі.

Абмяркоўваць беларускую сытуацыю на "Globsec-2011" будуць у фармаце слуханняў пад назовам "Беларусь пасья выбараў: ці спрацуюць санкцыі?". Аляксандар Мілінкевіч у размове са "Свабодай" напярэдадні вылету ў Браціславу асабліва адзначыў: гэта канфэрэнцыя выходзіць далёка за межы падобных мерапрыемстваў:

"Там будуць міністры замежных спраў выступаць, эўракамісар Фюле, многа экспертаў, аналітыкаў. Гэта вельмі сур'ёзная канфэрэнцыя, якая шмат у чым вырашае, што будзе рэалізавацца адносна Беларусі ў палітыцы Эўразьвязу".

Зацікаўленасць лёсам Беларусі у краін Вышаградзкай групы праявілася на юбілейным саміце гэтага міждзяржаўнага аб'яднання. Яны 15 лютага прынялі зварот да беларускіх уладаў. У дакумэнце ўтрымліваецца заклік вызваліць палітзняволеных, спыніць пераслед незалежных сродкаў масавай інфармацыі і апазыцыі, стварыць умовы для правядзення дэмакратычных выбараў.

Аляксандар Мілінкевіч упэўнены: і гэтым разам чальцы Вышаградзкай групы зоймуць адзіную пазыцыю, тым больш, што яны ўсе ўваходзяць у Эўразьвяз:

"Я думаю, у дачыненьні да Беларусі пазыцыя ва ўсіх краін Эўразьвязу ідэнтычная. Гэта ва "Усходнім партнэрстве" не ўсе краіны на аднолькавых пазыцыях. А што тычыцца краін Эўразьвязу, то я тут не бачу розніцы".

Міжнародны аглядальнік Раман Якаўлеўскі лічыць, што Вышаградзкая група будзе прытрымлівацца агульных для Эўразьвязу падыходаў да Беларусі:

"І безумоўна, аніякіх іншых ацэнак, чым тыя, якія сёньня дае Брусэль афіцыйнаму Менску, быць тут ня можа. Больш таго, сябры Вышаградзкай групы ставяцца жа Беларусі больш жорстка, чым некаторыя сябры Эўразьвязу. Я маю на ўвазе, напрыклад, Італію альбо Партугалію. А імкнуцца яны гэтай рэгіянальнай групоўкай гаварыць адным голасам".

### **Azerbaijan to attend Eastern Partnership and Visegrad Four talks**

**En.trend.az, 2.3.2011**

Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan [Mahmud Mammadgulyev](#) will represent the country at an extended meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Visegrad Four V4 (Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia) with the representatives of member countries of the European Eastern Partnership, Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry's spokesman Elkhan Polukhov told Trend.

The foreign ministers of V4 and the Eastern Partnership will also be attending GLOBSEC 2011 Bratislava Global Security Forum to be opened in Bratislava on Wednesday, the TASR Slovak news agency reported earlier.

The V4 summit in Bratislava will also be attended by the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Füle, and Vice Chancellor of Germany, Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle.

At the meeting, Slovakia will be represented by Foreign Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, Czech Republic - Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, Hungary - Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi, Poland - Secretary of Foreign Ministry Nicholas Dovgelevich.

According to TASR, the foreign ministers of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as deputy foreign minister of Belarus will also arrive in Bratislava.

The Eastern Partnership Program is a Polish-Swedish initiative under the EU Neighborhood Policy aimed at improving EU relations with six former Soviet countries Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine and Armenia. The program envisages the allocation of 600 million euro to these countries until 2013 to strengthen state institutions, control borders and help small companies.

The program does not envisage opportunities for EU membership, but instead envisages facilitating the visa regime, energy cooperation, and the introduction of free trade zones. Small projects on student exchange, environmental protection, and energy supply will also be implemented.

### **Expanded ministerial summit of the V4 and Eastern Partnership in Bratislava**

**Eurobelarus.info, 2.3.2011**

Within the framework of the Slovak Presidency of the Visegrad Goup (V4) and on invitation of the Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs M. Dzurinda, an expanded ministerial summit of the V4 member states and those from the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) will convene in Bratislava on 3 March 2011. The V4 member states will be represented by the Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Schwarzenberg, the Hungarian Foreign Minister J. Martonyi and the State Secretary of the Polish MFA M. Dowgielewiecz. Participation of the members of the Eastern Partnership has been so far confirmed by the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs E. Naldbandian, the Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs G. Vashadze, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Moldova I. Leanca and the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Hryshchenko. Belarus will be represented by the Deputy Foreign Minister V. Voronetsky.

Special guests include Deputy Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany G. Westerwelle, Vice-President of the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle.

The summit aims to send out a strong political signal of the V4 member states about their support to the policy of the Eastern Partnership in order for the latter to effectively contribute to the political and economic stabilisation in its member states.

The key theme will be a review of the current state of the policy of the Eastern Partnership. The discussion will address the compliance with the fundamental principles and respect to the guiding values of the Eastern Partnership which are the prerequisite for further cooperation of the EU with the individual members of the Eastern Partnership. At the summit the Partners are expected to share their vision and ambitions for closer political cooperation and economic integration with the EU.

The meetings will commence within the V4 format at 09:45. The session will focus on the cooperation of the V4 member states in the implementation of joint projects and activities within the Eastern Partnership, including the use of activities and grants of the International Visegrad Fund.

The first historical meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the V4 member states and Germany will be held at 11:00. It will present an opportunity for an exchange of views on current foreign policy issues, including energy sufficiency and the enhancement of the cooperation platform between the EU and the Eastern Partnership.

The expanded meeting of the V4, Germany and the Eastern Partners will commence with a plenary session in the Congress Hall of the Slovak MFA at 12:00, to be followed by a working lunch of the heads of delegations.

At a press conference at 14:40 the Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs M. Dzurinda will introduce the review and conclusions of the summit together with C. Ashton, G. Westerwelle and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

Mr Dzurinda will also hold bilateral meetings with the EU High Commissioner C. Ashton, German Minister of Foreign Affairs G. Westerwelle and the Eastern Partners. A number of participants will also attend the internationality GLOBSEC 2011 conference to be held in Bratislava on 2–4 March 2011.

The Visegrad Group assigns particular significance to the European policy towards the Eastern Partnership and wishes to see it succeed. An active engagement and more effective cooperation within the Eastern Partnership can bring further progress during the current Hungarian and the approaching Polish EU Presidency.

### **GLOBSEC 2011: Belarus – Threat to EU and NATO**

**news21.by, 3.3.2011**

Представитель американской некоммерческой организации Рафт в Беларуси и Украине, политический аналитик Балаш Ярабик заявил, что Беларусь представляет вызов для безопасности ЕС и НАТО. Он также отметил, что построение демократии является долгосрочным процессом.

Старший научный сотрудник польского Института международных отношений Эугениуш Смоляр заявил, что ЕС и США должны очень четко сформулировать видение того, что им следует предпринять в отношении Беларуси.

В дни проведения конференции, 2—4 марта, в Братиславе находится с визитом группа белорусских оппозиционеров, в состав которой, по информации сайта МИД Словакии, входят Сергей Калякин, Александр Козулин, Александр Милинкевич, Станислав Шушкевич, Алексей Янукевич и политические аналитики.

Милинкевич принял участие в сессии Globsec, посвященной ситуации в Беларуси.

### **Martonyi szerint jó lenne, ha az EU előre látná az eseményeket**

**[According to Martonyi it would be good if the EU could foresee the events]**

**Hirszero.hu, 3.3.2011**

"A szomszédságpolitika a közösségi biztonságpolitikának, mondhatjuk azt, hogy a legfontosabb eleme. Amennyiben az Európai Unió komoly globális szereplő akar lenni, gazdasági hatalmához politikai szerepet is akar szerezni, akkor először a szomszédságában kell bebizonyítania, hogy ki tudja sugározni az értékeit, hogy

befolyásolni tudja az eseményeket - adott esetben talán még előre is tudja látni az eseményeket -, és amikor ezek bekövetkeznek, akkor hasznos fontos szerepet tud játszani" - mondta magyar újságíróknak nyilatkozva Martonyi.

A miniszter szerint az EU déli szomszédságában zajló észak-afrikai események "pontosan azt bizonyítják, hogy nem elég követni a dolgokat, időben vagy kevésbé időben reagálni a történésekre, hanem meg kell próbálni előre látni őket, előre cselekedni".

Martonyi leszögezte: az EU keleti és déli szomszédságpolitikája egymást erősíti. Az eredetileg Magyarországra tervezett EU-Keleti Partnerség csúcskonferencia második felére, a lengyel EU-elnökség idejére történő elhalasztásával kapcsolatban a miniszter kifejtette: "Szeretném még egyszer jelezni, hogy minden másfajta híreszteléssel szemben ez egy magyar-lengyel megállapodás volt. A magyar és a lengyel miniszterelnök állapodott meg abban, hogy a technikai nehézségekre való tekintettel néhány hónappal elhalasztjuk ezt" - jelentette ki Martonyi. Megjegyezte: a magyar-lengyel együttműködés magas színvonala tette lehetővé, hogy "ebben ilyen könnyen megállapodjunk". Úgy vélte: a halasztással szerzett néhány hónap alaposabb felkészülést tesz lehetővé.

Martonyi az észak-afrikai eseményekkel kapcsolatban elmondta: "Ha van összefüggés a mediterrán események, valamint a horvát csatlakozás és, mondjuk, a Schengenhez való román-bolgár csatlakozás között, akkor azt hiszem, hogy ez az, hogy még befogadóbbaknak kell lennünk, fel kell gyorsítanunk ezeket a folyamatokat. A politikai üzenet - ebben az esetben maradjunk csak a csatlakozásnál - nem csak Horvátországnak szól, hanem minden további tagjelölt országnak is" - mutatott rá Martonyi János.

"Én azt hiszem, hogy a déli fejlemények szempontjából nem közömbös az, hogy ezt a befogadó szemléletet sugározzuk ki..., és ezzel előre visszük azt a folyamatot, amely reményeink szerint majd el fog vezetni a teljes európai újraegyesüléshez, ahhoz, hogy tudniillik a nyugat-balkáni országok is bekapcsolódjanak ebbe a folyamatba" - mondta a magyar diplomácia irányítója. "Magyarország mindig támogatta a bővítési folyamatokat, természetes érdekei is ezt kívánják" – hangsúlyozta Martonyi.

### **Участник конференции Globsec 2011: Беларусь — вызов для безопасности ЕС и НАТО [Participant of the conference GLOBSEC 2011: Belarus – a challenge for the security in the EU and NATO] M1.by, 3.3.2011**

Участники международной конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011 в Братиславе 3 марта обсуждали белорусскую ситуацию, сообщает официальный сайт мероприятия, пишет [БелаПАН](#).

Представитель американской некоммерческой организации Pact в Беларуси и Украине, политический аналитик Балаш Ярабик заявил, что Беларусь представляет вызов для безопасности ЕС и НАТО. Он также отметил, что построение демократии является долгосрочным процессом.

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Милинкевич принял участие в сессии Globsec, посвященной ситуации в Беларуси.

### **The U.S. Relationship with Central Europe under the Obama administration State.gov, 3.3.2011**

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Thank you very much, Robert. I appreciate the personal touch and the kind introduction. It really is a pleasure for me to be here at GlobSec 2011. I think this conference has clearly established itself as one of the premier venues for a discussion of global and European security, not just in

Central Europe, but in all of Europe. I really am delighted to be here, particularly with so many good friends and old colleagues in the room.

It was nice to follow Commissioner Füle. I've also had the opportunity throughout the day to meet with a number of ministers and other senior officials from Central Europe which I know is an added value of this conference -- not just the public events but the opportunities for networking that we all take advantage of.

Let me also begin by thanking Minister Dzurinda and the Slovak government and the Slovak Atlantic Commission for putting this impressive conference together.

I'm billed to talk about the relationship between the United States and our allies in Central Europe and how that relationship contributes to European and global security. Let me try to do that relatively briefly so that I get a chance afterwards to sit down and take some questions and hear from you.

The fact that I can talk about this topic in Bratislava, the capitol of a dynamic and vibrant democracy, is a testament to how much the countries in the region have achieved in such a short time. Since gaining their independence nearly 20 years ago the people of this country have taken enormous strides to establish democracy and become full members of Euro-Atlantic institutions in the Euro Zone. The United States, I want to say, is proud to count Slovakia as a close friend and ally and we value its contributions to regional stability, contributing to integration in the Balkans but also more globally, including its contribution to our common interests in Afghanistan.

Slovakia's success mirrors the leadership and growth that we have seen throughout Central Europe. With the Hungarian and Polish EU presidencies in 2011 and Slovakia's efforts to make the Visegrad-4 a broader forum, bringing in others to address wider EU and NATO issues as they did today, inviting the German Foreign Minister for a discussion of such issues, I think the combination of those things really puts Central Europe in the spotlight in the course of this year.

The Visegrad-4 have also shown strong leadership in promoting political and economic stability in the Eastern neighborhood which is only fitting. You brought about an extraordinarily successful democratic transition in your own countries after the fall of the Iron Curtain here in Central Europe, and now your example and your assistance are crucial to promoting and consolidating democracy in your neighbors to the east. The Eastern Partnership Initiative, of course, was launched under the Czech EU presidency, and both Hungary and Poland have continued that focus, making the Eastern Partnership Initiative one of the priorities of their respective presidencies this year. Slovakia has also made the EPI a priority agenda item as V-4 president.

I want to say on behalf of the United States that this is an initiative that we have strongly supported from its inception. We believe that enhanced political and economic relationships with the countries of the Eastern Partnership are important to the EU's future and to the stability and prosperity of a part of Europe that faces significant challenges. I can tell you that Secretary Clinton and I and the rest of the administration have been very much focused on these countries. I was in three of the Eastern Partnership countries in the Caucasus just last week.

Let me say a word about what we're doing. The United States in 2010 allocated \$310 million in assistance to the EPI region, provided the remainder of our \$1 billion in assistance package to Georgia following the 2008 conflict. And we signed a five year, \$262 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact with Moldova. So I think it's fair to say we're putting our money where our mouth is in terms of our commitment to these countries.

We have focused on support for democratic actors and civil society capacity, building economic growth and stability, promoting health and education, and bolstering peace and security in the region. These are goals that are very consistent with the for EPI platform areas which are people to people contacts, governance and stability, economic integration, and energy. We hope, therefore, that the initiative will provide additional funds and programs to the region, and that by closely coordinating our assistance -- and this is something we do put a premium on and I'm pleased to say has gone very well -- we can leverage our contributions and maximize our impact by working together.

For these reasons we welcome the planned EU Eastern Partnership Initiative Summit later this year, and expect to participate at a very senior level.

The United States and the European Union acting in concert can send a powerful message of solidarity, something we have done recently with respect to Belarus. Together with the targeted set of sanctions that both the EU and the United States announced on January 31<sup>st</sup>, we have sent a very clear message to the government of Belarus and to Mr. Lukashenko that business as usual will not continue as long as the suppression of civil society, the opposition to independent media continue, and demonstrators are detained, tried and sentenced, which in our view makes them political prisoners. We call on the government of Belarus to release those detainees now.

We were also gratified that Poland recently hosted a very successful Donors Conference in Warsaw that raised 87 million euros. At that conference the United States increased its assistance to civil society in Belarus by more than a third in order to support civil society, media freedom, and political competition. We feel strongly that we not only need to send a message to the government of Belarus that there are negative consequences to its actions, but we need to stand by the people of Belarus and support them in all ways that we can.

In addition to these steps the leaders of the region have spoken out consistently and strongly for reform in countries like Belarus, and we will continue to join you in voicing our support for democracy in Belarus and elsewhere in the region.

Our Central European partners have also shown leadership on energy security issues, another priority for the Obama administration. Hungary and Slovakia recently came to an agreement to build an energy interconnector as part of the expanding north/south energy highway to ensure greater diversification of supply and distribution. Poland is a member of the Global Shale Gas Initiative and we recently signed an agreement with Poland to expand U.S.-Polish cooperation on clean energy issues. We've also signed an agreement with the Czech Republic on civil nuclear cooperation. Secretary Clinton puts a very high priority on promoting energy diversity in Europe which we believe is essential for ensuring the security of supplies, competitive prices, and political independence.

Central Europe thus clearly plays a crucial role as a partner of the United States in promoting democracy and stability in Europe, but its contributions run far beyond Europe's borders. As the world is transfixed by the upheaval in the Middle East, the EU and its member states have an important role to play in assisting new governments to develop democratic institutions and practices. We've already taken a united stand in condemning Colonel Gadhafi and the violence he has unleashed on his own people. One of our priorities early on as developments in North Africa have moved forward is to cooperate, to have the international community speak with one voice which we succeeded doing in UN Security Council Resolution 1970, we did this together with our European Union allies and Secretary Clinton traveled to Geneva earlier this week in order to consult. I've done more of that today, and we put a high priority on speaking together and sending the message that we're standing up for the citizens of this region just as we did for the citizens in Central Europe.

As Secretary Clinton said in Geneva earlier this week, while the circumstances in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya are each unique, in every case the demand for change has come from within, with people calling for greater civil liberties, economic opportunities, and a stake in the governance of their own societies.

That too is the story of Central Europe's march to freedom. But we recognize as well that the experience of democratic transition in Central Europe was not easy and its lessons were hard won. While every situation is of course different, the governments of the Arab world are already looking to Central Europe for advice and assistance.

I was in Sofia earlier this week and I want to underscore that our friends there intend to host a conference on this subject on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> which is an initiative we very much welcome. We believe while we know that there are major differences between what took place in Europe and what is taking place in the Arab world today, there are lessons that can be drawn, and a lot of people in this room and in this region can help share them.

Central Europe also contributes to global stability through NATO, something that was underscored again at the recently concluded NATO Summit in Lisbon. Lisbon marked a watershed in the alliance's evolution and achieved progress in three crucial areas. First, we revitalized the alliance and prepared it to meet the threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We did so by adopting a new strategic concept defining new capabilities for the alliance and initiating important reforms in the structure of the alliance.

Second, we positioned the NATO ISAF mission in Afghanistan for success by pursuing a strategy that will allow Afghans to gradually take lead responsibility for security in their country while maintaining a strong partnership with NATO.

Finally, we moved NATO's relationship with Russia forward with cooperation in a number of vital areas including missile defense. Let me say a few words about missile defense and our relationship with Russia.

At Lisbon allies recognized that the defense of Europe can no longer be achieved by just tanks or bombers. Now we need defenses against a new and very serious set of threats, in particular ballistic missiles in the hands of dangerous regimes, particularly if potentially combined with nuclear weapons. Our aim as an alliance is to develop a missile defense capability that will provide full coverage and protection from missile threats for all NATO territory populations and forces in Europe. This capability will be a tangible expression of NATO's core mission of collective defense. At the Lisbon Summit allies also welcomed the U.S. missile defense system in Europe known as the European Phased Adaptive Approach, as a valuable national contribution to the overall effort, and we hope to see additional voluntary contributions from other allies.

Finally with respect to Russia, NATO's relationship with that country has been transformed in the past 20 years from adversary to partner. We work together in dealing with a full range of security challenges and the business of practical cooperation enhances our collective security, making both Russia and every ally more secure.

Lisbon marked the first NATO-Russia Council Summit since the Georgia conflict in 2008. But we didn't just meet. We moved beyond cooperation and moved it forward significantly between NATO and Russia. We agreed on a NATO-Russia Joint Review of 21<sup>st</sup> Century common security challenges which include terrorism, piracy, natural and manmade disasters, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and ballistic missiles. In addition, we took the important decision to resume theater missile defense cooperation with Russia, and we also agreed to further explore territorial missile defense cooperation.

Let me add, and let me be particularly clear, however, that these efforts at cooperation with Russia will in no way limit the United States or NATO's capacity to deploy missile defense or other collective defense capabilities. Rather the steps represent a fundamental understanding that NATO and Russia share a number of common interests and we can advance those interests by working together.

None of this progress and none of the progress we have made in our so-called bilateral reset with Russia comes at the expense of any ally or of our principles including our commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations in Europe and NATO's open door. Both the United States and NATO continue to have differences with Russia and we have expressed those regularly and clearly but we have not allowed them to prevent NATO and Russia from advancing cooperation that ultimately will enhance stability throughout Europe and Eurasia.

To some up, I think this review of all of these issues on the U.S. agenda with Europe and with Central Europe demonstrates two things. First, we work very closely with Europe on every major issue, both internationally and within Europe. Second, Central Europe plays a crucial role in advancing this agenda. Whether the issue is promoting democracy in Europe's East, guaranteeing energy security for the whole continent, contributing to the EU's efforts to address major global challenges, or the NATO effort to secure Afghanistan, the energy, ideas and commitment of Central Europe is something we look to and rely on in pursuing our common goals. There is much work to be done to translate this agenda into concrete steps towards the security and prosperity of both Europe and the United States.

That is why the work that everyone here does is so important, both in generating public support for the U.S.-Europe partnership, but also in giving meaning to the strength of the partnership by making sure we have the will and the resources necessary to deliver on our very full agenda.

As we rise to meet all these challenges I'm confident that the partnership between the United States and Central Europe which achieved so much in the last 20 years, will achieve even greater things in decades to come.

Thank you all very much.

[Applause].

Moderator: Thank you very much, Mr. Assistant Secretary. Mr. Assistant Secretary Phil Gordon is ready to answer a few of your questions. So if I see some hands, we have still ten minutes.

Question: Phil, thank you for a fantastic succinct overview.

Can I ask you to take out your crystal ball, a question about the future. What will the relationship look like, not just Central European, but Transatlantic relationship after Afghanistan? The reason I ask is for all the occasional griping from this part of Europe about the Europe "whole and free" not being the central organizing principle, it's still the case that one of the things that's on the top of your priority list, Afghanistan, is a common joint Transatlantic mission under NATO command. Once that goes there will still be a busy agenda, and you've just laid it out -- missile defense, Russia, and what not. Hand on heart, will these be top U.S. priorities or not? My sense is they won't be. You will be more worried about China, you will be more worried about India. You may well be more worried about Northern Africa. Am I right to assume that when Afghanistan is done that we may be less central, the relationship may be less central to your foreign policy priorities than it is now, and what will that mean for U.S.-European relationship in the medium run?

Moderator: Can we pick two questions?

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Sure.

Question: Thank you very much, Phil. You were not here for the former panel, hence I will repeat the question but would also direct it to the former panelists here.

France and Italy and I think Slovenia, some other states, have proposed rebalancing some of the EU funds to strengthen the support that we're giving to the south and possibly to the expense of what we're delivering in the east. So how do you think this is a good idea? That's number one.

And a very short number two question since I've got the mike anyway -- [Laughter].

Assistant Secretary Gordon: The first was a yes or no question, so that won't take long.

Question: That will be very very short. You mentioned the conference in Warsaw, the Donors Conference. And Minister Sikorski proposed at this conference that a European Endowment for Democracy should be created. Again, do you think this is a good idea? If it is, would the United States be prepared to participate in it?

Question: A quick question since you just came from the Caucasus. Three difficult questions.

One is, where does Armenia and Turkish reconciliation stand now? Can we expect any results before this coming April? If not, then what?

The second question about Nagorno-Karabakh. We had a panel here, a number of people continue to express serious concern about the state of the conflict. Do you see any signs after Astana that we could be moving somewhere?

The third question, what do you think the situation in Tunisia, et cetera, means for Azerbaijan?

Thank you.

Question: My question would be connected to the one just said. My question would be also related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Do you see any chance for closer cooperation between the U.S. and Russia in preventing the war from happening? Or to put the question the other way around, how do you evaluate the leverages the U.S. has on Armenia and on Azerbaijan regarding the conflict resolution?

Thank you very much.

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Thank you all. Those are all very good and serious questions. I suppose I should first say to anyone who arrived late thinking they were coming for the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, I'm not the Ukrainian Foreign Minister. I just don't want there to be any confusion if journalists arrived in time for what they thought was something else. [Laughter].

Tomas asked a question about shifting global priorities from the United States, or potentially shifting, which is something we hear often and thus I'm glad to have an opportunity to address it. I genuinely think it can be misunderstood.

Is the United States and is President Obama interested in and focused on China and India and Brazil and the Middle East and Afghanistan? Yes. We plead guilty. I think you would appropriately worry if we weren't and if the President wasn't. These are enormous challenges that we face and they're very high on our strategic agenda. But I think it's a misunderstanding to see the world in zero sum terms or believe that what that means is we are no longer interested in Europe, don't need Europe, and it gets pushed aside. Indeed, I would go further to argue that it is precisely because we face such tremendous global challenges that we need a strong relationship with the democratic, like-minded, prosperous allies of Europe.

I'll tell you how we think about it, viewing the world from Washington. When you ask yourself how are we going to deal with these challenges that we face -- the Iranian nuclear program, an ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, an even more potentially dangerous situation next door in Pakistan, the instability in the Middle East and now in North Africa -- unless you think we think we can do all that alone, which we can't and we don't have the resources for, then you think you need allies. Then you ask where are they going to come from? I submit to you that even in this changing geopolitical environment they're still going to come from Europe. Who is helping us in Afghanistan with this war that we are fighting? There are 40,000 European troops in Afghanistan, and European civil contributions. Who is helping us deal with the Iranian nuclear challenge? It's primarily our European partners. So yes, China is important, India is important, but they're not fighting side by side with us in Afghanistan and they're not the most helpful allies in dealing with climate change, Iran, Middle East, North Africa.

So I think Europeans really should not imagine that in the new world it means that our focus has turned elsewhere and Europe isn't important. It's important for different ways, but it is vitally important and it's really a part of the President's world view and the administration's world view.

That's related to the south/north question and shifting priorities. Again, it would be, I wouldn't sit here and say that there's not going to be increased focus on North Africa and the Middle East moving forward. As we speak, we are considering options there, faced with a major crisis there, refugee flows. But again, I think the same point holds. We're in this together. Central and Northern Europe are in it too. And in this globalized world we're going to be turning to each other to deal with these problems. Fortunately Central Europe is now part of that stable, democratic West that can help contribute to global security challenges. And we don't neglect in any way the ongoing security challenges that remain in Europe. But I think Central Europe is now part of our common alliance increasingly dealing with common global challenges.

You asked a specific question about a European Fund for Democracy. I don't have a specific answer on that initiative or whether the United States would support it. I do have a general or generic one which is that we do need to see more active support from Europeans to support and bolster and promote democracy. Fortunately, while we're all concerned about the potential negative effects from what's happening in the Middle East and North Africa, at the same time there's a potentially enormous opportunity. After so many decades of stagnation to see, and I put this in my remarks underscoring the point that Secretary Clinton underscored in Geneva about this coming from within. That's what's really potentially interesting about this is that this was not outside imposed regime change, this was not provoked by al-Qaida violence. This was from within those countries, much in the

way it also happened in Central Europe, with obvious support from the outside, just as we need to support it in North Africa and the Middle East. But that's hugely important.

So if Europeans are thinking about helping to fund that and sharing their expertise, and I mentioned the upcoming Sofia Conference, we think that's a good thing.

Auksana asked about Armenia and Turkish reconciliation. You know that is something the United States has strongly supported. The normalization process and the protocols signed between the two countries. I would be less than honest if I didn't admit that that process is stalled.

We strongly supported it. We thought it would be a step towards genuine reconciliation in the region that needs more genuine reconciliation. And it would contribute to further trust and peace and stability not just for Turkey and Armenia, but elsewhere as well.

Unfortunately while the two countries agreed to the protocols, initialed the protocols and signed them, witnessed by Secretary Clinton and other foreign ministers from Europe, the process has stalled. Turkey has said its parliament won't ratify the protocols without progress on the other dispute that you mentioned.

We believe it should go ahead and have tried to encourage the parties to move forward, and we continue to do so because we continue to believe that that is the true path to peace and stability and reconciliation in the region. We're going to continue with our efforts to get them to move forward.

You also asked about Nagorno-Karabakh. Again, I was just there with Deputy Secretary Steinberg to assess and try to contribute to the situation. The two countries through the Minsk Group process in which we are actively involved as co-chairs with the Russians and the French, actively promoting agreement on the basic principles that would again be a step towards peace between the two countries.

And the Russians have been very much involved. If I can tie it to the last question about U.S.-Russian cooperation, I would have to say U.S.-Russian cooperation is very good. The Minsk Group co-chairs work very well together. It is sometimes alleged, and I want to be completely frank about this, that we have deferred excessively to Russia because more of the meetings between the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents take place in Russia. That is true. Geographically it's closer, it's easier for them to meet in Astrakhan or Sochi than to come to Chicago. But we're actively involved in the entire process. We feel the Russians are transparent with us and vice versa. We feel we have a common interest in avoiding conflict and promoting stability and energy flows and peace in the region. So we're actively working on it.

It's difficult. There's not enough trust between the countries. But again, it comes back to what I said about the Eastern Partnership Initiative and EU involvement and American involvement. We have a common interest in finishing this business. There are parts of Europe that have become democratic and stable, and there are other parts that haven't yet, and Europe won't be complete until these other parts, which include the Balkans, which includes Belarus, which includes the Caucasus are stable as well, and once again, that's why we join together in supporting this Eastern Partnership Initiative.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Do we have a few more minutes for the second round of questions?

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Sure.

Question: Let's stay in the region and ask for Georgia. Secretary Clinton three times within a very short period of time has stated the "Russian occupation of Georgia" which is a very strong statement. The Georgians have complained they've been abandoned to some extent. There is some kind of a ban on weapons that Poland doesn't deliver, others do not want to deliver. They complain a bit. I'm not saying that they need that much weapons, but you know, I am repeating what they are saying.

The question is, do you have a kind of strategy which involves Russia on one hand and the regional powers there on the other?

Question: Phil, thank you for taking the time to share your views on this important relationship.

Let me touch on your points about the crisis going on in Libya. Could you elaborate a little bit more on the kind of dialogue you've been having with your European counterparts and perhaps give us a sense to the degree you can, where's been the greatest amount of agreement? And perhaps the greatest amount of difficulty or disagreement?

I was struck by your comments in that you mentioned an important role for the EU in that crisis. You didn't mention at all NATO. I'm not inferring there's an immediate role for NATO now with military force, but perhaps there is. But there certainly should be possibly some roles downstream for NATO in civil military development, military cooperation and such.

Why wasn't NATO on your agenda?

Question: Thank you very much for your intervention and mentioning the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. My question would be actually regarding that case as well.

You just mentioned that there is good cooperation between Russia and USA in favor of OSCE co-chair, but as Azerbaijani I'm a bit upset and kind of hopeless seeing that the last 17 years same format, same co-chairs, trying to deal with the conflict and nothing changed since 17 years. You have like OSCE co-chair which didn't change, the format, and the situation of the conflict which didn't change as well.

The question is, how we want to go further with that. It's not only U.S. perspective but also European perspective. There are some economic alternatives to solve this conflict.

At the same time today we discussed that leaving such frozen conflicts in the region can be quite a challenge and threat not only for the Caucasus but for Eastern Europe.

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Thank you. Maybe I'll go in reverse order and stay with Azerbaijan just for a minute.

Look, I understand and share your frustration and concern. We share it and that's why we're so present and active on the issue. It is a dangerous issue. It is, fortunately, frozen, but there are incidents on the line of control, there are casualties, there is a constant risk that it gets unfrozen in a negative way. And even if we don't suspect, or don't believe it likely that there is an outright invasion in the near future, there's always a chance of a miscalculation and a conflict. So I absolutely understand why you're frustrated and concerned.

I don't think frankly, that the problem is the sort of international framework for the negotiations. I say if we felt there was some other framework that would be better, we would be open to it. We feel no undue attachment to the current framework and the Minsk Group co-chairs. As I mentioned, we feel that is actually working pretty well. Among the three co-chairs and then also in touch with all the other interested parties. We feel we've been presenting the types of ideas that can help resolve the conflict. Ultimately as you know all too well, the parties themselves have a lot of fear and insecurities to overcome, and we're doing all we can to help them do so.

In Libya, I certainly didn't want to neglect NATO in thinking about it and we certainly haven't done so. Indeed I spent much of the day in touch with colleagues at NATO because as you know as early as last week NATO met and began the process of prudent planning to be ready to be able to offer our leaders more options if they choose to move in that direction. We're not prejudging anything. It's the same thing the United States is doing through its deployment of assets in the region. It is not signaling any use of force or prejudging anything. It's a step to give the President more options as what is clearly a volatile situation evolves.

That's what we believe NATO should be doing as well. Without prejudging anything, just studying the types of questions like how you could enforce an arms embargo which the UN Security Council has already mandated; like how you could help with humanitarian assistance which a number of countries have already undertaken including evacuations; like how you could implement a no-fly zone if leaders decided to implement one.

So that is our view, is that NATO should begin planning in these things because we want to be able to give our leaders the options in case they decide to go in that direction. So I didn't mean to fail to mention that.

I did mention the EU and there too, we have done some work together. The EU, like the U.S., has put sanctions on the Qadhafi family and those around it. We've taken a step further and put broader sanctions on Libya because we don't want that family and that person to have access to national assets, and we're encouraging the EU to do the same.

But the first point I made which you picked up on was just the theme of cooperation, and that I do want to stress because that was our instinct from the start, to make sure that the international community was speaking with one voice for all sorts of reasons, but not least, the more Qadhafi and those around him, and I put the stress on those around him, see that the world is at one in saying he's got to go, the less likely it is that people will rally to him and believe that his regime has a future. That's why it was important that we could quickly get a UN Security Council Resolution unanimously, including the Chinese who aren't normally quick to support such things. I think that was a real signal that the world has decided that his use of force against his own people, as President Obama said, is a sign that he'd lost support and legitimacy and needs to go.

That's why we put an emphasis on international cooperation. You heard the President when he addressed this, immediately talked about sending Secretary Clinton to Geneva to consult with European allies, sending Under Secretary Burns to Europe to consult further underscores the point I made in my speech about how Europe is now the global partner of the United States. That's what I meant by emphasizing cooperation with Europe on that point.

Finally, Georgia. You raised two aspects. You referenced occupation and the Georgian feeling of security.

Yes, Secretary Clinton referred to Russian occupation of Georgia. We don't know what else to call it. We respect Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We believe that Russia used disproportionate force and remains present in what we consider to be sovereign Georgia. So it's not meant to be a particular provocation, it's just a description of what we think the situation is and we've very active in the Geneva talks and bilaterally with Russia to try to bring about an end to what we consider to be a military occupation.

I don't think there's a basis, you referenced feelings of abandonment. I really don't think there's a basis for that, and had good talks in Tbilisi just last week on our bilateral relationship.

As I mentioned in my speech, the United States after the 2008 war gave a billion dollars to Georgia which is not an insignificant amount of money. We launched a Strategic Partnership Commission that has met several times including at the secretarial level with Secretary Clinton's involvement. She has travelled to Georgia. The Vice President has traveled to Georgia. The Deputy Secretary has travelled to Georgia. I've been five times to Georgia. They come to us regularly. The Georgian Foreign Minister was in Washington last week. I think we have an intensive and active bilateral relationship. We raise Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity directly with the Russians pretty much every time we see them. We don't hesitate to do that. We're clear that we view it as an occupation. And as I said when I talked about our desire to work more closely with Russia, I also underscored that we have some differences with Russia. We're not shy about expressing them. And one of them is Georgia, and I think we've managed to have a better relationship with Russia in lots of important ways but without, as I said here, sacrificing our principles or our friends. Georgia is one of our friends and there are some important principles involved in that relationship.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Thank you for your speech and for those answers, Mr. Gordon. Thank you for your friendship and leadership. Thank you for coming such a long way from Washington and Sofia to GlobSec Bratislava Global Security Forum. I think you deserve a big applause.

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Thank you very much.

**Беларуская дэлегацыя сустрэлася з кіраўніком МЗС Славакіі**  
**[Belarusian delegation met with Slovak Foreign Minister]**  
**New.racyja.com, 3.3.2011**

Сустрэчай з міністрам замежных спраў Славакіі Мікулашам Дзурындам пачаўся візіт дэлегацыі беларускай апазіцыі на міжнародную канферэнцыю «Globsec», якая пачала працу ў Браціславе.

Для абмеркавання беларускага пытання на канферэнцыю запрошаныя, між іншых, першы спікер беларускага парламента Станіслаў Шушкевіч, лідар Руху «За свабоду» Аляксандр Мілінкевіч і лідар партыі «Справядлівы свет» Сяргей Калякін:

*– Ён выказаў сваю пазіцыю аб тым, што Славакія будзе дапамагаць грамадзянскай супольнасці, аб тым, што яны выступаюць за тое, каб былі адпушчаны ўсе палітвязні – гэта папярэдня ўмова ўсякіх стасункаў Славакіі з беларускай уладай. Адбылася гутарка аб тых падзеях, якія адбыліся і цяпер адбываюцца ў Беларусі. Таксама былі ў нашых сяброў сустрэчы ў парламенце Славакіі, дзе вяліся размовы пра цяперашнія стасункі Беларусі і Еўрасаюза, аб будучыні «Усходняга партнёрства».*

Раніцай 3 сакавіка ў Браціславе ў фармаце слуханняў пад шыльдай «Беларусь пасля выбараў: ці спрацуюць санкцыі?» беларускую сітуацыю абмяркуюць удзельнікі міжнароднай канферэнцыі па бяспецы «Globsec 2011».

Паралельна ў Браціславе праходзіць сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў краін Вышаградскай групы – Польшчы, Славакіі, Чэхіі і Венгрыі. Не выключана, што беларуская дэлегацыя сустрэнецца таксама з некаторымі ўдзельнікамі вышаградскай групы.

### **Вышэградская чацьвёрка кажа пра далейшыя санкцыі супраць Лукашэнкі** **[Visegrad group talks about further sanctions against Lukashenko]**

**Svaboda.org, 3.3.2011**

Чэхія, Славацчына, Вугоршчына і Польшча працягваюць ціск на аўтарытарны рэжым Аляксандра Лукашэнкі ў Беларусі, паведамляе чэскае агенцтва СТК. Міністры замежных справаў гэтых чатырох краінаў – гэтак званая Вышэградская чацьвёрка – сёння на сустрэчы ў Браціславе, у якой прыняў удзел і міністар замежных справаў Нямецчыны, заклікалі Лукашэнку вызваліць усіх палітычных вязняў і спыніць пераслед апазіцыі. У супрацьлеглым выпадку Менску пагражаюць далейшыя санкцыі, адначасна СТК.

"Краіна, дзе пануе таталітарызм, ня мае ніякай будучыні. Мы далі ясна зразумець прэзыдэнту Лукашэнку – ніякая дыскусія зь ягоным рэжымам не бярэцца пад увагу, пакуль у турме будзе заставацца хоць адзін палітычны вязень", – заявіў перад журналістамі міністар замежных справаў Славацчыны Мікулаш Дзурында.

Міністры замежных справаў Вышэградскай чацьвёркі і Нямецчыны ды Кэтрын Эштан, вярхоўны прадстаўнік Эўразьвязу ў пытаннях замежнай палітыкі і палітыкі бясьпекі, сёння ўзялі ўдзел у сустрэчы з прадстаўнікамі краін-удзельніц Усходняга партнёрства. Беларусь на гэтай сустрэчы прадстаўляў намесьнік міністра замежных справаў Валеры Варанецкі. СТК адзначае, што Варанецкі не зьявіўся на супольнай прэс-канферэнцыі, каб адказаць на словы крытыкі з боку іншых удзельнікаў сустрэчы.

### **С. Шушкевіч: Эўропа павінна прызнаць бясплатныя візы для грамадзянаў Беларусі** **[S. Shushkevich: Europe has to recognize free visas for citizens of Belarus]**

**Poslradio.pl, 3.3.2011**

Эўропа павінна прызнаць бясплатныя візы для грамадзянаў Беларусі, каб тыя мелі магчымасьць пабачыць, як жывецца ў Эўропе, паколькі сёння яна не даступная для большасці беларускага грамадства, заявіў у інтэрвію для вядучай славацкай штодзёнкі "SME" былы старшыня Вярхоўнай рады беларускага парламэнту Станіслаў Шушкевіч. Сьтуацыя ў Беларусі й эўрапейскія санкцыі былі вядучымі тэмамі інтэрвію.

Шушкевіч разам зь іншымі беларскімі апазіцыйнымі палітыкамі прыехалі ў Братыславу па запрашэньні славацкага МЗС.

На пытаньне, чаму Беларусь не ідзе ўслед за Эгіптам і Лібіяй, якія паўсталі супраць сваіх дыктатараў, Шушкевіч адказаў, што жорсткая расправа міліцыі й крымінальныя справы ў дачынінны прадстаўнікоў апазіцыі напалохалі грамадства.

**Новости :: Новости Беларуси**  
**[News: News about Belarus]**  
**Odsгомel.org, 3.3.2011**

Милинкевич и Дзуриндо приняли участие в БРАТИСЛАВСКОЙ АКЦИИ СОЛИДАРНОСТИ

Лидер движения «За свободу» Александр Милинкевич вместе с министром иностранных дел Словакии Микулошем Дзуриндо приняли участие в акции солидарности с политзаключенными Беларуси.

*Милинкевич: «Это была акция на том месте, где постепенно началась словацкая революция против деспотии. И это была очень красивая акция. Люди стояли с портретами политзаключенных, говорили о том, что Европа должна стоять на своих ценностях и будет отстаивать освобождение этих заключенных, при том без всяких условий. И не может быть никаких контактов с официальным Минском сегодня, кроме разговоров об освобождении. Будет освобождение, и тогда возможен переход к другим формам диалога. А сегодня только освобождение, и это было очень важно. И если министр пришел на эту акцию, он сделал такой очень серьезный гражданский поступок. Мы ему очень благодарны за это».*

В Братиславе пройдут встречи министров иностранных дел стран Вышеградской группы - Польши, Словакии, Чехии и Венгрии, а также «Восточного партнерства» и Германии. В них примет участие заместитель министра иностранных дел Беларуси Валерий Воронецкий. А. Милинкевич сообщил, что он также примет участие в большинстве этих встреч. Он сказал, что знает о визите господина Воронцакого.

Александр Милинкевич отмечает важность приглашения делегации от демократических сил Беларуси. Он надеется на жесткое давление на официальный Минск для освобождения политзаключенных и на открытость к белорусскому обществу. Господин Милинкевич надеется, что Европа будет иметь консолидированную, общую позицию:

*«Мы снова говорим о визах. Беларусь должны как можно больше быть в Европе, чтобы сравнивать и хотеть жить по-европейски. Мы будем говорить о сотрудничестве с гражданским обществом, так как эта часть самая главная для демократических преобразований в стране. Очень важны молодежные обмены и стипендии. Ведь не только поляки должны тянуть это бремя стипендий, но и другие страны. Сегодня министр отметил, что будут стипендии и словацкого правительства, и в других странах. Это чрезвычайно важно».*

**На новыя прысуды — новыя санкцыі**  
**[To new judgments – new sanctions]**  
**Svaboda.org, 3.3.2011**

Новыя прысуды палітычным вязьням у Менску паскараюць увядзеньне новых санкцыяў супраць беларускіх чыноўнікаў. Такая думка сёньня гучала ў Браціславе, дзе знаходзіцца група беларускіх актывістаў апазыцыі. Яны ўдзельнічаюць у мерапрыемствах у рамках сустрэчы міністраў замежных спраў «Вышаградзкай чацьвёркай» з прадстаўнікамі краін «Ўсходняга партнэрства» і міжнароднай канфэрэнцыі па бясьпецы «Globsec — 2011».

Сёньняшняе пленарнае пасяджэньне міжнароднай канфэрэнцыі па бясьпецы ў Браціславе адкрылася беларускай тэмай, якая прыцягнула ўвагу ня толькі краінаў «Вышаградзкай чацьвёркай» і «Ўсходняга партнэрства», але і іншых дзяржаваў Эўразьвязу. Прысутнічалі міністры замежных спраў і абароны, іхныя намесьнікі, палітыкі, аналітыкі. Адно гэта паказвае, наколькі Беларусь цяпер актуальная для эўрапейскай супольнасьці, распавёў «Свабодзе» з Браціславы Аляксандар Мілінкевіч:

«Разуменьне таго, што адбываецца ў нас, агульнараспаўсюджанае. І гэта цешыць. Таму што зь Беларусьсю трэба працаваць стратэгічна. А ня толькі падчас выбараў».

Тэму дыскусіі сфармулявалі так: «Беларусь пасья выбараў: ці спрацуюць санкцыі?». «І да якога ж адказу на гэтае пытаньне прышлі ўдзельнікі канфэрэнцыі?» — спытаў я Аляксандра Мілінкевіча:

«Яны лічаць, што санкцыі Лукашэнка прызначае сабе сам. Эўропа іх не хацела б. Але яна абавязаная гэта

рабіць, бо ёсьць маральныя каштоўнасьці, і яна будзе іх трымацца. А тыя прысуды, што на сёньня ўжо ёсьць, павялічваюць і паскараюць шанцы на тое, што будуць і далей уводзіцца новыя санкцыі. Прычым адначасова з ЗША».

У дыскусіі ўдзельнічаў і старшыня Партыі БНФ Аляксей Янукевіч:

«Галоўныя тэзы майго выступу палягалі ў тым, што мы мусім падзяляць кароткатэрміновыя і доўгатэрміновыя мэты. Першая — вызваленьне палітвязьняў. І яе неабходна вырашаць, сумяшчаючы ўнутраны ціск са зьнешнім.

А пытаньне стратэгічнае — пабудова дэмакратыі ў краіне — можа быць вырашанае выключна знутры. Рэжым сам ня можа стаць дэмакратычным. І з-за мяжы таксама немагчыма зрабіць дэмакратычныя пераўтварэньні. І з гэтага, на мой погляд, выцякае неабходнасьць пабудовы і стварэньня доўгатэрміновай стратэгіі супрацоўніцтва міжнароднай супольнасьці з дэмакратычнымі сіламі. То бок акцэнт павінен быць перанесены са спробаў будаваць нейкую дарожную мапу стасункаў з рэжымам (хоць і неабходна мець яснае бачаньне, як іх будаваць) на пабудову стратэгічнага пляну супрацоўніцтва з дэмакратычнымі сіламі Беларусі».

Увечары беларускія палітыкі і грамадзкія дзеячы, сярод якіх яшчэ Станіслаў Шушкевіч, Аляксандар Казулін, Сяргей Калякін ды іншыя, маюць сустрэцца з эўракамісарам Фюле.

### **Milinkevich: EU's attention isn't a mere echo of presidential election**

**Pyx.by, 3.3.2011**

An important international security conference named Globsec-2011 takes place in Bratislava from March 2 to March 4. It is attended by influential experts from many European countries, by ministers, by deputy foreign ministers, and by ministers of defence of the region's states.

Belarusian problematics became one of the major issues of the conference. In particular, the hearings named "Belarus After Election: Will Sanctions Yield Results?" devoted to our country were arranged".

The leader of the Movement For Freedom (MFF) Alaksandr Milinkevich who is present there told Pyx.by that he was asked why such situation happened in Belarus:

"I answered that the relations with the democratic world were very important to the authorities, including in order to modernize the economy. However, this prospect was sacrificed in order to control the situation inside the country, and to oppose the protest moods that have risen, while Lukashenka's rating has dropped. The authorities don't act strategically but in accordance with the tactics of today – for the sake of self-preservation. That's why pressure is exerted both on political parties and on the civil society".

According to Milinkevich, it seemed at the conference that any possible forms of pressure on the Belarusian authorities should be used in order to free the political prisoners. A discussion took place concerning the question of how to help the democratic forces. The experts discussed much the role of parties, and that they should work with the population more, wondered how influential the "third sector" and the independent media are, and if the existing programmes of support on the part of the EU are useful.

One of the central thoughts was that – based on the experience of overthrowing communist and authoritarian regimes – no changes without consolidation and without a single leader could happen.

Based on the conference's work, and judging by the level and depth of discussion of the situation in our country, Milinkevich made a conclusion that "the EU will deal with the Belarusian issue in a strategic way, and the current attention isn't a mere echo of the events that happened at the recent presidential election and after it".

### **Глава МИД Словакии поддержал белорусскую оппозицию**

**[Slovak Foreign Minister supported the belarusian opposition]**

**News.vt.me.by, 3.3.2011**

- Я хотел бы передать послание людям Беларуси о том, что они не одни. Я верю, что в недалеком будущем они смогут насладиться свободой, - сказал министр иностранных дел Словакии Микулаш Дзуринда 2 марта на встрече в Братиславе с представителями белорусской демократической оппозиции. Его слова приводит БелаПАН.

Станислав Шушкевич поблагодарил представителя Словакии за поддержку и помощь:

- Путь белорусского народа к свободе был бы намного более долгим без вашей поддержки, - сказал Станислав Станиславович.

В группу белорусских политиков, которые приехали на встречу в Братиславу, входят бывшие кандидаты в президенты Александр Козулин и Александр Милинкевич, Сергей Калякин, Алексей Янукевич и некоторые политические аналитики. С 1 по 4 марта здесь проходит международная конференция по безопасности Globsec 2011. Среди прочих тем здесь обсуждается ситуация в Беларуси.

### **Белорусы смогут насладиться свободой в недалеком будущем, уверен министр иностранных дел Словакии**

**[Slovak foreign Minister said: I am sure that Belarusians will be able to enjoy freedom in near future]**

**Belapan.com, 3.3.2011**

Минск, 3 марта. Министр иностранных дел Словакии Микулаш Дзуринда 2 марта принял в Братиславе представителей белорусской демократической оппозиции.

Как сообщает сайт МИД Словакии, министр выразил солидарность с белорусским народом: "Я хотел бы передать послание людям Беларуси о том, что они не одни. Я верю, что в недалеком будущем они смогут насладиться свободой".

Станислав Шушкевич выразил благодарность представителю Словакии за поддержку и помощь: "Путь белорусского народа к свободе был бы намного более долгим без вашей поддержки".

Группа белорусских оппозиционеров, в которую также входят Сергей Калякин, Александр Козулин, Александр Милинкевич, Алексей Янукевич и некоторые политические аналитики, находится с визитом в Братиславе 1—4 марта. В эти дни в словацкой столице проходит международная конференция по безопасности Globsec 2011, на которой среди прочих тем обсуждается ситуация в Беларуси.

В рамках председательства Словакии в Вышеградской группе 3 марта в Братиславе проходит расширенный саммит министров иностранных дел стран — членов объединения (Венгрия, Польша, Словакия, Чехия) и стран — участниц Восточного партнерства (Армения, Азербайджан, Беларусь, Грузия, Молдова и Украина). Беларусь на саммите представляет заместитель министра иностранных дел Валерий Воронецкий. Среди специальных гостей — министр иностранных дел ФРГ Гидо Вестервелле, верховный представитель Евросоюза по иностранным делам и политике безопасности Кэтрин Эштон, еврокомиссар по вопросам расширения и Европейской политики добрососедства Штефан Фюле.

Вышеградская группа проводит саммит с целью выразить поддержку политике Восточного партнерства и впоследствии собирается эффективно способствовать политической и экономической стабилизации в странах — участницах этой инициативы ЕС.

### **Беларусь — вызов для безопасности ЕС и НАТО, считает участник конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011**

**[Belarus – a challenge for the security of the EU and NATO, said a participant of the conference about security Globsec 2011]**

**Belapan.info, 3.3.2011**

Минск, 3 марта. Белорусская ситуация обсуждалась 3 марта на международной конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011 в Братиславе, сообщает официальный сайт мероприятия.

Представитель американской некоммерческой организации Рафт в Беларуси и Украине, политический аналитик Балаш Ярабик заявил, что Беларусь представляет вызов для безопасности ЕС и НАТО. Он также

отметил, что построение демократии является долгосрочным процессом.

Старший научный сотрудник польского Института международных отношений Эугениуш Смоляр заявил, что ЕС и США должны очень четко сформулировать видение того, что им следует предпринять в отношении Беларуси.

В дни проведения конференции, 2—4 марта, в Братиславе находится с визитом группа белорусских оппозиционеров, в состав которой, по информации сайта МИД Словакии, входят Сергей Калякин, Александр Козулин, Александр Милинкевич, Станислав Шушкевич, Алексей Янукевич и политические аналитики.

Милинкевич принял участие в сессии Globsec, посвященной ситуации в Беларуси.

### **МИД Словакии: Белоруссия стала главной проблемой Европы**

**[Slovak Foreign Minister: Belarus became Europe's main problem]**

**Newsland.ru, 3.3.2011**

*Лукашенко намекнули, что ему пора уходить вслед за диктаторами на Ближнем Востоке.*

Накануне представительного международного форума по глобальной безопасности GlobSec-2011, который откроется 3 марта в столице Словакии, в центре Братиславы состоялся пикет солидарности с белорусскими политзаключенными, сообщает СВОБОДНЫЙ ПОРТАЛ со ссылкой на Хартия\*97

Участники, среди которых были Станислав Шушкевич, Александр Козулин, Ирина Красовская, Сергей Калякин, Александр Милинкевич, послы, представители неправительственных организаций из Европы и США, а также активисты легендарной Хартии'77, держали в руках портреты белорусов - политических узников КГБ.

Символично, автором снимков является экс-министр иностранных дел Словакии Павол Демеш. "В Европе все знают белорусского диктатора в лицо, но никто не знает в лицо политзаключенных. Поэтому мы проводим акцию с портретами", говорит Павол Демеш.

Вместе с ним в акции принял участие и действующий министр иностранных дел Микулаш Дзуринда. Влиятельный словацкий политик заявил, что "Беларусь стала главной проблемой Европы. В этом есть какая-то ирония. Диктаторы уходят даже на Ближнем Востоке, а последний диктатор остается здесь".

На форуме одной из главных тем станет ситуация в Беларуси. С белорусского вопроса GlobSec-2011 и начнет свою работу.

### **Slovak Foreign Minister: Belarus became Europe's main problem**

**Charter97.org, 3.3.2011**

*Lukashenka was given a hint that it's time for him to go following the dictators in the Middle East.*

*A picket of solidarity with Belarusian political prisoners was held in Bratislava, Slovakia's capital, ahead of GLOBSEC 2011 Global Security Forum opening on March 3.*

*The participants, among them Stanislav Shushkevich, Alyaksandr Kazulin, Iryna Krasouskaya, Syarhei Kalyakin, Alyaksandr Milinkevich, ambassadors, representatives of European and American NGOs, activists of the legendary Charter 77, were holding portraits of KGB political prisoners.*

*The author of photos was Pavol Demeš, a former Slovak foreign minister. "Everyone in Europe knows the how dictator looks, but no one knows how political prisoners look. That is why we are carrying out an action with portraits," Pavol Demeš says.*

*Current minister of foreign affairs Mikuláš Dzurinda also took part in the action. The influential Slovak politician said: "Belarus has become Europe's main problem. That's a kind of irony. Dictators are being overthrown even in the Middle East, but the last dictator is still here."*

The situation in Belarus will be among main topics at the forum. The GLOBSEC 2011 is supposed to start its work from discussion of the Belarusian issue.

### **Alyaksandr Kazulin: How many people must be killed and imprisoned in Belarus?**

**Charter97.org, 3.3.2011**

The Global Security Forum GLOBSEC 2011 opened in Bratislava with discussing the situation in Belarus.

The first forum session "Belarus after the elections: will sanctions work?" was devoted to Belarus. First head of the independent Belarus Stanislau Shushkevich, former presidential candidate and political prisoner Alyaksandr Kazulin, chairman of the For Freedom movement Alyaksandr Milinkevich, Slovak human rights activist Balázs Jarábik, representative of the European Humanities University Alyaksei Pikulik, representative of Brussels-based Centre for European Studies Eugeniusz Smolar, and former foreign minister of Slovakia Pavol Demeš took part in the conference.

As charter97.org website learned from Iryna Krasouskaya, the head of We Remember foundation, Alyaksandr Kazulin and Stanislau Shushkevich made the most emotional speeches.

Alyaksandr Kazulin said the global community must urgently react to the situation in Belarus, because the real leaders of the Belarusian opposition were in prison. The politician reminded that Alyaksandr Atroshchankau, spokesman for presidential candidate Andrei Sannikov, had been sentenced to 4 years in a medium security penal colony, and the crackdown would only grow. The machine of Stalin-style purges was put into operation in the country. "How long must we tolerate this? How many people must be killed and imprisoned in Belarus? This dictatorship is dangerous for Europe, not only for Belarus," the former political prisoner said.

Stanislau Shushkevich spoke about the funds allocated the European Union for the civil society development and noted that people who really worked for democracy in Belarus had inner convictions. According to him, people in prisons are real heroes of the country and must be rescued.

Pavol Demeš, a former foreign minister of Slovakia, attended Independence Square in Minsk on December 19 and spoke about brutal dispersal of the demonstration and mass arrests of opposition members.

The Belarusian issues provoked a hot discussion. People asked about the events on December 19, a possible reply by the EU and the US, possible actions to develop civil society in Belarus, and sanctions to be imposed on the regime of Lukashenka.

Belarus was a key topic in the speech by Milan Ježovica, the Slovak MFA Press Secretary. According to him, the regime in Minsk must not have a good sleep imagining that the whole Europe is concerned only about the problems in the Middle East. "We must demand the release of political prisoners. When looking at Minsk, Europe should not only know and remember President Lukashenka as the face of the regime. We must see and know the faces of democratic activists," Ježovica said.

Portraits of all Belarusian political prisoners were exhibited in the foyer of the hotel hosting the GLOBSEC 2011. Every participant of the forum was handed in a booklet "Release Political Prisoners!" with portraits of Belarusian prisoners of conscience.

### **V4 to stay active player in Eastern Partnership (adds GLOBSEC)**

**Englishdemo.mfi.hu, 3.3.2011**

Bratislava, March 3 (MTI) - Neighbourhood policy is the most important element of the European Union's security policy, Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi said at a GLOBSEC conference in Bratislava on Thursday. "If the European Union wants to be a serious global player, meaning that it wants to get a political role in addition to political power, then it must first prove in its neighbourhood that it can advocate its principles and influence events," Martonyi told the conference.

The four countries in the Visegrad cooperation - the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia - as well as Germany want to continue their active role in the European Union's Eastern Partnership programme, said a statement issued by foreign ministers of those countries after a meeting in Bratislava earlier on Thursday.

The ministers participating in the meeting expressed commitment to support and shape the programme and to continue preparations for an Eastern Partnership summit to be held in Warsaw, during Poland's EU Presidency in the second half of this year, the document said.

The participants expressed their countries' readiness to share experience with their eastern neighbours, but said that enforcing human rights, efforts to build a constitutional state and to strengthen democracy were prerequisites for further developing ties between the EU and its eastern partners.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi said the EU's Southern and Eastern Partnership programmes should go hand in hand, as one cannot be successful without the other.

The meeting was also attended by Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the EU, as well as Stefan Fule, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy.

### **Bozinovic and Galko open the "GLOBSEC" conference**

***Morh.hr, 4.3.2011***

Review and modification of strategic documents in the field of defence and security, cutting unnecessary costs in the defence and cooperation with partners on specific projects within NATO and in the region, are some of the possibilities how the states can find a balance between the defence capabilities and costs of the sector. The Defence Minister of the Republic of Croatia Davor Bozinovic said that at the opening of the GLOBSEC 2011 conference today, Thursday, 3 March 2011, in Bratislava.

"Creating a new Strategic Defence Review is waiting for the Republic of Croatia, we are also working on further examination of possibilities for achieving savings, and joining NATO and soon the EU opens us the possibility to cooperate with other countries on specific projects in the defence sector", Minister Bozinovic said. As a good example, Bozinovic mentioned initiative for Central European solutions for the pooling and sharing of defence capabilities which capabilities recently begun to examine Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The economic crisis in the world, and thus in Croatia had a significant impact on national budgets in general, but also on the defence budgets, but despite that Croatia, as a new NATO member, has successfully responded to all tasks, Minister Bozinovic said. Continued implementation of the reforms in the Armed Forces and the defence system was not questionable, and Croatian participation in the ISAF mission was particularly notable from the international community. Minister Bozinovic emphasized efforts of members of the Croatian Armed Forces in Afghanistan, especially in training and mentoring of Afghan security forces. Minister Bozinovic reminded on the founding of the Military Police School in Afghanistan under Croatian leadership, where the countries from the region joined - Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro.

GLOBSEC conference is a leading forum for the most important political and security issues in Central Europe, and is held every year since 2005. The conference brought together officials and experts in the field of security around the world, and the main topics are related to current and future global challenges. This year's topics are: "Transatlantic Relations in the 21st century - the role of central Europe," "European Union - today and tomorrow", "New challenges for NATO", "NATO and the EU", "NATO and transatlantic relations after the Lisbon Summit". After the presentation held at the opening of the conference, defence ministers of Croatia and Slovakia Davor Bozinovic and Lubomir Galko held a bilateral meeting. It was agreed the more intensive cooperation between the two ministries, particularly regarding the development of strategic documents in the areas of defence, but also on the investigating the possibility of cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries especially in the area of centres of excellence in the two countries.

Besides Minister Bozinovic, the conference was also attended by the Deputy Chief of general Staff for Plans and Resources, Lieutenant General Slavko Baric.

### **GLOBSEC 2011 in Bratislava**

***German.cri.cn, 4.3.2011***

Das Internationale Sicherheitsforum GLOBSEC 2011 ist am Mittwoch in der slowakischen Hauptstadt Bratislava eröffnet worden. Mittlerweile sind sich die vier Staaten der Visegrad-Gruppe in immer mehr Punkten einig. Sie wollen innerhalb der EU eine wichtigere Rolle spielen. Unter diesen Umständen wird die diesjährige Konferenz weltweit mit großer Aufmerksamkeit verfolgt.

Nach über sechs Jahren hat sich das GLOBSEC zu einer wichtigen Sitzung zur Erörterung und Koordinierung diplomatischer und sicherheitsbezogener Fragen in Mitteleuropa entwickelt. An dieser Konferenz nehmen hochrangige Vertreter der Visegrad-Gruppe aus Polen, Tschechien, der Slowakei und Ungarn, sowie Repräsentanten der Länder des „Programms über die Partnerschaft im Osten“, darunter der Ukraine, Weißrussland und Aserbaidschan, teil. Auch die EU-Außenbeauftragte Catherine Ashton, der EU-Kommissar für Erweiterung und europäische Nachbarschaftspolitik Stefan Füle sowie der deutsche Außenminister Guido Westerwelle sind nach Bratislava bekommen.

Im Mittelpunkt der Konferenz steht die Energiesicherheit in Mitteleuropa. Vor zwei Jahren kam es zwischen Russland und der Ukraine zu einer Naturgas-Kontroverse. Der EU drohte eine Unterbrechung der Gasversorgung. Dadurch ist den mitteleuropäischen Staaten die Notwendigkeit zur Lösung der Energiesicherheitsfrage bewusster geworden. Heute ist die Energieversorgung weiter aufgefächert. Während der Konferenz werden die Teilnehmer schwerpunktmäßig den Bau einer Naturgas-Pipeline zur Verbindung zwischen Norden und Süden in diesem Versorgungsnetz erörtern. Diese Pipeline soll von Polen nach Kroatien führen. Nach der Fertigstellung ist sie wichtiger Bestandteil des europäischen Energierversorgungsnetzes.

Ein stärkeres Mitspracherecht der Visegrad-Gruppe in der EU ist ein weiterer Aspekt der Konferenz. Die vier Länder werden ihre Ansichten dazu koordinieren.

Daneben wird auch über die Vorantreibung des „Programms über die Partnerschaft im Osten“ diskutiert. Das Programm wurde ursprünglich von Polen und Schweden mit dem Ziel initiiert, die Beziehungen der EU zu den sechs Nachbarländern, darunter die Ukraine und Weißrussland, und der EU zu vertiefen.

### **Datum pregovora na jesen**

**[Date of negotiations in the autumn]**

**Pobjeda.co.me, 4.3.2011, Author: Marija Jovičević**

Visoki evropski zvaničnik poručuje da naša zemlja neće čekati susjede u regionu i odbacuje navode da bi, „zbog racionalnosti“, Crna Gora, Srbija i Makedonija trebalo zajednički da uđu u EU

BRATISLAVA - Crna Gora će dobiti datum za početak pregovora na jesen. Vjerujemo da će ispuniti sedam uslova koje je pred nju postavila Evropska komisija - kazao je za Pobjedu evropski komesar za proširenje Štefan File.

Evropski komesar učestvovao je na samitu o globalnoj bezbjednosti (GLOBSEC) koji je juče počeo u Bratislavi.

Na pitanje novinara Pobjede kako procjenjuje evropsku perspektivu Crne Gore, File je kazao da naša zemlja „već dokazuje da će odraditi posao“.

- Ukoliko ispuniti sedam kriterijuma, EK će znati to da cijeni, kao i do sada. Nemojte da brinete, vaš napredak će biti pošteno vrednovan u Izvještaju Evropske komisije - kazao je File.

Visoki evropski zvaničnik poručuje da naša zemlja neće čekati susjede u regionu i odbacuje navode da bi, „zbog racionalnosti“, Crna Gora, Srbija i Makedonija trebalo zajednički da uđu u EU.

- Evropska komisija ne podržava princip zajedničkog ulaska. Osim toga, potpuno je evidentno da je Crna Gora napravila veliki iskorak na Zapadnom Balkanu. Individualni pristup je princip EK, koji se neće mijenjati. Koliko god da ste brojčano i teritorijalno mali, ukoliko ispuniti uslove, postajete članica Evropske unije. Dinamiku vaših susjeda ćemo procjenjivati individualno. Uvijek ćemo partnere nagrađivati za njihova dostignuća, kako su zaslužili - poručio je Štefan File.

Sa evropskim komesarom danas će se u Briselu sastati predsjednik Vlade Crne Gore Igor Lukšić. Iz Bratislave, Marija Jovičević

## **Demokratska stagnacija brine Zapad**

**[Democratic stagnation bothers West]**

**Pobjeda.co.me, 4.3.2011, Author: Marija Jovičević**

Poručeno da EU zbog arabijskih promjena neće zapostaviti postkomunističe susjede

BRATISLAVA – Evropska unija i NATO moraju pronaći efikasnije mehanizme kako bi se na pravi način izborile sa velikim promjenama u arabijskom svijetu, ali i sa demokratskom stagnacijom zemalja Istočnog partnerstva - poručeno je sa Globalnog bezbjednosnog foruma Globsec 2011, koji se održava u Bratislavi.

U isto vrijeme, šefovi diplomatija Poljske, Češke, Mađarske, domaćina Slovačke i Njemačke su na proširenom ministarskom sastanku Višegradske četvorke apelovali na Evropsku uniju da zbog krize u arabijskom svijetu ne smije zapostaviti svoje postkomunističke susjede.

### Podrška

U Bratislavi su se juče od najviših zvaničnika EU Ketrin Ešton i evropskog komesara za proširenje i susjednu politiku Štefana Filea, kao i ministara inostranih poslova Mađarske i Češke Janoša Martonjija i Karla Švancerberga mogle čuti riječi podrške svim zemljama koje imaju aspiraciju da uđu u Evropsku uniju i na taj način osnaže ovu organizaciju. Ponovili su da Evropska unija počiva na fundamentalnim vrijednostima i načelu inkluzivnosti i otvorenosti za sve svoje partnere. Martonji je kazao da zemlje Istočnog partnerstva neće ostati bez podrške EU.

### Reforme

File je istakao da zemlje Istočnog partnerstva imaju podršku Evropske unije, ali da od država zavisi da li će sprovesti reforme i prihvatiti zajedničke vrijednosti EU.

- Ova godina se pokazala kao godina velikih promjena, ali još ne znamo gdje će nas odvesti. EU mora naći način da odgovori na ove promjene sa odlučnošću i prethodno smišljenom strategijom kako pomoći zemljama arabijskog svijeta. Ali to neće promijeniti odnos prema zemljama Istočnog partnerstva. Radićemo na obje strane i činiti sve što je u našoj moći da oba regiona postanu što stabilnija - kazao je File.

### Bjelorusija

Posebna tema jučerašnjeg bezbjednosnog samita bila je situacija u Bjelorusiji koja, prema riječima analitičara, predstavlja veliki problem za EU i NATO.

Prisustvo bjeloruske opozicije na Globsecu, kao i dolazak zamjenika ministra inostranih poslova Bjelorusije Valerija Voronjeckog, bili su prilika da se predsjedniku Aleksandru Lukašenki prenesu poruke da se EU namjerava direktnije boriti protiv njegovog represivnog režima.

Valerij Voronjecki je prvi bjeloruski zvaničnik koji se pojavljuje na evropskim okupljanjima otkako je EU uvela sankcije protiv predsjednika Bjelorusije i drugih tamošnjih zvaničnika umiješanih u nasilno gušenje aktivnosti demokratske opozicije.

### Balkan

Iako Zapadni Balkan nije bio tema Globseca, analitičari procjenjuju da je pozitivno to što ni na jednom panelu nije pomenut u negativnom kontekstu, jer ga EU već smatra riješenim pitanjem. Međutim, to je otvorilo polemiku da i Zapadni Balkan mora tražiti načine da se nametne Uniji, koja već ima veliki broj problema i uveliko pati od sindroma zamora od proširenja.

## **Croatia accession cup is either half full or half empty**

**Bne.eu, 4.3.2011, Author: Nicholas Watson**

Depending on whom you speak to, the latest interim report on Croatia's bid to join the EU that was approved by the European Commission on March 2 either showed the Balkan country the route needed to follow to wrap up

the negotiations by the target date of the end of June, or was so critical that it effectively ended any remaining hopes it could meet that date.

For its part, the Croatian government was putting an optimistic spin on the report, which criticises it for not meeting all of the 10 benchmarks required in reforming its judiciary and in fighting corruption and organised crime, meaning that this "Chapter 23" of the accession process won't, as had been hoped, be closed. Croatia has closed 28 out of 35 chapters in its accession negotiations with the EU.

"Croatia is making considerable progress and also very important this is a shopping list of what we need to do and I am sure that we won't just double, but triple our efforts," Davor Bozinovic, the Croatian defence minister, told *bne* on the sidelines of the Globesec 2011 forum in Bratislava. "Our final goal is to wrap up negotiations in June."

Janos Martonyi, minister of foreign affairs for Hungary, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency and, for the historical prestige, would love to be in charge when another country joins the EU family, said that despite all the "difficulties and challenges," his government is still determined to conclude the negotiations by the June deadline, which would see Croatia join from 2013.

Taking one for the team

One familiar refrain trotted out by candidate countries and their supporters is that the accession of a country to the EU is not just about that one country, but is also about giving hope to the others waiting further down the line and convince them that it's in their interests to continue down the reform path. "What matters here is the political message not only for Croatia but other countries – that despite all the enlargement fatigue and reservations over this process, don't give up," Martonyi said. "That will give a message that the EU is working, that it is not a fortress. We don't want to isolate ourselves."

The European Commission certainly understands that, yet since allowing in Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, both of which upon joining immediately started backsliding in their efforts to tackle corruption, it is being unapologetically stricter in forcing the candidate countries to fully meet the conditions of accession. "I think it would be unfair to say that the rules of the game have changed, but the way we work with the candidate country, yes we have, we did change. We are more demanding in trying to see the country indeed fulfills everything. What really matters is not ticking the boxes, but showing a track record," Stefan Fule, European Commissioner for enlargement and neighbourhood policy, told *bne*. "But this should not be a surprise to anyone. We all know this since 2006 and the previous enlargement."

For Fule and others, it is only by ensuring that at the end of this process there will be a candidate country fully prepared to assume the responsibilities stemming from membership, the Commission can make the process of enlargement a credible one and one the existing member states will continue to agree to support.

And if that risks infuriating citizens of the candidate countries, then so be it. The Croatian capital Zagreb was rocked by violent anti-government protests on February 26 as a wide range of interest groups took to the streets to voice their disenchantment with an administration increasingly seen as being out of touch with public opinion. In the protesters' minds at least, the country's political elite is tainted by a toxic admixture of corruption, economic illiteracy and toadyism towards the EU, which is being regarded with increasing hostility by Croatians fed up with the long drawn-out accession process. Several thousand anti-government protestors, mostly young people, marched through the Croatian capital again on March 2 calling on conservative Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor to step down.

In the long run, Fule stresses that what the Commission is doing will be for the benefit of the Croatian people. "This will be of benefit to the citizens of the enlargement country because what the whole of Chapter 23 is about is that you have this prosecutorial council, you have legislation but does it work? Will it stand the test of independence? This is not just important for bureaucrats in Brussels, but also important for the citizens of Croatia."

With Croatia regarded by many as a hotbed of corruption – the previous PM, Ivo Sanader, who did much to get Croatia as far as it is in the EU accession process, is now in custody in Austria on suspicion of money laundering and embezzlement of millions of euros – that's probably true. But such arguments will probably do little to cool

tempers when, as many predict, Croatia will have to abandon its self-imposed deadline of the end of June and move it back to the end of the year at least.

In the longer term, Fule's comments to *bne* also suggest that this crucial Chapter 23, which covers judiciary and fundamental rights, will be moved up in the accession process of candidate countries to nearer the beginning rather than near the end, as it currently is. This is a reflection not only of the EU's growing preoccupation with the spiralling corruption in the newer member states – the single worst performing indicator across the set of countries over the past decade – but also in the difficulty that countries have in putting in place the institutions and laws needed to root it out.

### **Global Security Forum opens with discussion about Belarus** **Spring96.org, 4.3.2011**

The Global Security Forum GLOBSEC 2011 opened in Bratislava with discussing the situation in Belarus.

The first forum session "Belarus after the elections: will sanctions work?" was devoted to Belarus. First head of the independent Belarus Stanislau Shushkevich, former presidential candidate and political prisoner Aliaksandr Kazulin, chairman of the For Freedom movement Aliaksandr Milinkevich, Slovak human rights activist Balázs Jarábik, representative of the European Humanities University Aliaksei Pikulik, representative of Brussels-based Centre for European Studies Eugeniusz Smolar, and former foreign minister of Slovakia Pavol Demeš took part in the conference.

As charter97.org website learned from Iryna Krasouskaya, the head of We Remember foundation, Alyksandr Kazulin and Stanislau Shushkevich made the most emotional speeches.

Alyksandr Kazulin said the global community must urgently react to the situation in Belarus, because the real leaders of the Belarusian opposition were in prison. The politician reminded that Aliaksandr Atroshchankau, spokesman for presidential candidate Andrei Sannikau, had been sentenced to 4 years in a medium security penal colony, and the crackdown would only grow. The machine of Stalin-style purges was put into operation in the country. "How long must we tolerate this? How many people must be killed and imprisoned in Belarus? This dictatorship is dangerous for Europe, not only for Belarus," the former political prisoner said.

Stanislau Shushkevich spoke about the funds allocated the European Union for the civil society development and noted that people who really worked for democracy in Belarus had inner convictions. According to him, people in prisons are real heroes of the country and must be rescued.

Pavol Demeš, a former foreign minister of Slovakia, attended Independence Square in Minsk on December 19 and spoke about brutal dispersal of the demonstration and mass arrests of opposition members.

The Belarusian issues provoked a hot discussion. People asked about the events on December 19, a possible reply by the EU and the US, possible actions to develop civil society in Belarus, and sanctions to be imposed on the regime of Lukashenka.

Belarus was a key topic in the speech by Milan Ježovica, the Slovak MFA Press Secretary. According to him, the regime in Minsk must not have a good sleep imagining that the whole Europe is concerned only about the problems in the Middle East. "We must demand the release of political prisoners. When looking at Minsk, Europe should not only know and remember President Lukashenka as the face of the regime. We must see and know the faces of democratic activists," Ježovica said.

Portraits of all Belarusian political prisoners were exhibited in the foyer of the hotel hosting the GLOBSEC 2011. Every participant of the forum was handed in a booklet "Release Political Prisoners!" with portraits of Belarusian prisoners of conscience.

### **У Браціславе адбылася канферэнцыя «Globsec 2011»** **[The GLOBSEC 2011 conference took place in Bratislava]** **New.racyja.com, 4.3.2011**

Пазіцыя Еўропы ў дачыненні да Беларусі прынцыповая – няма дыялогу з афіцыйным Мінскам на высокім узроўні пакуль ў турмах будуць палітвязні, – сказаў беларускай дэлегацыі прысутнай на канферэнцыі «Globsec» у Браціславе вярхоўны камісар Штэфан Фюле.

Вечарам са Штэфанам Фюле сустрэліся Сяргей Калякін, Аляксандр Казулін і Станіслаў Шушкевіч:

*– Былі сустрэчы з еўракамісарам Штэфанам Фюле, пасля з намеснікам Гілару Клінтан па міжнародных пытаннях і пытаннях Еўропы – Горданам. Гэта была вельмі добрая сустрэча, таму што камісар добра разумее тое, што адбываецца ў Беларусі. У свой час у нас была сустрэча з ім у Бруселі і, мне здаецца, тады яшчэ ў яго было шэраг пытанняў – цяпер пытанняў гэтых няма. Учора мы канстатавалі гэта з вялікім задавальненнем. Яны ставяць на першае месца пытанне аб вызваленні палітвязняў – толькі пасля гэтага можа быць кантакт з уладам на высокім узроўні. Гэты прыярытэт дакладна вызначаны.*

Паралельна з канферэнцыяй «Globsec» у Браціславе праходзіла сустрэча ў вярхах Вышаградскай чацвёркі. Міністры замежных спраў Вышаградскай чацвёркі і Нямеччыны ды Кетрын Эштан, вярхоўны прадстаўнік Еўрасаюза ў пытаннях замежнай палітыкі і палітыкі бяспекі, узялі ўдзел у сустрэчы з прадстаўнікамі краін-удзельніц «Усходняга партнёрства». Беларусь на гэтай сустрэчы прадстаўляў намеснік міністра замежных спраў Валеры Варанецкі.

Валянціна Лаеўская, Радыё Рацыя.

\* \* \*

У Браціславе ў фармаце слуханняў пад шылдай «Беларусь пасля выбараў: ці спрацуюць санкцыі?» адбылася міжнародная канферэнцыя па бяспецы «Globsec 2011».

Удзельнікі міжнароднай канферэнцыі па бяспецы Globsec 2011 у Браціславе абмяркавалі сітуацыю ў Беларусі пасля падзеяў 19 снежня. Сярод выступоўцаў па беларускім пытанні на канферэнцыі апрача апазіцыі былі запрошаны і прадстаўнікі афіцыйнага Мінску. Па словах першага спікера беларускага парламенту Станіслава Шушкевіча, які прымаў удзел у канферэнцыі, яе ўдзельнікі выказалі поўнае разуменне таго, што адбываецца ў Беларусі.

*- Усё ж разуменне таго, што адбылося ў Беларусі, што адбываецца, стала значна лепшым. Тут былі нават афіцыйныя прадстаўнікі нашай прэзідэнцкай вертыкалі, яны паспрабавалі нейкае глупства гаварыць, дык зала выказала вялікі пратэст. На гэтай канферэнцыі быў практычна ўспрыняты наш пункт - так, як з нашага гледзішча мы гэта бачым.*

Прадстаўнік амерыканскай некамерцыйнай арганізацыі Pact ў Беларусі і Украіне, палітычны аналітык Балаш Ярабік заявіў, што Беларусь уяўляе выклік для бяспекі ЕС і НАТА. У Браціславе беларускую апазіцыю на канферэнцыі прадстаўлялі - Сяргей Калякін, Аляксандр Казулін, Аляксандр Мілінкевіч, Станіслаў Шушкевіч, Аляксей Янукевіч і палітычныя аналітыкі. Вечарам беларуская дэлегацыя сустрэлася з вярхоўным камісарам Еўрасаюза Штэфанам Фюле.

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Для абмеркавання беларускага пытання на канферэнцыю запрошаныя, між іншых, першы спікер беларускага парламента Станіслаў Шушкевіч, лідар Руху «За свабоду» Аляксандр Мілінкевіч і лідар партыі «Справядлівы свет» Сяргей Калякін:

*– Будуць выступаць спадар Мілінкевіч і Аляксей Пікулік – вось два беларусы, пра якіх я ведаю, што яны ўключаныя ў праграму. У нас няма разыходжанняў па ацэнцы сітуацыі, ацэнцы таго, што адбывалася. Ёсць нюансы наконт таго, што трэба рабіць, такія разыходжанні безумоўна існуюць, але гэта не супярэчлівыя погляды – гэта, хутчэй, дапаўняльныя захавы.*

Вечарам дэлегаты ад беларускай апазіцыі сустрэліся з міністрам замежных спраў Славакіі Мікулашам Дзурындам.

Паралельна ў Браціславе праходзіць сустрэча міністраў замежных спраў краін Вышаградскай групы – Польшчы, Славакіі, Чэхіі і Венгрыі. Не выключана, што беларуская дэлегацыя сустрэнецца таксама з некаторымі ўдзельнікамі сустрэчы вышаградскай групы, між іншымі з кіраўніком еўрапейскай дыпламатыі Кетрын Эштан, еўракамісарам Штэфанам Фюле ці міністрам замежных спраў нямецчыны Гіда Вестэрвеле.

Валянціна Лаеўская, Радыё Рацыя.

**Karabakh conflict may stop being frozen due to miscalculations, U.S. official says**  
**PanARMENIAN.Net , 4.3.2011**

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Philip Gordon said that the Karabakh conflict is considered to be frozen, but ceasefire violations are often recorded on the contact line.

Due to incorrect calculations, the conflict may stop being frozen and a similar scenario should be prevented, Gordon said on the sidelines of GLOBSEC 2011 regional security conference in Bratislava.

According to him, the problem is not in the OSCE Minsk Group activity. "If they know there is an alternative format, they would be ready to discuss it," said Gordon.

According to him, the U.S. thinks that the OSCE Minsk Group does a good job and exerts huge efforts to overcome the discrepancies between the parties to the conflict.

**Catherine Ashton: EU supports Eastern Partnership Program countries**  
**En.trend.az, 04.03.2011**

The EU is committed to promoting cooperation with the member states of the Eastern European Partnership Program, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton said on Thursday in Bratislava. Ashton made the statement following an extended meeting between the Visegrad Group foreign ministers and representatives of the Eastern Partnership Program, RIA Novosti reported.

The talks were also attended by European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule, and German Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle

Slovakia was represented at the meeting by Foreign Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi, and Polish Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Nicholas Dovgelevich.

The foreign ministers of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as the deputy foreign minister of Belarus, have also arrived in Bratislava.

Ashton stressed that it is necessary "to intensify cooperation between the EU with these countries and support their integration ambitions and economic reforms."

"A concrete action plan will strengthen the connection between us," she added.

She noted that it has become clear that the Eastern Partnership Program was the "best form of cooperation at both the governmental and non-governmental level, as well as in business."

Ashton said the EU will further continue to work with non-governmental organizations in Eastern Partnership Program countries, so that civil society has a strong voice.

The Visegrad foreign ministers and the Eastern Partnership Program representatives are also attending the GLOBSEC-2011 Bratislava Global Security Forum in Bratislava.

The Eastern Partnership Program is a Polish-Swedish initiative under the EU Neighborhood Policy aimed at improving EU relations with six former Soviet countries Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine and

Armenia. The program envisages the allocation of 600 million euro to these countries until 2013 to strengthen state institutions, control borders and help small companies.

The program does not envisage opportunities for EU membership, but instead envisages facilitating the visa regime, energy cooperation, and the introduction of free trade zones. Small projects on student exchange, environmental protection, and energy supply will also be implemented.

The Visegrad Group was formed on Feb. 15, 1991 at a high-level meeting in Visegrad, Hungary, which created an imaginary historical arch linking the idea of this meeting to the idea of a similar meeting, which took place there in 1335. The central motif of the two meetings was the desire to intensify mutual cooperation and friendship among the three Central European states. In the wake of the disintegration of Czechoslovakia in 1993, the Visegrad Group had since then been comprised of four countries, as both successor countries, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, are members of the Visegrad Group.

### **Globsec 2011: Беларусь - угроза для ЕС и НАТО**

**[GLOBSEC 2011: Belarus – threat to the EU and NATO]**

**Postsovet.ru, 4.3.2011**

*В четверг 3 марта в столице Венгрии Братиславе прошло заседание международной конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011, в ходе которого его участники обсудили ситуацию в Беларуси.*

Глава МИД Словакии: «Белорусы смогут насладиться свободой в недалеком будущем»

В дни проведения конференции, 2—4 марта, в Братиславе находится с визитом группа белорусских оппозиционеров, в состав которой, по информации сайта МИД Словакии, входят Сергей Калякин, Александр Козулин, Александр Милинкевич, Станислав Шушкевич, Алексей Янукевич и политические аналитики.

### **Belarus - Threat to EU and NATO, Globsec 2011**

**Telegraf.by, 4.3.2011**

В четверг, 3 марта, в столице Словакии Братиславе прошло заседание международной конференции по безопасности Globsec 2011, в ходе которого его участники обсудили ситуацию в Беларуси. Так, представитель некоммерческой организации Раств в Беларуси и Украине Балаш Ярабик заявил, что Беларусь является вызовом для безопасности ЕС и НАТО.

Вместе с тем, по его словам, построение демократии - это долгосрочный процесс, сообщили в пресс-службе конференции Globsec 2011.

При этом старший научный сотрудник польского Института международных отношений Еугениуш Смоляр считает, что ЕС и США следует сформулировать четкое видение того, что необходимо предпринять в отношении Беларуси. Беларусь на конференции представлял лидер Движения «За Свободу» Александр Милинкевич.

Как ранее сообщал Телеграф, министр иностранных дел Словакии Микулаш Дзуринда, 2 марта принявший участие в пикете солидарности с заключенными белорусскими оппозиционерами, который состоялся в Братиславе, заявил, что Беларусь стала главной проблемой Европы. "В этом есть какая-то ирония. Диктаторы уходят даже на Ближнем Востоке, а последний диктатор остается здесь", - отметил словацкий политик.

### **USA trusts Moscow on NK settlement**

**Mediamax.am, 4.3.2011**

Yerevan, March 4. /Mediamax/. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon disagrees with the opinion that initiating meetings with Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents, Russia gradually takes the Karabakh peace process "under its control."

The US official said this in reply to questions of participants Globsec 2011 (Global Security) Conference in Bratislava, Mediamax reports.

Philip Gordon said that Russia is geographically located closer to parties in the conflict and it's easier for Russia rather than for faraway Washington to organize a meeting in Sochi, Moscow, Saint Petersburg or Amsterdam.

The U.S. official said that Russia is transparent in its actions and informs the United States and France of all details of the meetings.

According to Assistant Secretary of State, the co-chairs trust each other on this issue, as they speak from positions of protection of common interests. "These interests are based on the necessity of ensuring comprehensive security in Europe," he noted.

While speaking about resentment frequently voiced by Baku regarding mediators' activity, Philip Gordon said that USA believes that the Mink Group Co-chairs work perfectly.

### **Martonyi János a GLOBSEC biztonságpolitikai konferencián**

**[Martonyi János at the GLOBSEC security conference]**

**Kormany.hu, 4.3.2011**

Az európai szomszédságpolitika fontosságát hangsúlyozta Martonyi János külügyminiszter a pozsonyi GLOBSEC biztonságpolitikai konferencia után. Mint mondta, erre mutat rá az észak-afrikai eseménysorozat is.

„A szomszédságpolitika rendkívül fontos ügy, az ugyanis az európai uniós biztonságpolitika legfontosabb eleme” – jelentette ki Martonyi János magyar külügyminiszter Pozsonyban, miután részt vett a GLOBSEC biztonságpolitikai konferencia egyik beszélgetésén. A miniszter hozzátette, hogy amennyiben az Európai Unió komoly globális szereplő akar lenni, és gazdasági hatalmához politikai szerepet is akar szerezni, akkor először a szomszédságában kell bebizonyítania, hogy közvetíteni tudja az értékeit, hogy befolyásolni tudja az eseményeket – adott esetben talán még előre is tudja jelezni azokat –, és amikor ezek bekövetkeznek, akkor hasznos fontos szerepet tud játszani.

Hazánk külügyminisztere szerint az EU déli szomszédságában zajló észak-afrikai események „pontosan azt bizonyítják, hogy nem elég követni a dolgokat, időben vagy kevésbé időben reagálni a történésekre, hanem meg kell próbálni előre látni őket, előre cselekedni”. Martonyi János leszögezte: az EU keleti és déli szomszédságpolitikája egymást erősíti.

Ez utóbbival összefüggésben beszélt az eredetileg Magyarországra tervezett EU-Keleti Partnerség csúcskonferencia 2011. második félévre, a lengyel EU-elnökség idejére történő elhalasztásáról. „Szeretném még egyszer jelezni, hogy minden másfajta híreszteléssel szemben ez egy magyar–lengyel megállapodás volt. A magyar és a lengyel miniszterelnök állapodott meg abban, hogy a technikai nehézségekre való tekintettel néhány hónappal elhalasztjuk ezt” – jelentette ki Martonyi János, hozzátéve, hogy a magyar–lengyel együttműködés magas színvonala tette lehetővé, hogy ilyen könnyű legyen az erről való megállapodás.

Arra a kérdésre válaszul, hogy nem veszélyeztetik-e az észak-afrikai események az EU, illetve a schengeni övezet további bővítését, Martonyi János elmondta, hogy ha van összefüggés a mediterrán események, valamint a horvát csatlakozás és, mondjuk, a Schengenhez való román–bolgár csatlakozás között, akkor az az, hogy még befogadóbbaknak kell lennie a közösségnek, fel kell gyorsítanunk ezeket a folyamatokat. „A politikai üzenet nem csak Horvátországnak szól, hanem minden további tagjelölt országnak is” – tette hozzá Martonyi János. A magyar állásponttal összefüggésben leszögezte, hazánk mindig támogatta a bővítési folyamatokat, természetes érdekei is ezt kívánják.”

### **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia took part in Bratislava Global Security Forum**

**estonia.mfa.gov.ge, 4.3.2011**

On 4 March 2011, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Grigol Vashadze took part in the panel discussion on the Eastern Partnership, held within Bratislava Global Security Forum (GLOBSEC). Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova Iurie Leanca and President of the Project on Transitional Democracies Bruce Jackson were among the speakers at the aforesaid panel discussion. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia Mikuláš Dzurinda opened the meeting. The discussion focused on the process of implementation of the Eastern Partnership and its future prospects, in particular, in the context of strategic review of the current European Neighbourhood Policy. The speakers touched upon the prospects of development of

Eastern Partnership Initiative and dynamics of existing cooperation between the partner countries and the EU. The participants laid special stress on the urgency of insurance of security and stability in the region, especially, on the necessity of acknowledgement of European aspirations of Partner Countries individually. 4 March 2011 Press and Information Department

**А. Мілінкевіч: Эўропа спыняе супрацоўніцтва з урадам да вызвалення вязняў**

**[A. Milinkevič: Europe stops working with the government to release prisoners]**

**Svaboda.org, 4.3.2011**

Міністры замежных спраў краін "Вышаградзкай групы" – Вугоршчыны, Польшчы, Славаччыны і Чэхіі – а таксама Нямеччыны зрабілі напярэдадні ў Браціславе заяву па Беларусі. Яны заклікалі Аляксандра Лукашэнку вызваліць усіх палітычных вязняў і спыніць пераслед апазыцыі. У адваротным выпадку Менску пагражаюць далейшыя санкцыі. Таксама ў Браціславе 2-4 сакавіка адбываецца міжнародная канфэрэнцыя па бясьпецы "Globsec-2011". Яе ўдзельнікі абмяркоўваюць сытуацыю ў Беларусі. У гэтых і іншых міжнародных мерапрыемствах у Браціславе бярэ ўдзел лідэр руху "За свабоду" Аляксандар Мілінкевіч.

Мілінкевіч: Абсалютна так, і тэма Беларусі будзе ў бліжэйшы час адной з найважнейшых у Эўразьвязе, таму што гэта тэма ня толькі парушэньня правоў чалавека. Хаця гэта, безумоўна, першасная прычына. Але таксама гэта – праблема бясьпекі. Краіны таталітарныя, краіны, дзе парушаюцца правы чалавека, дзе няма дэмакратыі – яны непрадказальныя. І аб гэтым гаварылася і на канфэрэнцыі, і на сустрэчы міністраў "Вышаградзкай групы". Яны будуць рабіць усё магчымае, каб Беларусь вярнулася ў рэчышча дэмакратыі.

Абламейка: Учора позна ўвечары вы мелі сустрэчу з эўракамісарам Штэфанам Фюле? Не маглі б вы расказаць для нашых слухачоў пра яе вынікі?

Мілінкевіч: Для эўракамісара Фюле, і для ўсёй Эўракамісіі вельмі важна знайсці сёньня формы супрацоўніцтва зь Беларусьсю. Таму што супрацоўніцтва з урадам прыпыняецца да вызвалення вязняў, і акцэнт у супрацы з нашай краінай будзе рабіцца на супрацоўніцтва з грамадствам, перш за ўсё з дэмакратычнай часткай грамадства, зь няўрадавымі арганізацыямі, і на падтрымцы вольных мэдыяў. Пра гэта мы гаварылі з эўракамісарам. Такім чынам, супрацоўніцтва з урадам прыпыняецца і пераносіцца на недзяржаўны сэктар. Але гэтыя праекты нялёгка рэалізаваць, бо краіна самаізалюецца.

Мы гаварылі таксама пра тое, што беларускаму народу дорага каштуе захаваньне той сыстэмы ўлады, якую пабудаваў Лукашэнка. Беларускі народ цяргіць і трэба зрабіць усё, каб ён гэтага не адчуваў. Прапаганда, безумоўна, будзе выкарыстоўваць тое, што ў нас адбылося на выбарах, і сёньняшнія суды над палітвязьнямі – будуць казаць, што на Захадзе ворагі, а ўнутры краіны іх агенты. Таму мы павінны гэта ўсё разьбіваць, бо гэта поўная хлусьня, і беларусы павінны ведаць, што ізалюецца не беларускі народ, але ўлада, якая паводзіць сябе неадпаведна нормам жыцьця ў Эўропе.

Абламейка: Учора ў Браціславе адбывалася таксама сустрэчы кіраўніцтва Эўразьвязу з прадстаўнікамі краін "Усходняга партнэрства". Беларусь прадстаўляў намесьнік міністра замежных справаў Валеры Варанецкі, які не зьявіўся на выніковай прэс-канфэрэнцыі. На вашу думку, "браціслаўскі наступ" на беларускі рэжым будзе мець нейкі вынік?

Мілінкевіч: Я думаю, што цяжка намесьніку міністра Варанецкаму зьявіцца на прэс-канфэрэнцыі, таму што адна справа, калі ў Беларусі па-прапагандысцку беларускім тэлебачаньнем ацэньваецца тое, што адбылося, і зусім іншая справа – стаяць перад вольнымі журналістамі і тлумачыць, што ж цяпер адбываецца ў нашай краіне. Намесьнік міністра Варанецкі атрымаў абсалютна адназначны мэсідж, што ня будзе так, каб розныя краіны па-рознаму ацанілі нашы падзеі, але ўсе краіны Эўразьвязу гавораць у адзін голас. Ацэнка жорсткая – Беларусь мусіць вярнуцца ў рэчышча дэмакратыі, інакш яна выпадае з эўрапейскіх працэсаў інтэграцыі.

Вельмі многа краіна губляе, таму што тое, што было запланавана па розных праграмах разьвіцьця эканомікі, памежнага супрацоўніцтва – усё гэта прыпыняецца, для Беларусі гэта вельмі сур'ёзны ўдар.

Абламейка: Сёньня ў Браціславе – апошні дзень працы канфэрэнцыі па бясьпецы "Globsec-2011". Як да падзеяў у Беларусі настроеныя яе ўдзельнікі? Ці не чакаецца прыняцьце нейкіх дакумэнтаў у справе

Беларусі сёння? Як наогул яна праходзіць?

Мілінкевіч: Ня глядзячы на падзеі, якія сёння захапілі тэлебачаньне – гэта краіны Магрыбу, дзе ідуць рэвалюцыі – Беларусь застаецца вельмі важнай тэмай на гэтым сымпозіюме, тэмай нумар адзін. Не выпадкова першая сэсія была прысьвечана Беларусі, і на ёй прайшла вялікая дыскусія пра тое, што ж адбылося, чаму адварнуўся ад дэмакратыі беларускі кіраўнік і што можна зрабіць у гэтай сытуацыі, як можна вызваліць вязняў. Салідарнасьць застаецца тэмай №1. Таксама гаварылася на канфэрэнцыі і пра стратэгічнае разьвіцьцё дачыненняў. Гаварылі пра тое, што трэба павялічыць стыпэндыі Эразмуса – гэта эўрапейская студэнцкая праграма – каб беларуская студэнцкая моладзь не адчувала ізаляцыі рэжыму. Гаварылі таксама пра культурніцкія сувязі, пра супрацоўніцтва на ўзроўні грамадзкіх арганізацый. Гаварылі, што абмежаваньні, якія сёння ёсьць, павінны мінімальна датычыцца беларускай дэмакратычнай супольнасьці, і я думаю, так і адбудзецца.

**Мілінкевіч па выніках сустрэчы з Фюле: ЕС прыпыняе супрацу з урадам да вызваленьня вязняў**  
[Milinkievich after a meeting with Fule: EU suspends cooperation with the government to release prisoners]  
nn.by, 4.3.2011

Супрацоўніцтва з урадам прыпыняецца да вызваленьня вязняў, і акцэнт у супрацы з нашай краінай будзе рабіцца на супрацоўніцтва з грамадствам, перш за ўсё з дэмакратычнай часткай грамадства, з няўрадавымі арганізацыямі, і на падтрымцы вольных СМІ. Пра гэта мы гаварылі з еўракамісарам. Такім чынам, супрацоўніцтва з урадам прыпыняецца і пераносіцца на недзяржаўны сектар. Але гэтыя праекты нялёгка рэалізаваць, бо краіна самаізалюецца.

Мы гаварылі таксама пра тое, што беларускаму народу дорага каштуе захаванне той сістэмы ўлады, якую пабудаваў Лукашэнка. Беларускі народ цяргіць і трэба зрабіць усё, каб ён гэтага не адчуваў. Прапаганда, безумоўна, будзе выкарыстоўваць тое, што ў нас адбылося на выбарах, і сённяшнія суды над палітвязнямі — будуць казаць, што на Захадзе ворагі, а ўнутры краіны іх агенты. Таму мы павінны гэта ўсё разбіваць, бо гэта поўная хлусня, і беларусы павінны ведаць, што ізалюецца не беларускі народ, але ўлада, якая паводзіць сябе неадпаведна нормам жыцця ў Еўропе.

**Мілінкевіч: Еўропа прыстанавіла сотрудніцтва з беларускім правительством**  
[Milinkievich: Europe suspended cooperation with belarusian government]  
Ale.by, 4.3.2011

"Сотрудничество с правительством приостанавливается до освобождения заключенных, и акцент в сотрудничестве с нашей страной будет делаться на сотрудничество с обществом, прежде всего с демократической частью общества, с неправительственными организациями, и на поддержке свободных СМИ. Об этом мы говорили с еврокомиссаром. Таким образом, сотрудничество с правительством приостанавливается и переносится на негосударственный сектор. Но эти проекты нелегко реализовать, так как страна самоизолируется", - рассказал белорусский политик.

"Мы говорили также о том, что белорусскому народу дорого стоит сохранение той системы власти, которую построил Лукашенко. Белорусский народ страдает, и нужно сделать все, чтобы он этого не чувствовал. Пропаганда, безусловно, будет использовать то, что у нас произошло на выборах, и сегодняшние суды над политзаключенными - будут говорить, что на Западе враги, а внутри страны их агенты. Поэтому мы должны это все разбивать, потому что это полная ложь, и белорусы должны знать, что изолируется не белорусский народ, но власть, которая ведет себя несоразмерно нормам жизни в Европе", - уточнил Александр Милинкевич.

**USA believes that Minsk Group Co-chairs work perfectly**  
News.az, 4.3.2011

Process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations is currently suspended.

US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon disagrees with the opinion that initiating meetings with Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents, Russia gradually takes the Karabakh peace process "under its control."

The US official said this in reply to questions of participants Globsec 2011 (Global Security) Conference in Bratislava.

Philip Gordon said that Russia is geographically located closer to parties in the conflict and it's easier for Russia rather than for faraway Washington to organize a meeting in Sochi, Moscow, Saint Petersburg or Amsterdam.

The US official said that Russia is transparent in its actions and informs the United States and France of all details of the meetings.

According to Assistant Secretary of State, the co-chairs trust each other on this issue, as they speak from positions of protection of common interests. "These interests are based on the necessity of ensuring comprehensive security in Europe," he noted.

While speaking about resentment frequently voiced by Baku regarding mediators' activity, Philip Gordon said that USA believes that the Minsk Group Co-chairs work perfectly.

US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon said that the process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations is currently suspended.

Philip Gordon said that the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations will facilitate the strengthening of stability and security in the South Caucasus. He pointed out that Washington backed up this process from the very beginning and US Secretary of State personally exerted every effort in that direction.

According to Philip Gordon, Turkey says it will ratify the Zurich Protocols only if progress in Karabakh talks is reached. However, he noted, the United States disagree with that approach and believe that the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations cannot be connected with any other problem.

### **Armenian-Turkish normalization not bound to other problems, U.S. official says**

***Panarmenian.net, 4.3.2011***

Normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations should not be bound to other problems, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs said.

As Philip Gordon said on the sidelines of GLOBSEC 2011 regional security conference in Bratislava, his country doesn't share Ankara's opinion that reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia can take place only in case progress is fixed in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement talks.

"The U.S. believes that the sides should continue with ratification of the protocols," he said, voicing regret that the normalization process has been suspended.

### **EU Commissioner: Instability in Arab East not to shake EU's cooperation with Eastern Partners**

***En.trend.az, 4.3.2011***

In the turmoil and exuberance of the past weeks in the Arab East, a number of voices have questioned the future direction of the EU's relations with the Eastern Partners, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy [Stefan Fule](#) said.

Fule made such a statement at the GLOBSEC 2011 Bratislava Global Security Forum opened in Bratislava on Wednesday, the EU reported.

"Some argue that the progress as regards so-called "Western values" such as respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law has given way under the weight of the post-Soviet legacy of corruption, cronyism and increasing authoritarianism," Fule said.

"Let me be clear," he said. "The European Union's determination to deepen relations with our partners in the East is unwavering. Those same considerations that have driven forward our relations over the past 20 years continue to be relevant today. Closer relations between us are essential in securing greater stability, prosperity and democracy in Europe."

Fule believes 2011 is proving to be an extraordinary year of change with reasons for both optimism and anxiety.

"Like 1989 and 1990 in Central and Eastern Europe, the changes that we are witnessing will resonate into the future. Europe needs to be ready to respond to these events with determination, imagination and solidarity," he added.

Massive popular protests has recently covered a number of Arab states and led to the downfall of the ruling regimes in Egypt and Tunisia. The riots continue in Libya, Yemen, Iraq and Bahrain. Anti-government demonstrations were also held in Algeria and Jordan.

In his speech, Fule named the achievements of the Eastern Partnership Program, under which the EU cooperates with six post-Soviet countries - Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and Armenia.

The program does not envisage opportunities for EU membership, but instead envisages facilitating the visa regime, energy cooperation, and the introduction of free trade zones. Small projects on student exchange, environmental protection, and energy supply will also be implemented.

Fule noted the beginning of negotiations on association agreement with a number of countries among the achievements of the program.

The first round of negotiations on the EU Association Agreement with the three South Caucasus countries - Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia was held in July 2010. The agreements are based on joint commitment to develop common values and cover a wide range of areas including political dialogue, justice, freedom and security, as well as issues of trade and cooperation.

Fule also touched upon the achievements in sphere of facilitating the movement between the EU and the Eastern Partnership. He mentioned the announcement of the Action Plans for Ukraine and Moldova towards the establishment of visa free regimes for short stay travel. Visa facilitation and readmission agreements came into force with Georgia on March 1.

Preparations are under way for negotiations of similar agreements with the other countries of the Eastern Partnership not already benefiting from such Agreements, Fule said.

### **GORDON: The problem is not in Minsk Group**

***Lragir.com, 4.3.2011***

A conference on Global Security /Globsec/ is underway in Bratislava in the course of which Philipp Gordon stated that the Armenian and Turkish relations are stalled. The U.S. believes that the normalization of relations will promote peace and stability in the region, the U.S. had supported this process just from the beginning, but it stopped. Gordon referred to Turkey, which insists that progress can be achieved only in case of settlement of the NKR conflict. But the U.S. does not agree with this because both sides should ratify the protocols without connecting it to other problems.

As for the Karabakh issue, Gordon noted that the U.S. and Russia actively support the basic principles proposed by the Minsk Group. He refuted the idea that Russia took the process under its control. Just, Russia is geographically closer to the sides in conflict and it is easier for this country to organize meetings, one of which will happen on March 5 in Sochi. The U.S. thinks that Russians are working openly and inform the U.S. and France about their steps. Minsk Group CO-Chairs have common interests – ensuring complex security of Europe, said Philip Gordon.

Answering a question of the Azerbaijani party, disillusioned by the Minsk Group, Gordon said that although the conflict is frozen, but incidents are frequent at the border. It is necessary to prevent "heating" of the conflict, he said. Gordon does not believe that the problem is in the Minsk Group. On the contrary, the U.S. believes that the OSCE Minsk Group is working perfectly. It has made great efforts to overcome disagreements. Gordon said that they see progress in the process.

### **In Bratislava, Lithuanian foreign Vice-minister and the U.S. Assistant Secretary of state discuss regional security**

***Urm.lt, 4.3.2011***

At the GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum on 3 March, Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Evaldas Ignatavičius and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Assistant for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon discussed issues of regional security policy and bilateral relations.

E.Ignatavičius and Ph.Gordon exchanged views on the situation in Belarus, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and the South Caucasus, which the U.S. official had visited just before the meeting. The Vice-Minister acquainted the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State with the activities of Lithuania's chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in finding the way to settle protracted conflicts.

E.Ignatavičius informed Ph.Gordon about Lithuania's Presidency of the Community of Democracies and about the Community's ministerial meeting, which will be held on 1 July in Lithuania. They agreed to further closely cooperate and to exchange information in the field of collective defence.

A meeting of E.Ignatavičius, Deputy Commander of NATO's Allied Land Component Command in Europe, Lt. Gen. Jack Gardner and the U.S. diplomats at NATO is scheduled on 4 March.

### **Korak naprijed, dva koraka nazad**

**[Step forward, two steps back]**

**Pobjeda.co.me, 5.3.2011, Author: Marija Jovičević**

Slovački šef diplomatije kazao da je za EU i NATO važan nastavak proširenja da bi se redukovale zone nestabilnosti

BRATISLAVA - NATO mora preći sa riječi na djelo, jer Alijansa poslije Lisabonskog samita više oklijeva nego li pokazuje spremnost da se suoči sa izazovima - poručeno je sa bezbjednosnog foruma GLOBSEC, koji je održan u Bratislavi.

Revolucije u arbijskim zemljama, nejasni odnosi između NATO-a i Rusije, neriješeni problemi u postsovjetskim zemljama i veliki izazovi u Avganistanu pokazuju da Alijansa više nego ikada mora biti aktivna u sprovođenju ciljeva sa samita iz Lisabona.

#### Gomilanje problema

Zamjenica generalnog sekretara NATO-a za javnu diplomatiju Stefani Baps rekla je da se među NATO članicama osjeća velika opuštenost i da se preporuke sa Lisabonskog sporazuma ne sprovode, već se i dalje potpisuju strategije i pišu deklaracije.

- Svi moramo priznati da od novembra nijesmo mnogo uradili i krajnje je vrijeme da pređemo sa riječi na djelo, jer nam se problemi samo gomilaju - kazala je Baps.

#### Proširenje

Slovački šef diplomatije Mikulaš Džurinda kazao je da je za Slovačku i EU, ali i za NATO od neprocjenjive važnosti da nastavi proces proširenja kako bi se redukovale zone nestabilnosti.

- Našim postkomunističkim susjedima je potrebna pomoć i moramo učiniti sve da se reforme intenziviraju - kazao je Džurinda.

Izvršni direktor za Evropu i Aziju, pri zajedničkoj službi vanjskih poslova EU, Miroslav Lajčak je kazao da se odnosi NATO, SAD i EU sa jedne, i Rusije sa druge strane, moraju konstantno kritički procjenjivati.

- Čini mi se da trenutno ne znamo gdje se nalazimo. Odemo jedan korak naprijed, pa se vratimo dva. Da li Rusiji treba ponovo davati šanse - zapitao se Lajčak.

#### Konkretna akcije

Šesti globalni bezbjednosni forum okupio je 500 predstavnika država sa obje strane Atlantika, međunarodnih institucija, univerziteta i civilnog sektora, a ocjene analitičara su da je to bio jedan od najboljih evropskih bezbjednosnih foruma ikada održanih. GLOBSEC je otvorio brojne teme, ukazao na probleme i neophodnost konkretnih akcija, jer ni EU, ni NATO nemaju vremena za gubljenje.

### **Az USA nem akar döntőbíró lenni** **[The U.S. does not want to be a referee]** **Új szó, 5.3.2011**

Újra drágul az üzemanyag

Pozsony. A hazai töltőállomásokon az elkövetkező napokban literenként átlagosan 3 centtel drágul a benzin és a gázolaj – derül ki a Tankovanie hírportál előrejelzéséből, amely szerint az áremelkedés a világpiaci árak jelentős megugrásával magyarázható. Ha az előrejelzés valóra válik, a 95-ös oktánszámú benzin literje 1,42, a gázolajé 1,33 euróba fog kerülni. (Nt)

Vita a szennyezett tápról

Poprád/Pozsony. A Podtatranská hydina Rt. kártérítést fog követelni az államtól, mivel a társaság szerint a földművelésügyi tárca nemrég alaptalanul vádolta meg azzal, hogy a náluk nevelt baromfit olyan takarmánnyal etették, amelyben Zilpaterol jelenlétét mutatták ki. A gyors növekedést okozó szer az Európai Unió területén 1996 óta tiltólistán szerepel. Pavol Konkol, a társaság vezérigazgatója szerint a tárca állításával ellentétben az általuk használt takarmányban nem találtak ilyen szert. Mégis meg kellett semmisíteniük a csirkeállományukat, ami hatalmas károkat okozott a cégnek. „A közvetlen kár 200 ezer euró, a cég jó hírnevén okozott csorba azonban milliókra tehető” – vallja Konkol, aki mindezek ellenére nem akarja beperelni Simon Zsolt földművelésügyi minisztert. „A tárcának nem érdeke, hogy ellenőrizhető bizonyítékok nélkül, szándékosan ártson a szlovák élelmiszergyártóknak, de a késmárki cégnél használt takarmányban már 2009-ben is kimutatták az anyag jelenlétét” – mondta Simon. (SITA, TASR)

Az USA nem akar döntőbíró lenni

Pozsony. Az Egyesült Államok nem kíván döntőbírói szerepet vállalni a magyar kettős állampolgársági törvény következtében fennálló szlovák–magyar feszültséggel kapcsolatban. Ezt Philip H. Gordon, Hillary Clinton amerikai külügyminiszter helyettese mondta a szlovák fővárosban zajló, Globsec nemzetközi védelmi konferencián. Gordon leszögezte, barátságos viszonyban levő országokról van szó, amelyek a NATO tagjai és az USA szövetségesei egyaránt, ezért arra buzdítja őket, hogy a vitás kérdést kölcsönös párbeszéd útján, egymás között rendezzék. A Globsec az egyik legjelentősebb európai biztonságpolitikai konferencia, Pozsonyban immár a hatodik alkalommal rendezték meg. (TASR, vps)

Támogatjuk a horvát uniós tagságot

Pozsony. Szlovákia teljes mértékben támogatja Horvátország európai uniós tagságát. Erről biztosította tegnap a szlovák miniszterelnök a pozsonyi munkalátogatáson tartózkodó horvát kollégáját. Iveta Radičová és Jadranka Kosor találkozásán elhangzott, a csatlakozási tárgyalások kezdeti megtorpanásai után Horvátország már néhány fejezetet sikeresen lezárt. Iveta Radičová a horvát kormányfőnek elmondta, a szlovák turisták egyik legkedveltebb turisztikai célpontja éppen Horvátország. (SITA)

SaS: áprilistól tisztább közbeszerzés

Pozsony. Az SaS felszólítja a vállalkozókat, kapcsolódjanak be az áprilistól új alapon működni kezdő közbeszerzésekbe. „Tudom, hogy milyen volt eddig a helyzet, sokan rezignáltak és csalódottak voltak amiatt, ahogy ezek a közbeszerzési versenyek folytak” – mondta Kamil Krnáč, a párt parlamenti képviselője. Az SaS arra kéri a vállalkozókat, ha továbbra is szabálytalanságokat tapasztalnak a közbeszerzések területén, jelezzék azt a pártnak. (SITA)

Rosová a Mária Terézia szoborért

Pozsony. Tatiana Rosová (SDKÚ), Pozsony-Óváros polgármestere üdvözi a kezdeményezést, melynek célja, hogy Mária Terézia szobra ismét helyet kapjon a szlovák fővárosban. „Az egykori uralkodó személye történelmileg is kötődik Pozsonyhoz” – mondta Rosová. Az 1921-ben ledöntött szobor helyén ma Lúdvít Štúr és társainak normalizációs ízléssel megalkotott szoborcsoportja áll, őket a Szabadság térre helyezné át az óvárosi önkormányzat, amibe beleegyezett a szoborcsoport alkotója is. Milan Ftáčnik főpolgármester még nem foglalt állást az ügyben. Eddig csak a Matica slovenská tiltakozott Štúrék esetleges áthelyezése ellen. (SITA, vps)

Pénznyelő szlovák szénbányák

Pozsony. Az állam a hazai barnaszénbányáknak minden egyes alkalmazottja után havonta 1793 eurós támogatást nyújt, ami 700 euróval több mint az ágazatban dolgozók átlagbére – derül ki a pénzügyminisztérium mellett működő Pénzpolitikai Intézet elemzéséből, amely szerint az állam a munkahelyek fenntartása mellett a rendkívül környezetszennyező bányaiipari vállalatokat is dotálja. A szénbányáknak tavaly 96, idén pedig 81 millió eurós támogatást nyújtottak, hogy fenntartsák a mintegy 4500 bányász munkáját. Az állam közvetetten, az energiaárakon keresztül is dotálja az ágazatot. (SITA)

### **Mikuláš Dzurinda: Belarus became Europe's main problem**

**Charter97.org, 3.3.2011**

**Telegraf.by, 3.3.2011**

**Ciwr.org, 5.3.2011**

**Portal.arcana.pl, 5.3.2011**

Lukashenka was given a hint that it's time for him to go following the dictators in the Middle East.

A picket of solidarity with Belarusian political prisoners was held in Bratislava, Slovakia's capital, ahead of GLOBSEC 2011 Global Security Forum opening on March 3.

The participants, among them Stanislav Shushkevich, Alyaksandr Kazulin, Iryna Krasouskaya, Syarhei Kalyakin, Alyaksandr Milinkevich, ambassadors, representatives of European and American NGOs, activists of the legendary Charter 77, were holding portraits of KGB political prisoners.

The author of photos was Pavol Demeš, a former Slovak foreign minister. “Everyone in Europe knows the how dictator looks, but no one knows how political prisoners look. That is why we are carrying out an action with portraits,” Pavol Demeš says.

Current minister of foreign affairs Mikuláš Dzurinda also took part in the action. The influential Slovak politician said: “Belarus has become Europe's main problem. That's a kind of irony. Dictators are being overthrown even in the Middle East, but the last dictator is still here.”

The situation in Belarus will be among main topics at the forum. The GLOBSEC 2011 is supposed to start its work from discussion of the Belarusian issue.

### **Lajcak: No reasons to postpone beginning of negotiations**

**Emg.rs, 5.3.2011**

Everything is ready for the beginning of the dialog between Belgrade and Pristina, to be mediated by the European Union, and there are no reasons for postponing them, Director for Russia, Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans in the EU's External Action Service Miroslav Lajchak stated on Friday.

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In the statement he gave the Slovak news agency TASR, Lajchak did not specify the exact date of the beginning of the talks.

According to Lajchak, the EU expects from the talks to establish a communication channel between Belgrade and Pristina and to resolve many open issues, primarily those that affect the everyday life of citizens.

At the annual global security forum, GLOBSEC 2011, held in Bratislava on March 2-4, Lajchak said the system of approach was to focus, first and foremost, on issues that directly affect people's lives and whose resolution would facilitate normal life opportunities for the people and improve the atmosphere in the region and the regional economy and communication.

As for the reports on trafficking in human organs in Kosovo and Albania and the possible involvement of Kosovo Prime Minister Hasim Taci in the illegal trade, Lajchak pointed out that the EU was considering the allegations very seriously, but with respect to the principle of 'innocent until proven guilty'.

The EU mission in Kosovo, EULEX, is authorized to seriously investigate the accusations, which it is actually doing right now, Lajchak underlined.

### **Belarus lambasted for detention of activists, media**

***Indybay.org, 5.3.2011***

"The United States remains gravely concerned over the continuing post-election crackdown by the Government of Belarus on civil society, independent media, and the political opposition. Through its ongoing detentions, trials, and harsh prison sentences, the government is creating new political prisoners. We urge the unconditional release of those detained in the crackdown without trials and the creation of space for the free expression of political views, the development of civil society, and the ability of citizens to expand their contact with open societies. For example, there were nine presidential candidates for office; two of them are in jail; seven of them have been charged under these draconian actions by the Government of Belarus. They are simply unacceptable," Assistant Secretary of State P. J. Crowley told reporters on Friday.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported February 15 that 20 journalists were detained in a "massive post-election crackdown."

"Authorities raided news outlets and detained at least 20 journalists covering protests over a flawed December 19," according to the CPJ's website. Activists who participated in the December protests have been jailed for terms up to four years imprisonment according to news reports.

The Press Association of the United Kingdom published a statement by U.K. MP David Lidington condemning Belarus President Lukashenko. "The UK condemns in the strongest terms the recent sentencing of Mr Yevgeniy Parfyankow, Dmitry Novik, Alexander Molchanov and Alexander Otroshchenkov to between three and four years imprisonment in a high security prison.

"The convictions appear to be politically motivated and are entirely disproportionate to the charges brought - for example a four-year sentence for merely hitting a wooden makeshift barrier.

"We are also deeply concerned by the evident pressure being placed on the lawyers defending those detained, in particular the disbarment of lawyers at the request of the Ministry of Justice.

"We were shocked by the statement issued by Ales Mikhalevich on 28 February concerning his treatment while in KGB detention, and call on the Belarusian authorities to carry out prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all reports of torture, physical coercion and intimidation.

"The United Kingdom calls on Belarus not to isolate itself further from the international community by showing such flagrant disregard for internationally accepted standards of justice. And we call on Belarus, once more, to release all political detainees immediately and to drop all charges against them.

"This would be a step towards the resumption of a dialogue with the international community."

More than 40 opponents have been jailed for up to 15 years for protesting against the re-election of Lukashenko who has been in power for 16 years, the report said.

The United States and the European Union have imposed sanction on the Belarus government. Lukashenko defended his actions in an interview with the Washington Post's Lally Weymouth published on Saturday wherein Lukashenko defended his actions replying to a question as to whether or not U.S. and E.U.

sanctions have made him think twice, Lukashenko said, "I would do the same thing."

When reminded of his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton weeks before the crackdown, Lukashenko said: "We hoped that Americans and Europeans were interested in this country being independent and sovereign and in developing their relations in a good way. Unfortunately, after the events of the 19th of December, we were sure that you didn't want that."

And went on to say that there is as much democracy in Belarus as there is in the United States. "We told you clearly that there is no less democracy in Belarus than there is in the United States." Lukashenko faulted his political opponents and justified jailing them on because they said he ought to be hanged.

"The question is what these candidates said. They were saying that Lukashenko needs to be hanged... What would the president and the United States security services do if 3,000 people went to the White House and tried to break in...If your security services had information that people were trying to engage in mass disturbances, they would arrest hundreds of thousands of people." he said.

Weymouth: I don't think so.

Lukashenko: You don't think so, but I know so.

Slovakian Foreign Minister Mikulas Dzurinda remarked at the GlobSec 2011 conference in Bratislava on Thursday, "This is kind of ironic. Dictators go away even in the Middle East, but the last dictator stays here," according to a report published in the *Telegraf.by*.

EHC / EHC

Edward Campbell Media

<http://edwardcampbellmedia.blogspot.com/>

### **US-Central Europe Partnership Plays a Crucial Role in Promoting Democracy**

***Newsblaze.com, 5.3.2011***

***Poland.usembassy.gov, 8.3.2011***

Assistant Secretary of Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon today underscored the vital role of U.S.-Central Europe partnership in promoting stability and democracy in Europe and across borders at the Global Security 2011 Forum Bratislava, Slovakia.

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Thank you very much, Robert. I appreciate the personal touch and the kind introduction. It really is a pleasure for me to be here at GlobSec 2011. I think this conference has clearly established itself as one of the premier venues for a discussion of global and European security, not just in Central Europe, but in all of Europe. I really am delighted to be here, particularly with so many good friends and old colleagues in the room.

It was nice to follow Commissioner Fule. I've also had the opportunity throughout the day to meet with a number of ministers and other senior officials from Central Europe which I know is an added value of this conference - not just the public events but the opportunities for networking that we all take advantage of.

Let me also begin by thanking Minister Dzurinda and the Slovak government and the Slovak Atlantic Commission for putting this impressive conference together.

I'm billed to talk about the relationship between the United States and our allies in Central Europe and how that relationship contributes to European and global security. Let me try to do that relatively briefly so that I get a chance afterwards to sit down and take some questions and hear from you.

The fact that I can talk about this topic in Bratislava, the capitol of a dynamic and vibrant democracy, is a testament to how much the countries in the region have achieved in such a short time. Since gaining their independence nearly 20 years ago the people of this country have taken enormous strides to establish democracy and become full members of Euro-Atlantic institutions in the Euro Zone. The United States, I want to say, is proud to count Slovakia as a close friend and ally and we value its contributions to regional stability,

contributing to integration in the Balkans but also more globally, including its contribution to our common interests in Afghanistan.

Slovakia's success mirrors the leadership and growth that we have seen throughout Central Europe. With the Hungarian and Polish EU presidencies in 2011 and Slovakia's efforts to make the Visegrad-4 a broader forum, bringing in others to address wider EU and NATO issues as they did today, inviting the German Foreign Minister for a discussion of such issues, I think the combination of those things really puts Central Europe in the spotlight in the course of this year.

The Visegrad-4 have also shown strong leadership in promoting political and economic stability in the Eastern neighborhood which is only fitting. You brought about an extraordinarily successful democratic transition in your own countries after the fall of the Iron Curtain here in Central Europe, and now your example and your assistance are crucial to promoting and consolidating democracy in your neighbors to the east. The Eastern Partnership Initiative, of course, was launched under the Czech EU presidency, and both Hungary and Poland have continued that focus, making the Eastern Partnership Initiative one of the priorities of their respective presidencies this year. Slovakia has also made the EPI a priority agenda item as V-4 president.

I want to say on behalf of the United States that this is an initiative that we have strongly supported from its inception. We believe that enhanced political and economic relationships with the countries of the Eastern Partnership are important to the EU's future and to the stability and prosperity of a part of Europe that faces significant challenges. I can tell you that Secretary Clinton and I and the rest of the administration have been very much focused on these countries. I was in three of the Eastern Partnership countries in the Caucasus just last week.

Let me say a word about what we're doing. The United States in 2010 allocated \$310 million in assistance to the EPI region, provided the remainder of our \$1 billion in assistance package to Georgia following the 2008 conflict. And we signed a five year, \$262 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact with Moldova. So I think it's fair to say we're putting our money where our mouth is in terms of our commitment to these countries.

We have focused on support for democratic actors and civil society capacity, building economic growth and stability, promoting health and education, and bolstering peace and security in the region. These are goals that are very consistent with the for EPI platform areas which are people to people contacts, governance and stability, economic integration, and energy. We hope, therefore, that the initiative will provide additional funds and programs to the region, and that by closely coordinating our assistance - and this is something we do put a premium on and I'm pleased to say has gone very well - we can leverage our contributions and maximize our impact by working together.

For these reasons we welcome the planned EU Eastern Partnership Initiative Summit later this year, and expect to participate at a very senior level.

The United States and the European Union acting in concert can send a powerful message of solidarity, something we have done recently with respect to Belarus. Together with the targeted set of sanctions that both the EU and the United States announced on January 31st, we have sent a very clear message to the government of Belarus and to Mr. Lukashenko that business as usual will not continue as long as the suppression of civil society, the opposition to independent media continue, and demonstrators are detained, tried and sentenced, which in our view makes them political prisoners. We call on the government of Belarus to release those detainees now.

We were also gratified that Poland recently hosted a very successful Donors Conference in Warsaw that raised 87 million euros. At that conference the United States increased its assistance to civil society in Belarus by more than a third in order to support civil society, media freedom, and political competition. We feel strongly that we not only need to send a message to the government of Belarus that there are negative consequences to its actions, but we need to stand by the people of Belarus and support them in all ways that we can.

In addition to these steps the leaders of the region have spoken out consistently and strongly for reform in countries like Belarus, and we will continue to join you in voicing our support for democracy in Belarus and elsewhere in the region.

Our Central European partners have also shown leadership on energy security issues, another priority for the Obama administration. Hungary and Slovakia recently came to an agreement to build an energy interconnector as part of the expanding north/south energy highway to ensure greater diversification of supply and distribution. Poland is a member of the Global Shale Gas Initiative and we recently signed an agreement with Poland to expand U.S.-Polish cooperation on clean energy issues. We've also signed an agreement with the Czech Republic on civil nuclear cooperation. Secretary Clinton puts a very high priority on promoting energy diversity in Europe which we believe is essential for ensuring the security of supplies, competitive prices, and political independence.

Central Europe thus clearly plays a crucial role as a partner of the United States in promoting democracy and stability in Europe, but its contributions run far beyond Europe's borders. As the world is transfixed by the upheaval in the Middle East, the EU and its member states have an important role to play in assisting new governments to develop democratic institutions and practices. We've already taken a united stand in condemning Colonel Gadhafi and the violence he has unleashed on his own people. One of our priorities early on as developments in North Africa have moved forward is to cooperate, to have the international community speak with one voice which we succeeded doing in UN Security Council Resolution 1970, we did this together with our European Union allies and Secretary Clinton traveled to Geneva earlier this week in order to consult. I've done more of that today, and we put a high priority on speaking together and sending the message that we're standing up for the citizens of this region just as we did for the citizens in Central Europe.

As Secretary Clinton said in Geneva earlier this week, while the circumstances in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya are each unique, in every case the demand for change has come from within, with people calling for greater civil liberties, economic opportunities, and a stake in the governance of their own societies.

That too is the story of Central Europe's march to freedom. But we recognize as well that the experience of democratic transition in Central Europe was not easy and its lessons were hard won. While every situation is of course different, the governments of the Arab world are already looking to Central Europe for advice and assistance.

I was in Sofia earlier this week and I want to underscore that our friends there intend to host a conference on this subject on May 5th and 6th which is an initiative we very much welcome. We believe while we know that there are major differences between what took place in Europe and what is taking place in the Arab world today, there are lessons that can be drawn, and a lot of people in this room and in this region can help share them.

Central Europe also contributes to global stability through NATO, something that was underscored again at the recently concluded NATO Summit in Lisbon. Lisbon marked a watershed in the alliance's evolution and achieved progress in three crucial areas. First, we revitalized the alliance and prepared it to meet the threats of the 21st Century. We did so by adopting a new strategic concept defining new capabilities for the alliance and initiating important reforms in the structure of the alliance.

Second, we positioned the NATO ISAF mission in Afghanistan for success by pursuing a strategy that will allow Afghans to gradually take lead responsibility for security in their country while maintaining a strong partnership with NATO.

Finally, we moved NATO's relationship with Russia forward with cooperation in a number of vital areas including missile defense. Let me say a few words about missile defense and our relationship with Russia.

At Lisbon allies recognized that the defense of Europe can no longer be achieved by just tanks or bombers. Now we need defenses against a new and very serious set of threats, in particular ballistic missiles in the hands of dangerous regimes, particularly if potentially combined with nuclear weapons. Our aim as an alliance is to develop a missile defense capability that will provide full coverage and protection from missile threats for all NATO territory populations and forces in Europe. This capability will be a tangible expression of NATO's core

mission of collective defense. At the Lisbon Summit allies also welcomed the U.S. missile defense system in Europe known as the European Phased Adaptive Approach, as a valuable national contribution to the overall effort, and we hope to see additional voluntary contributions from other allies.

Finally with respect to Russia, NATO's relationship with that country has been transformed in the past 20 years from adversary to partner. We work together in dealing with a full range of security challenges and the business of practical cooperation enhances our collective security, making both Russia and every ally more secure.

Lisbon marked the first NATO-Russia Council Summit since the Georgia conflict in 2008. But we didn't just meet. We moved beyond cooperation and moved it forward significantly between NATO and Russia. We agreed on a NATO-Russia Joint Review of 21st Century common security challenges which include terrorism, piracy, natural and manmade disasters, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and ballistic missiles. In addition, we took the important decision to resume theater missile defense cooperation with Russia, and we also agreed to further explore territorial missile defense cooperation.

Let me add, and let me be particularly clear, however, that these efforts at cooperation with Russia will in no way limit the United States or NATO's capacity to deploy missile defense or other collective defense capabilities. Rather the steps represent a fundamental understanding that NATO and Russia share a number of common interests and we can advance those interests by working together.

None of this progress and none of the progress we have made in our so-called bilateral reset with Russia comes at the expense of any ally or of our principles including our commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations in Europe and NATO's open door. Both the United States and NATO continue to have differences with Russia and we have expressed those regularly and clearly but we have not allowed them to prevent NATO and Russia from advancing cooperation that ultimately will enhance stability throughout Europe and Eurasia.

To some up, I think this review of all of these issues on the U.S. agenda with Europe and with Central Europe demonstrates two things. First, we work very closely with Europe on every major issue, both internationally and within Europe. Second, Central Europe plays a crucial role in advancing this agenda. Whether the issue is promoting democracy in Europe's East, guaranteeing energy security for the whole continent, contributing to the EU's efforts to address major global challenges, or the NATO effort to secure Afghanistan, the energy, ideas and commitment of Central Europe is something we look to and rely on in pursuing our common goals. There is much work to be done to translate this agenda into concrete steps towards the security and prosperity of both Europe and the United States.

That is why the work that everyone here does is so important, both in generating public support for the U.S.-Europe partnership, but also in giving meaning to the strength of the partnership by making sure we have the will and the resources necessary to deliver on our very full agenda.

As we rise to meet all these challenges I'm confident that the partnership between the United States and Central Europe which achieved so much in the last 20 years, will achieve even greater things in decades to come.

Thank you all very much.

[Applause].

Moderator: Thank you very much, Mr. Assistant Secretary. Mr. Assistant Secretary Phil Gordon is ready to answer a few of your questions. So if I see some hands, we have still ten minutes.

Question: Phil, thank you for a fantastic succinct overview.

Can I ask you to take out your crystal ball, a question about the future. What will the relationship look like, not just Central European, but Transatlantic relationship after Afghanistan? The reason I ask is for all the occasional griping from this part of Europe about the Europe "whole and free" not being the central organizing principle, it's still the case that one of the things that's on the top of your priority list, Afghanistan, is a common joint Transatlantic mission under NATO command. Once that goes there will still be a busy agenda, and you've just

laid it out - missile defense, Russia, and what not. Hand on heart, will these be top U.S. priorities or not? My sense is they won't be. You will be more worried about China, you will be more worried about India. You may well be more worried about Northern Africa. Am I right to assume that when Afghanistan is done that we may be less central, the relationship may be less central to your foreign policy priorities than it is now, and what will that mean for U.S.-European relationship in the medium run?

Moderator: Can we pick two questions?

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Sure.

Question: Thank you very much, Phil. You were not here for the former panel, hence I will repeat the question but would also direct it to the former panelists here.

France and Italy and I think Slovenia, some other states, have proposed rebalancing some of the EU funds to strengthen the support that we're giving to the south and possibly to the expense of what we're delivering in the east. So how do you think this is a good idea? That's number one.

And a very short number two question since I've got the mike anyway - [Laughter].

Assistant Secretary Gordon: The first was a yes or no question, so that won't take long.

Question: That will be very very short. You mentioned the conference in Warsaw, the Donors Conference. And Minister Sikorski proposed at this conference that a European Endowment for Democracy should be created. Again, do you think this is a good idea? If it is, would the United States be prepared to participate in it?

Question: A quick question since you just came from the Caucasus. Three difficult questions.

One is, where does Armenia and Turkish reconciliation stand now? Can we expect any results before this coming April? If not, then what?

The second question about Nagorno-Karabakh. We had a panel here, a number of people continue to express serious concern about the state of the conflict. Do you see any signs after Astana that we could be moving somewhere?

The third question, what do you think the situation in Tunisia, et cetera, means for Azerbaijan?

Thank you.

Question: My question would be connected to the one just said. My question would be also related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Do you see any chance for closer cooperation between the U.S. and Russia in preventing the war from happening? Or to put the question the other way around, how do you evaluate the leverages the U.S. has on Armenia and on Azerbaijan regarding the conflict resolution?

Thank you very much.

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Thank you all. Those are all very good and serious questions. I suppose I should first say to anyone who arrived late thinking they were coming for the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, I'm not the Ukrainian Foreign Minister. I just don't want there to be any confusion if journalists arrived in time for what they thought was something else. [Laughter].

Tomas asked a question about shifting global priorities from the United States, or potentially shifting, which is something we hear often and thus I'm glad to have an opportunity to address it. I genuinely think it can be misunderstood.

Is the United States and is President Obama interested in and focused on China and India and Brazil and the Middle East and Afghanistan? Yes. We plead guilty. I think you would appropriately worry if we weren't and if the President wasn't. These are enormous challenges that we face and they're very high on our strategic agenda. But I think it's a misunderstanding to see the world in zero sum terms or believe that what that means is we are no longer interested in Europe, don't need Europe, and it gets pushed aside. Indeed, I would go further to argue that it is precisely because we face such tremendous global challenges that we need a strong relationship with the democratic, like-minded, prosperous allies of Europe.

I'll tell you how we think about it, viewing the world from Washington. When you ask yourself how are we going to deal with these challenges that we face - the Iranian nuclear program, an ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, an even more potentially dangerous situation next door in Pakistan, the instability in the Middle East and now in North Africa - unless you think we think we can do all that alone, which we can't and we don't have the resources for, then you think you need allies. Then you ask where are they going to come from? I submit to you that even in this changing geopolitical environment they're still going to come from Europe. Who is helping us in Afghanistan with this war that we are fighting? There are 40,000 European troops in Afghanistan, and European civil contributions. Who is helping us deal with the Iranian nuclear challenge? It's primarily our European partners. So yes, China is important, India is important, but they're not fighting side by side with us in Afghanistan and they're not the most helpful allies in dealing with climate change, Iran, Middle East, North Africa.

So I think Europeans really should not imagine that in the new world it means that our focus has turned elsewhere and Europe isn't important. It's important for different ways, but it is vitally important and it's really a part of the President's world view and the administration's world view.

That's related to the south/north question and shifting priorities. Again, it would be, I wouldn't sit here and say that there's not going to be increased focus on North Africa and the Middle East moving forward. As we speak, we are considering options there, faced with a major crisis there, refugee flows. But again, I think the same point holds. We're in this together. Central and Northern Europe are in it too. And in this globalized world we're going to be turning to each other to deal with these problems. Fortunately Central Europe is now part of that stable, democratic West that can help contribute to global security challenges. And we don't neglect in any way the ongoing security challenges that remain in Europe. But I think Central Europe is now part of our common alliance increasingly dealing with common global challenges.

You asked a specific question about a European Fund for Democracy. I don't have a specific answer on that initiative or whether the United States would support it. I do have a general or generic one which is that we do need to see more active support from Europeans to support and bolster and promote democracy. Fortunately, while we're all concerned about the potential negative effects from what's happening in the Middle East and North Africa, at the same time there's a potentially enormous opportunity. After so many decades of stagnation to see, and I put this in my remarks underscoring the point that Secretary Clinton underscored in Geneva about this coming from within. That's what's really potentially interesting about this is that this was not outside imposed regime change, this was not provoked by al-Qaida violence. This was from within those countries, much in the way it also happened in Central Europe, with obvious support from the outside, just as we need to support it in North Africa and the Middle East. But that's hugely important.

So if Europeans are thinking about helping to fund that and sharing their expertise, and I mentioned the upcoming Sofia Conference, we think that's a good thing.

Auksana asked about Armenia and Turkish reconciliation. You know that is something the United States has strongly supported. The normalization process and the protocols signed between the two countries. I would be less than honest if I didn't admit that that process is stalled.

We strongly supported it. We thought it would be a step towards genuine reconciliation in the region that needs more genuine reconciliation. And it would contribute to further trust and peace and stability not just for Turkey and Armenia, but elsewhere as well.

Unfortunately while the two countries agreed to the protocols, initialed the protocols and signed them, witnessed by Secretary Clinton and other foreign ministers from Europe, the process has stalled. Turkey has said its parliament won't ratify the protocols without progress on the other dispute that you mentioned.

We believe it should go ahead and have tried to encourage the parties to move forward, and we continue to do so because we continue to believe that that is the true path to peace and stability and reconciliation in the region. We're going to continue with our efforts to get them to move forward.

You also asked about Nagorno-Karabakh. Again, I was just there with Deputy Secretary Steinberg to assess and try to contribute to the situation. The two countries through the Minsk Group process in which we are actively involved as co-chairs with the Russians and the French, actively promoting agreement on the basic principles that would again be a step towards peace between the two countries.

And the Russians have been very much involved. If I can tie it to the last question about U.S.-Russian cooperation, I would have to say U.S.-Russian cooperation is very good. The Minsk Group co-chairs work very well together. It is sometimes alleged, and I want to be completely frank about this, that we have deferred excessively to Russia because more of the meetings between the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents take place in Russia. That is true. Geographically it's closer, it's easier for them to meet in Astrakhan or Sochi than to come to Chicago. But we're actively involved in the entire process. We feel the Russians are transparent with us and vice versa. We feel we have a common interest in avoiding conflict and promoting stability and energy flows and peace in the region. So we're actively working on it.

It's difficult. There's not enough trust between the countries. But again, it comes back to what I said about the Eastern Partnership Initiative and EU involvement and American involvement. We have a common interest in finishing this business. There are parts of Europe that have become democratic and stable, and there are other parts that haven't yet, and Europe won't be complete until these other parts, which include the Balkans, which includes Belarus, which includes the Caucasus are stable as well, and once again, that's why we join together in supporting this Eastern Partnership Initiative.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Do we have a few more minutes for the second round of questions?

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Sure.

Question: Let's stay in the region and ask for Georgia. Secretary Clinton three times within a very short period of time has stated the "Russian occupation of Georgia" which is a very strong statement. The Georgians have complained they've been abandoned to some extent. There is some kind of a ban on weapons that Poland doesn't deliver, others do not want to deliver. They complain a bit. I'm not saying that they need that much weapons, but you know, I am repeating what they are saying.

The question is, do you have a kind of strategy which involves Russia on one hand and the regional powers there on the other?

Question: Phil, thank you for taking the time to share your views on this important relationship.

Let me touch on your points about the crisis going on in Libya. Could you elaborate a little bit more on the kind of dialogue you've been having with your European counterparts and perhaps give us a sense to the degree you can, where's been the greatest amount of agreement? And perhaps the greatest amount of difficulty or disagreement?

I was struck by your comments in that you mentioned an important role for the EU in that crisis. You didn't mention at all NATO. I'm not inferring there's an immediate role for NATO now with military force, but perhaps there is. But there certainly should be possibly some roles downstream for NATO in civil military development, military cooperation and such.

Why wasn't NATO on your agenda?

Question: Thank you very much for your intervention and mentioning the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. My question would be actually regarding that case as well.

You just mentioned that there is good cooperation between Russia and USA in favor of OSCE co-chair, but as Azerbaijani I'm a bit upset and kind of hopeless seeing that the last 17 years same format, same co-chairs, trying to deal with the conflict and nothing changed since 17 years. You have like OSCE co-chair which didn't change, the format, and the situation of the conflict which didn't change as well.

The question is, how we want to go further with that. It's not only U.S. perspective but also European perspective. There are some economic alternatives to solve this conflict.

At the same time today we discussed that leaving such frozen conflicts in the region can be quite a challenge and threat not only for the Caucasus but for Eastern Europe.

Assistant Secretary Gordon: Thank you. Maybe I'll go in reverse order and stay with Azerbaijan just for a minute.

Look, I understand and share your frustration and concern. We share it and that's why we're so present and active on the issue. It is a dangerous issue. It is, fortunately, frozen, but there are incidents on the line of control, there are casualties, there is a constant risk that it gets unfrozen in a negative way. And even if we don't suspect, or don't believe it likely that there is an outright invasion in the near future, there's always a chance of a miscalculation and a conflict. So I absolutely understand why you're frustrated and concerned.

I don't think frankly, that the problem is the sort of international framework for the negotiations. I say if we felt there was some other framework that would be better, we would be open to it. We feel no undue attachment to the current framework and the Minsk Group co-chairs. As I mentioned, we feel that is actually working pretty well. Among the three co-chairs and then also in touch with all the other interested parties. We feel we've been presenting the types of ideas that can help resolve the conflict. Ultimately as you know all too well, the parties themselves have a lot of fear and insecurities to overcome, and we're doing all we can to help them do so.

In Libya, I certainly didn't want to neglect NATO in thinking about it and we certainly haven't done so. Indeed I spent much of the day in touch with colleagues at NATO because as you know as early as last week NATO met and began the process of prudent planning to be ready to be able to offer our leaders more options if they choose to move in that direction. We're not prejudging anything. It's the same thing the United States is doing through its deployment of assets in the region. It is not signaling any use of force or prejudging anything. It's a step to give the President more options as what is clearly a volatile situation evolves.

That's what we believe NATO should be doing as well. Without prejudging anything, just studying the types of questions like how you could enforce an arms embargo which the UN Security Council has already mandated; like how you could help with humanitarian assistance which a number of countries have already undertaken including evacuations; like how you could implement a no-fly zone if leaders decided to implement one.

So that is our view, is that NATO should begin planning in these things because we want to be able to give our leaders the options in case they decide to go in that direction. So I didn't mean to fail to mention that.

I did mention the EU and there too, we have done some work together. The EU, like the U.S., has put sanctions on the Qadhafi family and those around it. We've taken a step further and put broader sanctions on Libya because we don't want that family and that person to have access to national assets, and we're encouraging the EU to do the same.

But the first point I made which you picked up on was just the theme of cooperation, and that I do want to stress because that was our instinct from the start, to make sure that the international community was speaking with one voice for all sorts of reasons, but not least, the more Qadhafi and those around him, and I put the stress on those around him, see that the world is at one in saying he's got to go, the less likely it is that people will rally to him and believe that his regime has a future. That's why it was important that we could quickly get a UN Security Council Resolution unanimously, including the Chinese who aren't normally quick to support such things. I think

that was a real signal that the world has decided that his use of force against his own people, as President Obama said, is a sign that he'd lost support and legitimacy and needs to go.

That's why we put an emphasis on international cooperation. You heard the President when he addressed this, immediately talked about sending Secretary Clinton to Geneva to consult with European allies, sending Under Secretary Burns to Europe to consult further underscores the point I made in my speech about how Europe is now the global partner of the United States. That's what I meant by emphasizing cooperation with Europe on that point.

Finally, Georgia. You raised two aspects. You referenced occupation and the Georgian feeling of security.

Yes, Secretary Clinton referred to Russian occupation of Georgia. We don't know what else to call it. We respect Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We believe that Russia used disproportionate force and remains present in what we consider to be sovereign Georgia. So it's not meant to be a particular provocation, it's just a description of what we think the situation is and we've very active in the Geneva talks and bilaterally with Russia to try to bring about an end to what we consider to be a military occupation.

I don't think there's a basis, you referenced feelings of abandonment. I really don't think there's a basis for that, and had good talks in Tbilisi just last week on our bilateral relationship.

As I mentioned in my speech, the United States after the 2008 war gave a billion dollars to Georgia which is not an insignificant amount of money. We launched a Strategic Partnership Commission that has met several times including at the secretarial level with Secretary Clinton's involvement. She has travelled to Georgia. The Vice President has traveled to Georgia. The Deputy Secretary has travelled to Georgia. I've been five times to Georgia. They come to us regularly. The Georgian Foreign Minister was in Washington last week. I think we have an intensive and active bilateral relationship. We raise Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity directly with the Russians pretty much every time we see them. We don't hesitate to do that. We're clear that we view it as an occupation. And as I said when I talked about our desire to work more closely with Russia, I also underscored that we have some differences with Russia. We're not shy about expressing them. And one of them is Georgia, and I think we've managed to have a better relationship with Russia in lots of important ways but without, as I said here, sacrificing our principles or our friends. Georgia is one of our friends and there are some important principles involved in that relationship.

\*Moderator:\* Thank you very much. Thank you for your speech and for those answers, Mr. Gordon. Thank you for your friendship and leadership. Thank you for coming such a long way from Washington and Sofia to GlobSec Bratislava Global Security Forum. I think you deserve a big applause.

Source: U.S. Department of State

### **Phillip Gordon: the United States has strongly supported reaching progress on normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey**

**Armininfo.info, 5.3.2011**

The United States has strongly supported the normalization process and the protocols signed between Armenia and Turkey, US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs Phillip Gordon said when making a speech at Globsec (Global Security) conference in Bratislava.

"We thought it would be a step towards genuine reconciliation in the region that needs more genuine reconciliation. And it would contribute to further trust and peace and stability not just for Turkey and Armenia, but elsewhere as well.

We believe it should go ahead and have tried to encourage the parties to move forward, and we continue to do so because we continue to believe that is the true path to peace and stability and reconciliation in the region. We're going to continue with our efforts to get them to move forward", Mr.Gordon said.

To recall, Turkey refused to ratify the Armenian-Turkish Protocols signed on 10 October 2009 and put forward like a pre-condition, the necessity of reaching progress on the Karabagk issue.

## Leaders look east from Bratislava

**Sme.sk, 7.3.2011**

SUPPORT for the EU's Eastern Partnership programme and calls for the Belarusian authorities to democratise and release political prisoners were voiced during a ministerial meeting of Visegrad Group countries and Germany held in Bratislava on March 3.

Catherine Ashton, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, attended the meeting as a special guest and stressed that the EU needs to create close ties with its eastern neighbours.

Within the framework of the Slovak presidency of the Visegrad Group (V4) the summit of foreign ministers of the V4 countries in Bratislava on March 3 was enlarged to include representatives from countries included in the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The foreign ministers of the Czech Republic and Hungary, Karel Schwarzenberg and János Martonyi respectively, and Poland's deputy foreign minister, Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, attended the meeting.

The meeting also included German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, Catherine Ashton, the Vice-President of the European Commission and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle.

The summit was held to send a strong political signal from V4 member states about their support for the Eastern Partnership, and their desire for it to effectively contribute to the political and economic stabilisation of the states which it addresses.

V4 ministers expressed their readiness to share their countries' experiences of transition and reform with their eastern partners.

Ashton said that the EU regards the Eastern Partnership as a very important policy and that the EU needs to strengthen ties with the countries to the east of the EU and support their integration ambitions.

"A concrete agenda will strengthen the ties between us," Ashton told the press conference after the meeting, as quoted by the TASR newswire.

Many of the guests then attended the Globsec conference, an annual event which took place in Bratislava for the sixth time on March 2-4. Globsec, organised annually by the Slovak Atlantic Commission under the auspices of the Slovak Foreign Minister and in cooperation with the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the European Commission Representation in Slovakia and the International Visegrad Fund, hosts exclusive speakers and hundreds of guests from various areas of international relations: diplomats, analysts from important think tanks, renowned journalists and representatives of public administration, international organisations and companies.

### Belarusian opposition also visits Bratislava

One day before the ministers' meeting Slovak Foreign Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda met representatives of the Belarusian opposition who visited Bratislava, including Belarus' first post-Soviet head of state, Stanislau Shushkievich, and former presidential candidates Aliaksandar Milinkievich and Aliaksandar Kazulin, to discuss the views of the Belarusian public on the current situation in their country and what Slovakia and the EU can do to help the people of Belarus.

"We have gone through our calvary; many don't remember it and many who attend European summits haven't gone through it and don't understand it," Dzurinda said after the meeting. "That makes our responsibility, the responsibility of post-communist countries and their leaders, even greater."

The visit by Belarusian civic activists was timed to coincide with the V4-Eastern Partnership meeting and the Globsec conference. They also attended a protest event organised by Slovak diplomats on March 2 in Hviezdoslavovo Square in Bratislava. Minister Dzurinda called on the Belarusian authorities to free political prisoners. Belarus' deputy foreign minister, Valerij Voronecky, who was also attending the summit in Bratislava, was reported not to have made any public comment.

The suppression of public protests following Belarusian presidential elections in December 2010 has resulted in the prosecution of 42 opposition activists in Belarus, 20 of whom are now in prison.

### **INTERVIEW: Miklos leads Slovakia into Eurozone's awkward squad**

***Bne.eu, 7.3.2011, Author: Nicholas Watson***

Slovakia has only been a member of the euro for just over a year, but it has already kicked up a fuss about contributing to the bailout fund for other Eurozone members and now looks as though it might've managed to kill a Franco-German proposal to harmonise corporate tax rates across the bloc.

Ahead of a couple of EU summits in March that will do much to define how the Eurozone fares this year and further into the future, Slovakia joined other smaller member states in fighting a key part of a draft plan – the so-called "competitiveness pact" – that is designed to impose more fiscal discipline on the 17 countries in the Eurozone, which was discussed by officials on February 28.

According to leaked copies of the blueprint published on March 1, the proposals comprise limits on debt levels written into national laws, higher retirement ages based on demographics, the abolition of index-linked wage increases, unified bank crisis-resolution mechanisms, measures to boost workforce mobility and, controversially, a common corporate tax base. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy want Eurozone leaders to agree the competitiveness pact at a meeting scheduled for March 11. The pact is virtually a precondition for German agreement to extend and make permanent the €440bn bailout fund for Eurozone members, which needs to be agreed at a second meeting on March 24 otherwise investors could take fright over doubts about the fiscal sustainability of the weakest Eurozone economies.

However, a common corporate tax base is a no-no for low taxation countries like Slovakia, who together with Ireland, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Malta immediately began lobbying against this part of the plan. "In general, we agree with the competitive pact as it was announced. There were six priorities and we have only partial reservations about one, which was the corporate tax harmonisation – on all others, we agree," Ivan Miklos, Slovakia's deputy prime minister and minister of finance, tells *bne*. "I accept the rationale behind this proposal, but the final result will actually be the worsening of the competitiveness of the whole of Europe, not only the new countries with low tax rates."

Miklos – a polished, sharply dressed, fluent English-speaking economist, steeped in the libertarian principles of the Austrian school of economics – says the main problem with trying to harmonise direct taxes such as corporate tax rates is that places like Slovakia have managed to cut corporate taxes to 19% and below by broadening the base through the closing of loopholes and ending exemptions. Germany, on the other hand, has a much narrower tax base because of the tax code's many exemptions, special rates and other deductions. If the EU decides to go down the path of having a common tax base, then it is unlikely to choose the Slovakian model, since broadening the tax base is, by its very nature, very politically unpopular. "So if we have a narrower base than today, we will have to impose these exceptions and increase tax rates, because the more narrow the tax base, you need higher rates to gain the same revenues, so this will worsen our competitiveness."

Slovakia may be winning the argument. During the Globesec 2011 forum in Bratislava on February 24, Janos Martonyi, minister of foreign affairs for Hungary, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, let slip that the priority for his country's term as president is to get "these five or six principles" adopted.

In an interview with *Stuttgarter Zeitung* published March 6, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said he hoped a basic agreement would be reached over the pact at the March 11 meeting. "The government's goal is for the basic decisions to be made clear on Friday, so that afterwards finance ministers can move to work out the details," he told the newspaper.

#### Fighting on several fronts

On another front, Slovakia is trying to force through a new way of calculating the credit guarantees that Eurozone members will contribute to the next bailout fund, the European Stabilisation Mechanism (ESM), that will replace the current fund in 2013.

Slovakia wants the way that each country's contribution to the ESM is calculated to account for the strength of

the economy - including GDP level, public debt and the development degree of the financial sector. For the current European Financial Stability Fund, the contributions correspond to the amount of reserves particular countries have in the European Central Bank, which in turn are partly dependent on the population of particular countries. According to Slovakia, the new way, backed by Slovenia and Estonia, of calculating guarantees within the ESM would be fairer and more beneficial to the Eurozone's poorest members.

Slovakia's membership of the Eurozone's "awkward squad" is, ironically, in direct contrast to how its citizens generally feel about the single currency since it was adopted in 2009.

At the end of February, the latest Eurobarometer survey carried found a high level of trust among Slovak citizens in the EU and its institutions, like the European Central Bank. As many as 71% of Slovak citizens said that they trust the EU, which is 28 percentage points above the EU average. Slovaks place the most trust in the European Parliament (76%), the ECB (68%), the EU Council (67%) and the European Commission (66%), while their own national institutions such as the Slovak parliament, government and courts do not enjoy such high approval ratings. "Despite the problems faced by the eurozone in 2010, it's gratifying to say that Slovaks have kept faith in the euro," Andrea Elscheková-Matisová, head of the European Commission Representative Office in Slovakia, told the TASR newswire.

### **Crnoj Gori sve ide od ruke**

**Pobjeda.co.me, 7.3.2011, Author: Marija Jovičević**

- Ljudi su globalno povezani i dok god je tako ne možemo okretati glavu na ono što se dešava u Libiji, pa ni u Avganistanu. Sve to će, prije ili kasnije, uticati direktno na nas, naše prijatelje i porodicu - kaže Babst

BRATISLAVA – Crna Gora bi trebalo da iskoristi dvije naredne godine da sprovede neophodne reforme, iskoristi veliku podršku koju ima među članicama NATO i dovrši evroatlantske integracije - kaže u intervjuu Pobjedi pomoćnica generalnog sekretara NATO za javnu diplomatiju dr Stefani Babst.

Babst je učestvovala na globalnom bezbjednosnom forumu GLOBSEC 2011 u Bratislavi. Ona ističe da Crnoj Gori sve ide od ruke: Lisabonska strategija koja je dala veliki zamah proširenju, crnogorska jedinica u Avganistanu koja se pokazala u najboljem svijetlu i činjenica da je Crna Gora na vrijeme shvatila da u današnjem svijetu niko u Evropi ne može sjedjeti skrštenih ruku. Babst kaže da više nema zona potpune sigurnosti, i da su sve države moguće mete terorizma.

POBJEDA: Crna Gora je u Akcionom planu za članstvo. Taj program se više odnosi na reforme u društvu, nego u vojsci. Kako Crna Gora napreduje na tom planu?

BABST: Pitanja borbe protiv organizovanog kriminala i korupcije su izazovi i za mnogo razvijenije zemlje od Crne Gore. NATO je postavio uslove, poručio je potencijalnim članicama da njihove vlade i institucije moraju biti zdrave da bi postale dio Alijanse. Ali mi nijesmo samo odredili uslove i samo rekli državama - riješite to. Mi smo tu za svaku asistenciju i pomoć i u tome se ogleda saradnja sa našim partnerima. U tom dijelu posebno izdvajam pomoć Alijanse kroz treninge za sudije i advokate. To je veoma važno za Crnu Goru.

POBJEDA: Javna podrška učešću NATO u Avganistanu je sve niža u Evropi. Na koji način objasniti građanima prisustvo crnogorskih vojnika u Avganistanu?

BABST: Uobičajena pitanja građana, zašto je Crna Gora u Avganistanu, šta mi to branimo u Kabulu i zašto bismo brinuli za terorizam, smatram potpuno legitimnim. Ne vidim ništa pogrešno u tome, jer kada odem kući u sjevernu Njemačku ista ta pitanja postavljaju moji rođaci, prijatelji i komšije. I evo pravog odgovora, koji mogu dati i jednima i drugima. Živimo u globalizovanom svijetu. Ne postoje samo nacionalna, regionalna ili republička pitanja, sve više stvari tiče svih nas. Ako je neko pomislio da će se revolucija zadržati samo u Tunisu, prevario se. Gotovo cijela sjeverna Afrika i Srednji istok je dio toga. Vi možete sjedjeti u svojim domovima i razmišljati, eto problema u sjevernoj Africi, eto problema u Avganistanu, sida hara srednjom Afrikom - ali šta to mene briga, ja sam sigurna. E, pa, više niko nije siguran. Ljudi su globalno povezani, i dok god je tako ne možemo okretati glavu na ono što se dešava u Libiji, pa ni u Avganistanu. Sve to će, prije ili kasnije, uticati direktno na nas, naše prijatelje, porodicu. Evo, recimo u Njemačkoj, Velikoj Britaniji i drugim evropskim zemljama ponalazili smo terorističke grupe koje su bile direktno povezane sa Al-kaidom i Avganistanom, a živjeli su u malim evropskim gradovima,

pretvarali su se da su naše komšije i odjednom - bum - ubile su desetine ljudi u metrou. To se dešava stalno. Neke uhapsimo prije nedjela, a neki uspiju da ispune svoju misiju. Sviđalo se to nama ili ne - svijet je postao mnogo manji, mnogo ranjiviji. Jedini način da se tome odupremo je da rješavamo probleme zajedno. NATO je jedna od takvih organizacija.

Nema NATO baza u Crnoj Gori

POBJEDA: Šta bi trebalo da sadrži jedna uspješna NATO kampanja?

BABST: Kao prvo, ne smije da bude brza i napadna, znači ne smije da bude propaganda. Najbolje je da se prema građanima postavite kao servis za informacije - da ste tu za ljude, da odgovarate na njihova pitanja i da ponavljate činjenice i to sto puta, ako je potrebno. Alijansa veoma brine o mišljenjima ljudi u Crnoj Gori. Prihvatamo njihove argumente i različite percepcije.

Nebrojeno puta su me pitali da li će NATO crnogorskoj obali da gradi bazu. Nijesu me začudila ta pitanja, ljude zanima i spremna sam da im ponovim da se to neće desiti. NATO nije okupator, niti može da gradi bazu ili vojnu ustanovu bez dogovora sa tom zemljom. Mi smo partneri u ovom procesu. Ali isto tako tražimo od Crne Gore da se uspješno izbori sa problemom viškova naoružanja, koji su ostali iz bivše Jugoslavije, jer to uništava vašu životnu sredinu.

Biografija

Dr Stefani Babst je na poziciji zamjenika generalnog sekretara NATO za javnu diplomatiju od maja 2006. godine. Prije toga je bila direktorka NATO sekcije za javnu diplomatiju, kao i predavač na vojnom univerzitetu u Hamburgu. Doktorirala je političke nauke na Harvardu.  
Piše Marija Jovičević

## **GLOBSEC 2011 - Globális kül- és biztonságpolitikai fórum Pozsonyban**

**[GLOBSEC 2011 – Global Foreign and Security Forum in Bratislava]**

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2011. március 2-4. között hatodik alkalommal került megrendezésre a Szlovák Atlanti Bizottság (Slovak Atlantic Commission – SAC) égisze alatt a GLOBSEC névre keresztelt kül- és biztonságpolitikai konferencia. Az elmúlt évek során a rendezvény rendkívül látványosan fejlődött, miközben eredeti célkitűzéseihez mindvégig hű maradt; nevezetesen, hogy felhívja a társadalom figyelmét a 21. századi biztonsági kihívásokra, valamint a transzatlanti partnerség globális biztonsági környezetben betöltött szerepére. A meghívott előadók és a közönség sokszínűségének köszönhetően a konferencia kezdetektől fogva remek lehetőséget kínál az aktuális nemzetközi politikai folyamatok és biztonságpolitikai kérdések széles körben történő megvitatására, ahol biztonságpolitikai szakértők, parlamenti-, kormányzati- és katonai tisztviselők, diplomaták, vállalati vezetők, a média képviselői és a jövő értelmisége, fiatal kutatók, egyetemi hallgatók egyaránt megtalálhatók.

A szervezők saját bevallása szerint a rendezvény hosszú távú célja, hogy fórumot biztosítsanak a szlovák és más államok biztonságpolitikai szakértői számára a minőségi vitának, valamint megmutassák, hogy Szlovákia olyan partner, aki jelentősen hozzájárul az aktuális biztonsági kihívásokról szóló nemzetközi vitákhoz, és nem csak a harcmezőn, de a nyílt diplomácia terén is aktív szereplő. Azt, hogy a kezdeményezés mennyire előremutató és sikeres, többek közt bizonyítja, hogy a konferencia társszervezői és partnerei között megtalálható a NATO, az Európai Bizottság, a Szlovák Külügyminisztérium, a Szlovák Védelmi Minisztérium, a Visegrádi Alap, vagy épp olyan nem kormányzati szervezetek, mint a Konrad Adenauer Alapítvány. Emellett évről-évre komoly hadiipari szereplők tűnnek fel a támogatók között (például a BAE Systems, Raytheon, Lynx, Airbus Military). A 2005-ben indult GLOBSEC 2009-re már olyan egyedülálló nemzetközi biztonságpolitikai fórummá nőtte ki magát, ahol befolyásos, vezető politikusok, külügyminiszterek, védelmi miniszterek, vállalatok és nem kormányzati szervezetek vezetői, közösségi és értelmiségi vezetők találkoztak – így egyáltalán nem túlzás a szervezők azon állítása, hogy a GLOBSEC feltette Pozsonyt azon európai fővárosok téképére, ahol fontos nemzetközi fórumokon alakítják a transzatlanti biztonsági kérdések napirendjét.

A teljesség igénye nélkül említünk néhány nevet a konferencián résztvevő politikusok, akadémikusok és szakértők közül a korábbi évekből: Anders Fogh Rasmussen (NATO főtitkár), Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (EBESZ főtitkár),

Karel Schwarzenberg (Cseh Köztársaság Miniszterelnök-helyettes és Külügyminiszter), Stephen Flanagan (CSIS alelnök), Oksana Antonenko (IISS főmunkatárs), Julian Lindley-French (Holland Védelmi Akadémia professzor).

2011-re a GLOBSEC egyfajta platformként is szolgál a Visegrádi Államok véleményének erősítésére a nemzetközi „agytröszt” közösségben, illetve a transzatlanti agenda közép-európai perspektívából történő formálására. A GLOBSEC 2011 gyakorlatilag mindennel rendelkezett, ami egy mind a résztvevők (mintegy 500 fő, több mint 40 országból), mind a szervezés tekintetében magas színvonalú, nemzetközi konferenciát jellemez. Idén az üdvözlő fogadást követően az első napon egy új formátumú, informális ülészakkal kezdődött a rendezvény (Night Owl Session – NOS), amely kellemes környezetben, a Chatam House szabályai alapján igyekezett garantálni a kötetlen, élénk és interaktív eszmecsere három témakörben: EURO: Váltás a túlélésről az újjászületésre?; Stratégiai Védelmi Felülvizsgálatok: Tehetünk többet kevesebből?; Biztonságban vagyunk a kibertérben?.

A konferencia második napján került sor a hivatalos megnyitóra, amit különböző témakörökben négy önálló ülészak, és az első naphoz hasonló, vacsorával egybekötött informális vitaestek követtek az arab világ forradalmi, Ukrajna politikai és társadalmi irányváltása, a NATO-EU kooperáció, a klímaváltozás, a NATO nukleáris politikája, a pénzügyi válság utáni védelmi együttműködés és az energiabiztonság témakörében. A konferencia részletes programja elérhető a Szlovák Atlanti Bizottság honlapján. A GLOBSEC 2011 ülészeit igen aktuális és érdekes témák köré szervezték, és bár akadt olyan panel is, amely viszonylag kevés hozzáadott információval bírt, túlnyomórészt hasznos tanulságokat, következtetéseket és számos nézőpontot megjelenítő érdekes hozzászólásokat, kérdésselvetéseket hallhatott a közönség, melyek közül a teljesség igénye nélkül mutatunk be néhányat.

#### Fehéroroszország és az Európai Unió Keleti Partnerség programja

Két szekció a 2010 őszi fehérorosz választások hatásait (a kialakult helyzetet, az Európai Unió feladatait, különös tekintettel az emberi jogi jogsértésekre), valamint az EU Keleti Partnerség átstrukturálásának szükségességét vitatta meg.

A fehérorosz választásokkal kapcsolatban számos vélemény, felvetés és kérdés hangzott el, melyek közül több is arra vonatkozott, hogy napjainkban az Európai Unió kénytelen eltérni a keleti határai mentén zajló emberi jogi jogsértéseket, mivel nem rendelkezik a fellépéshez szükséges valós eszközökkel. Ezt a problémát súlyosbítja, hogy amit megszorításokkal (pl. Alekszandr Lukasenko fehérorosz elnök beutazásának tilalma) a „szolgáltató szektorban” megvalósíthat, az nagyrészt Oroszország jóvoltából könnyedén áthidalható, pótolható a fehérorosz vezetés számára. Gazdasági oldalról is hasonló a helyzet, mivel az orosz együttműködésnek köszönhetően az EU által foganatosított megszorításoktól nem lehet átütő sikert elvárni (pl. orosz-belorusz gazdasági unió). Az EU „soft” eszközeinek tárházában szerepel(het) a fehérorosz vezetők és a politikai elit EU-ban található bankszámláinak befagyasztása, valamint egy lényegesen nagyobb erőfeszítéseket igénylő támogatási rendszer kialakítása, melynek elsősorban a fiatal generáció, a jövő (ellenzéki) elitjének, értelmiségének elkötelezettségét kell fokoznia a demokratikus értékek, így például az emberi jogok mellett. Ennek érdekében hangzott el a hozzászólók részéről javaslat például az Erasmus és Fulbright ösztöndíjak célirányos kiterjesztésére.

Mind a panel előadói, mind a hozzászólók hangsúlyozták, hogy annak érdekében, hogy az országban fokozatos demokratikus átalakulás és ne forradalom mehessen végbe, ezeknek a támogatásoknak folyamatosan el kell jutniuk a kívánt célcsoportok tagjaihoz. Egyelőre azonban az sem tisztázott, hogy ki lenne az a bizonyos ellenzéki párt, vagy nem kormányzati szervezet, amit az EU támogathatna. Kérdéses az is, hogy elegendő-e egy alternatív ellenzéki vezető, vagy esetleg többre lenne szükség, és ezek közül az EU kit, milyen mértékben támogatna? Ugyanakkor komoly kétségek övezik az EU esetleges fellépését akár a nemrég létrehozott Külügyi Szolgálaton keresztül, mivel egy szuverén állam belügyeibe való ilyen közvetlen beavatkozás nem elfogadott gyakorlat.

A Fehéroroszország irányába foganatosítandó politikai lépések értékelésénél felmerült, hogy több tanulmány is arról számol be, hogy az EU lakosságának (demokratikus) alapértékei jelentős mértékben eltérnek a fehérorosz lakosság alapértékeitől, ezért ezeket valamilyen módon össze kell egyeztetni a jövőben. A rendszer átalakítását alapvetően a politikai elitnek kellene vezetni, de a jelenlegi elit nem bír a demokratikus átmenethez szükséges politikai és társadalmi szocializációval, a társadalom pedig még inkább éretlen. Így az Európai Unió számára jelentősebb eredménnyel bírhat, ha a törvényesség, a pluralizmus és a piacgazdaság fejlesztésében vállal

szerepet, és nem az ideáltípusos demokráciát erőlteti. Egy hozzászóló rámutatott, hogy jelenleg problematikus az Európai Unió részéről a média- és szólásszabadság kritikája is, miközben az EU soros elnökségét ellátó Magyarország alapvető uniós értékeket sért médiatörvényével.

Végül a hozzászólások kapcsán kialakuló eszmecsere általános konklúzióját úgy lehetett megfogalmazni, hogy különösen fontos, hogy rövidtávon az EU nyomást gyakoroljon a politikai foglyok szabadon bocsátása érdekében, hosszú távon pedig felkutassa és támogassa azokat az ellenzékieket, akiken keresztül előkészíthető és megvalósítható a békés politikai átalakulás Fehéroroszországban.

A Keleti Partnerséggel kapcsolatban egyértelműen kijelentésre került, hogy az Európai Unió a 2005-ben bekövetkezett ukrainai politikai fordulatot követően egy olyan lehetőséget szalasztott el, ami 2010-ben visszatérítette az országot az oroszbarát irányba. Ukrán szempontból ennek oka az lehetett, hogy a nyugati államok alulértékelték az ország stratégiai jelentőségét, ami az ország méretén és lakosságán túlmenően elsősorban az elhelyezkedéséből adódó tranzit szerepében nyilvánul meg. Pedig utóbbi különösen előnyös abból a szempontból, hogy Ukrajna területén nincsenek olyan befagyott konfliktusok, mint a többi kelet-európai állam területén.

Azt is szem előtt kell tartani, hogy az EU-nak és az Egyesült Államoknak eltérőek az érdekei a térségben, így az Uniónak saját bilaterális kapcsolatainak fejlesztésére kell támaszkodnia, aminek egyik fontos lépése a társulási tárgyalások folyamatának újjáélesztése. A Keleti Partnerség jövőjével kapcsolatban egyértelműen megfogalmazódott, hogy az eddigi tanulságok alapján szükségessé vált a támogatások átstrukturálása, melynek értelmében a korábbi gyakorlat helyett a támogatás mértékét a valós teljesítésekhez kell kötni. Az EU keleti szomszédjai irányában differenciált értékelés kialakítása kívánatos, aminek keretében az egyes államokkal a bilaterális kapcsolatot a megvalósított reformokkal arányosan, kölcsönösségen alapulva kell fejleszteni, mivel mára bebizonyosodott, hogy az egységes megközelítés nem működött.

### Többpólusú Európa

A „többpólusú Európa létrejöttét” megvitató ülészak munkájának alapját a 2007-ben alapított páneurópai agytröszt, a European Council on Foreign Relation (ECFR) *The Spectre of a Multipolar Europe* című 2010 októberi tanulmánya képezte. A tanulmánnyal kapcsolatban egységes vélemény fogalmazódott meg, mely szerint a „többpólusú” megközelítés nem szerencsés, illetve nem írja le a valós viszonyokat, amire inkább alkalmas lenne a „pólusnélküliség” kifejezés, amennyiben egyik európai vezető hatalom sem akar/képes vezető pozíciót betölteni, így a „pólusok” nem versengők, hanem egymás mellett helyezkednek el. Ennek legfőbb oka a vezető európai államok hatalmának, valós képességeinek és stratégiai cselekvési lehetőségeinek gyors és jelentős csökkenése, Oroszország és Törökország esetében pedig a saját – Európán kívül eső – célok felé fordulás. Európa államai puha hatalmi képességeikből is gyorsan veszítenek, így egyre kevésbé képesek arra, hogy a szomszédos régiókban zajló eseményeket érdekeik szerint befolyásolják, alakítsák (például a Kaukázusban vagy Észak-Afrikában).

Oroszország az elmúlt két évtizedben sok tekintetben befelé fordult, miközben Európa több lehetőséget is elszalasztott a közeledés és együttműködés terén (pl.: gazdasági együttműködés, Oroszország WTO-tagsága, kulturális és oktatási kapcsolatok, turizmus). Ezzel szemben az EU és Törökország viszonyában meghatározó akadály, hogy – bár szükséges lenne – nincs őszinte kapcsolat. Törökország esetében az EU szerepe és az Európa irányába érzett elkötelezettség 2005 óta a csatlakozási tárgyalások meg nem oldott problémái és egyes tagállamok nyíltan ellenző magatartása következtében csökkent. A török külpolitika új irányvonalait tekintve a kérdés ma már az, hogy Törökország autonóm, vagy regionális hatalomként definiálja-e magát? Az ECFR tanulmány Törökországot pólusként említi meg, ami annyiban lehet pozitív, hogy végre egyenlő pozíciót feltételez, ami korábban nem volt jellemző, ráadásul Törökország tekintetében két átalakuló kontextust kell figyelemmel követni: a török-nyugati kapcsolatot és az ország belső (demokratikus) átalakulását. Összességében azonban új lendületre van szükség, mivel a tagsághoz képest „más lehetőségek” felajánlása Törökország számára nem felel meg, más megoldásban nem érdekelt.

Az elemzők Oroszország tekintetében a 2008-as grúz háborút az agresszív, érdekszférákon alapuló „poszt-szovjet politika” utolsó felvonásaként említették, amit az igazán mély változásokat hozó pénzügyi válság követett. A konfliktusos külpolitikát ma a politikai elit nem támogatja, mert minden tekintetben túl drága, Oroszország ezért inkább befelé fordul: mind a szándék és politikai akarat, mind pedig a képességek tekintetében lényegesen

kevesebb jut esetében is a beavatkozásra. Ugyanakkor Oroszországnál jól érzékelhető az Ázsia felé fordulás, tudatos útkeresés elsősorban Japán, Kína és India felé. E tekintetben az Egyesült Államokkal is „szabadabbak, hatékonyabbak és inkább stratégiai szintűek” az érdekegyeztetések, politikai tárgyalások, mivel azokat nem terhelik helyi szintű múltbeli problémák. Oroszország várhatóan nem Európában kívánja kialakítani a jövő stratégiai napirendjét.

#### Az orosz-amerikai kapcsolatok elmúlt két évének értékelése (Reset)

A 2009-ben kezdeményezett Reset mind az Obama adminisztráció multilaterális külpolitikája, mind a Medvedyev-Putyin kettős együttműködőbb külpolitikai irányvonala következtében a 2008-as mélypontot követően jelentős – a korábbi szintet is felülmúló – eredményeket hozott. A grúz-orosz háború után sokan egy új hidegháborútól tartottak; a következő években az EU irányában energetikai zsarolással, majd a Wikileaks eset után az amerikai-orosz kapcsolatok jelentős romlásával számoltak – mindez azonban nem következett be. A Reset tulajdonképpen az egész kapcsolatrendszer „újrakonfigurálásává” vált annak érdekében, hogy mélyebb változásokat, valós eredményeket hozzon rendszer szinten.

A felek érdekeinek szinkronizálása 5 területen volt kiemelkedő:

- o START-3: 20%-kal csökkent a stratégiai nukleáris fegyverek felső küszöbszintje. (De a taktikai nukleáris fegyverek tekintetében nem történt változás, sem akkor, sem azóta.)
- o ABM rendszerek szárazföldi telepítésének (Csehország, Lengyelország) visszavonása, helyette integrált rakétavédelmi rendszer kialakítása.
- o Non-prolifерáció: Irán és Észak-Korea elleni újabb szankciók elfogadása.
- o Afganisztán: az ISAF északi szállítási útvonalainak biztosítása, közös kábítószer-ellenes fellépés.
- o Terrorizmus ellenes együttműködés, energiabiztonság, konfliktuskezelés.

A Reset célja alapvetően nem az volt, hogy „jó kapcsolatot” alakítson ki a felek között minden kérdésben, hanem hogy működőképes kapcsolat jöjjön létre, mellyel az egyes kérdésekben mindkét fél nyer (win-win), mivel nem tekinti zéró-összegű játéknak az adott érdekkonfliktusokat. Az amerikai fél alapvető követelménynek tekinti, hogy érvényesíteni tudja az érdekszférák megszüntetését mind a politikai retorikában, mind a gyakorlatban. A megújuló együttműködés lehetővé tette, hogy egyes (demokratikus, emberi jogi) alapértékek tiszteletben tartása folyamatosan napirenden legyen; előrelépést érjenek el olyan országokhoz kapcsolódó problémákban, amelyek valamelyik nagyhatalomhoz kötődnek; miközben elkerülték, hogy olyan konfliktusokat emeljenek be a napirendre, ami csak közvetetten érinti a két országot. Számszerűsítve a Reset folyamatában 18 különböző programot kezdeményeztek és bonyolítottak (beleértve emberi jogi programokat is), és elérték az orosz civil társadalom, a politikai ellenzék és nem kormányzati szervezetek részvételét is.

A sikeres együttműködést bizonyítja amerikai részről, hogy az orosz fél már nem követeli a Kirgizisztánban található amerikai bázis bezárását, és hogy Oroszország elfogadta az 1929. sz. ENSZ BT Határozatot az Irán elleni szankciókról, valamint felbontotta az Sz-300 rakéták Iránnak történő eladásáról kötött szerződést. Továbbá a poszt-szovjet érdekszféra gyengülését mutathatja, hogy a Független Államok Közösségének államai már nem szerepelnek kiemelt helyen az orosz stratégiai dokumentumokban. Ehhez képest az együttműködés orosz részről a WTO-tagság elősegítésében és a belső modernizációs törekvések segítségével öltethetne testet a továbbiakban.

Ellenvélemények szerint a nyugt-európai fővárosok kissé naivnak ítélik meg az amerikai optimizmust, azt hangoztatva, hogy az alapvető orosz célkitűzések nem változtak, csak barátságosabb köntösben, együttműködőbb stílusban törekszenek azok elérésére. Eszerint Oroszország tudatosan épít arra, hogy megkerülhetetlen szereplő a világban, továbbra is fenn kívánja tartani a poszt-szovjet térség feletti felügyeletet, miközben a nyugati szemlélők szkeptikusak az orosz strukturális modernizáció lehetőségeit és a szándék komolyságát illetően. Európai szempontból értékelve, míg egyes európai államok profitálhattak az amerikai-orosz közeledésből, addig az EU egésze veszített rajta, mivel kevesebb figyelmet kap és kevésbé fontos partnernek tűnik. Az európai államok azt várták a Resettől, hogy Oroszország határozott elkötelezettséget mutasson az átfogó modernizáció irányában, mivel a modernizáció jobban Európa felé irányítaná az orosz külpolitika figyelmét, mint a modernizáció egyik fontos partnere. Még ha ez nem is következne be, az EU-orosz kapcsolatot kifejezett negatív hatás csak emiatt nem éri.

Összegezve, a *Reset* kedvezőbb körülményeket teremtett olyan, közös érdekeket és függőséget magukban foglaló kérdések megtárgyalásához, mint például a nukleáris leszerelés és non-prolifерáció, amelyeket nem lehet olyan konfliktusok állásától függővé tenni, mint például Grúzia helyzete.

#### A Kaukázus befagyott konfliktusai

A fórum során több szekcióban is felmerült, hogy a Kaukázus befagyott konfliktusai tekintetében a közeljövőben a konfliktusok kiújulására, humanitárius válság(ok) kirobbanására lehet számítani, ami a tekintetben különösen vészjósló, hogy a jelenlegi trendek szerint egyik jelentős szereplő (EU – nincs képessége, Oroszország – nincs szándéka, USA – nincs érdeke) sem akar felelősséget vállalni annak megfékezéséért, kezeléséért. Regionális szereplőként Törökország várhatóan, ha Hegyi Karabahban felélénkül a konfliktus, először Oroszországgal, majd az Egyesült Államokkal próbálna meg összehangolt lépéseket tenni, és csak a sor végén következne az Európai Unió.

#### A pozsonyi Biztonságpolitikai Fórum legfontosabb tanulságai és következtetései

Az EU Keleti Partnerség programját az „eredményorientáltság” céljával át kell strukturálni, amit a lengyel elnökség alatt fognak megtenni.

Az EU stratégiai szerepvállalási és érdekérvényesítési képessége minden tekintetben – a „soft” képességek terén is – gyorsan csökken, cselekvési szabadsága korlátozott, amit ma már nyíltan ki is mondanak. Meghatározó stratégiai partnerei – Oroszország, USA – számára egyre inkább másodlagossá válik a felemelkedő ázsiai országokkal szemben, így elsősorban a gazdasági válság hatására Európa „többpólusú”, vagy éppen ellenkezőleg „pólus nélküli” – hatékonyan kezdeményező szereplő nélküli – kontinenssé válik.

Oroszország konfliktusos „poszt-szovjet külpolitikája” 2008-at követően lezárult és jelenleg kevésbé tette kész. Ez egyrészt hatékonyabb stratégiai szintű külpolitikai együttműködést tesz lehetővé az Egyesült Államokkal, mivel kevesebb a konfliktus, másrészt egyes potenciális konfliktusok „elhanyagolását” eredményezheti (Hegyi Karabah). A *Reset* folyamata több, közös érdeket és nagyfokú függőséget magában foglaló kérdés eredményes megtárgyalásában nyilvánult meg 2009 óta.

#### A GLOBSEC kül- és biztonságpolitikai fórum reklámfilmje. (Forrás: [youtube.com/user/SACSlovakia](http://youtube.com/user/SACSlovakia))

A GLOBSEC 2011 magas színvonalú lebonyolítását nagymértékben segítette az innovatív hozzáállás és a 21. századi technológia alkalmazása, melynek révén az ülésszakok rendkívül dinamikusnak és interaktívnak bizonyultak. A belső zárt láncú tévének köszönhetően a konferencia helyszínén bárhol figyelemmel lehetett kísérni az előadások helyszínéül szolgáló teremben elhangzó beszédeket és hozzászólásokat, de az interneten is követhetőek voltak az események a GLOBSEC honlapján keresztül, míg a fórum közösségi profiljai (facebook, youtube, twitter) lehetőséget biztosítottak minden érdeklődő számára a résztvevőkkel történő valós idejű kommunikációra. Összességében a GLOBSEC 2011 konferencia már nem csak Közép-Európa legjelentősebb kül- és biztonságpolitikai fóruma, hanem Európa egyik meghatározó konferenciája, amely jelentős szerepet játszik és viszonyítási alapként szolgál a transzatlanti térség biztonságpolitikai kérdéseinek professzionális szintű megvitatásához.

#### **UE: Debata o Partnerstwie Wschodnim na Bratislava Global Security Forum**

#### **[EÚ: Discussion about Eastern Partnership at Bratislava Global Security Forum]**

#### **Eastbook.eum 7.3.2011**

Minister Spraw Zagranicznych i Integracji Europejskiej Republiki Mołdowy Iurie Leanca i przewodniczący Projektu Przemian na Rzecz Demokracji -Bruce Jackson byli jednymi z prelegentów na wyżej wymienionym panelu dyskusyjnym. Aktywnym uczestnikiem dyskusji okazał się także Minister Spraw Zagranicznych Gruzji Grigol Vashadze, który w bardzo rzeczowy sposób przedstawił gruziński punkt widzenia proprytetów PW.

Posiedzenie zainaugurował gospodarz, Minister Spraw Zagranicznych Słowacji- Mikulas Dzurinda.

Na Forum, głównym reprezentantem Polski był pan Mikołaj Dowgiewic.

Dyskusja skoncentrowała się na procesie wdrażania Partnerstwa Wschodniego i jego perspektyw. W szczególności odnoszono się do kontekstu strategicznego przeglądu obecnej europejskiej polityki sąsiedztwa.

Prelegenci poruszyli temat perspektywy rozwoju inicjatywy Partnerstwa Wschodniego i dynamiki już istniejącej współpracy między krajami partnerskimi i UE.

Uczestnicy położyli szczególny nacisk na pilną potrzebę zapewnienia bezpieczeństwa i stabilności w regionie. Odnosi się to zwłaszcza do konieczności indywidualnego potwierdzenia europejskich aspiracji krajów Partnerstwa Wschodniego.

### **Dialogue with Turkey always possible, Armenian MP says**

**News.am, 7.3.2011**

Mr. Philip Gordon's statement is one more piece of evidence that the United States still highlights Armenian-Turkish reconciliation, Artak Zakaryan, a Parliament member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), told Armenian News-NEWS.am as he commented on U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon's statement that the U.S. disagrees with official Ankara's position that Turkey can ratify the Armenian-Turkish protocols provided the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process shows progress.

"The U.S. thus stressed that it was Turkey's preconditions that blocked the reconciliation process. Armenia's position is clear. No new talks can be held or any new protocols can be prepared. We have what we have. If Turkey is able keep pace with the existing protocols, a dialogue is always possible," Zakaryan said.

Speaking at the Globsec (Global Security) 2011 conference, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon stated the United States disagrees with official Ankara's position that Turkey can ratify the Armenian-Turkish protocols provided the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process shows progress. The U.S. has contributed to the reconciliation process. The U.S. Secretary of State has made great efforts. However, the process came to a halt. The U.S. does not believe Armenian-Turkish reconciliation depends on other processes. The U.S. has held this position from the very outset. The U.S. believes the side must move forward and ratify the protocols, Gordon said.

### **Leaders Look East from Bratislava**

**Data.minsk.by, 7.3.2011**

**Democraticbelarus.eu, 8.3.2011**

SUPPORT for the EU's Eastern Partnership programme and calls for the Belarusian authorities to democratise and release political prisoners were voiced during a ministerial meeting of Visegrad Group countries and Germany held in Bratislava on March 3.

Catherine Ashton, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, attended the meeting as a special guest and stressed that the EU needs to create close ties with its eastern neighbours.

Within the framework of the Slovak presidency of the Visegrad Group (V4) the summit of foreign ministers of the V4 countries in Bratislava on March 3 was enlarged to include representatives from countries included in the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The foreign ministers of the Czech Republic and Hungary, Karel Schwarzenberg and Janos Martonyi respectively, and Poland's deputy foreign minister, Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, attended the meeting.

The meeting also included German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, Catherine Ashton, the Vice-President of the European Commission and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, Stefan Fule.

The summit was held to send a strong political signal from V4 member states about their support for the Eastern Partnership, and their desire for it to effectively contribute to the political and economic stabilisation of the states which it addresses.

V4 ministers expressed their readiness to share their countries experiences of transition and reform with their eastern partners.

Ashton said that the EU regards the Eastern Partnership as a very important policy and that the EU needs to strengthen ties with the countries to the east of the EU and support their integration ambitions.

A concrete agenda will strengthen the ties between us, Ashton told the press conference after the meeting, as quoted by the TASR newswire.

Many of the guests then attended the Globsec conference, an annual event which took place in Bratislava for the sixth time on March 2-4. Globsec, organised annually by the Slovak Atlantic Commission under the auspices of the Slovak Foreign Minister and in cooperation with the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the European Commission Representation in Slovakia and the International Visegrad Fund, hosts exclusive speakers and hundreds of guests from various areas of international relations: diplomats, analysts from important think tanks, renowned journalists and representatives of public administration, international organisations and companies.

Belarusian opposition also visits Bratislava

One day before the ministers meeting Slovak Foreign Minister Mikulas Dzurinda met representatives of the Belarusian opposition who visited Bratislava, including Belarus first post-Soviet head of state, Stanislav Shushkievich, and former presidential candidates Aliaksandar Milinkievich and Aliaksandar Kazulin, to discuss the views of the Belarusian public on the current situation in their country and what Slovakia and the EU can do to help the people of Belarus.

We have gone through our calvary; many don't remember it and many who attend European summits haven't gone through it and don't understand it, Dzurinda said after the meeting. That makes our responsibility, the responsibility of post-communist countries and their leaders, even greater.

The visit by Belarusian civic activists was timed to coincide with the V4-Eastern Partnership meeting and the Globsec conference. They also attended a protest event organised by Slovak diplomats on March 2 in Hviezdoslavovo Square in Bratislava. Minister Dzurinda called on the Belarusian authorities to free political prisoners. Belarus' deputy foreign minister, Valerij Voronecky, who was also attending the summit in Bratislava, was reported not to have made any public comment.

The suppression of public protests following Belarusian presidential elections in December 2010 has resulted in the prosecution of 42 opposition activists in Belarus, 20 of whom are now in prison.

### **CONFERENCE CALL: Minsk on my mind**

**Bne.eu, 9.3.2011, Author: Nicholas Watson**

The problem of what to do about Belarus was exercising the minds of the great and the good at the Globsec 2011 conference in Bratislava on March 3. While state officials from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland were delivering a "tough message" to the Belarusian deputy foreign minister in a closed-door session, in the nearby auditorium the country's beleaguered opposition and its supporters were discussing what the outside world could, and should, do to help bring about change in this remaining authoritarian corner of Europe.

While the ministers of the so-called Visegrad 4 countries were having what they called an open and frank exchange with Belarus Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Voronetsky over the clearly fraudulent presidential elections on December 19 and the subsequent crackdown on the opposition, alas the same couldn't exactly be said for next door.

When one conference attendee had the temerity to question how the Belarusian opposition was getting its money to travel around the world pleading its case, visiting conferences such as this one, the moderator of the panel discussion, Roland Freudenstien, deputy director and head of research at the Centre for European Studies, jumped off the podium, grabbed the microphone from the startled man, and told him such questions weren't appropriate.

Such tactics do little to enhance the debate, especially when the Belarusian opposition have such a compelling story to tell.

## Last man standing

Aliaksandr Milinkievich, an opposition leader and chairman of the Movement for Freedom, is one of the few still available to appear at these kinds of events. Virtually all the presidential candidates who stood against Alexander Lukashenko, the Belarus president whom western journalists seem contractually obliged to describe as having ruled with "an iron fist" since the former Soviet republic became independent in 1994, are now either in jail or under house arrest.

Milinkievich says that the EU and the West must use the classic carrot-and-stick approach to get these political prisoners freed as a very first step. "The assessment of the situation should be firm and coherent. First, all the political prisoners must be freed and the instrument is that the regime cannot solve many of its economic problems without the help of the western countries," Milinkievich tells *bne* on the sidelines of the conference.

The situation over the political prisoners is becoming critical. The state has started putting opposition figures and protesters on trial, with some facing up to 15 years in jail for allegedly organising a mass riot after the results of the election were announced. The opposition claims that the protest was largely peaceful, with just a small number of activists – some allege they were agent provocateurs – blamed for attacking a government building on Minsk's Independence Square.

On March 7, Europe's main security and human rights body, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said it had reached a deal with the Belarusian authorities to send observers to monitor the trials. "A first group of four observers is expected to arrive on Wednesday [March 9] to monitor the trials of Dzmitry Miadzvedz, as well as Russian citizens Ivan Gaponov and Artyom Breus," the OSCE's democracy and rights arm, the ODIHR, said in a statement. "The observers will assess the trials for their consistency with national law and fair trial standards as specified in OSCE documents and legally binding international covenants."

In the longer run, few doubt that the Lukashenko regime's days are numbered, though with revolutions sweeping across North Africa and into the Middle East, people like Milinkievich caution that the same is unlikely to happen in Belarus. "Many people don't want revolution like in North Africa, but want changes for the better in Belarus," he says. "We would like the change to happen as quickly as possible, but it is not possible to have a sudden break and things change overnight."

There are fundamental differences between the situation in the autocratic regimes in North Africa and Belarus. "In Libya they did not have any opposition, any free media, or to any great extent civil society. The protest was mostly of economical and social origin. In Belarus, we have a value-based protest. The people who went onto the streets to protest were mostly educated, pro-European people."

To this end, Milinkievich even holds out the possibility of the current regime being a "temporary partner" during the transition, but that the West's strategic partner should always be the democratic part of the political system in Belarus – an implicit criticism that he feels the pendulum swung too far toward the regime when the EU restarted to engage with it two years ago.

Even so, with problems in the Belarusian economy mounting and the EU imposing sanctions, no-one can discount entirely the regime collapsing unexpectedly. "One cannot exclude that Lukashenko's policies will lead the country into a deep economic crisis," says Milinkievich. "It is very important that under such a crisis, the mass protest leads to democracy, not to another autocrat or populist. This can only happen if there are more democrats in society - the Europeanization of Belarus, I call it."

## That at Poles instead of ballistic missiles

**Vikno.eu, 9.3.2011**

Okuchivanie of the American diplomats where they have appeared, has turned today in the Central Europe to hobby not only journalists for whom it is a working duty, but also politicians from the right part of a political spectrum. They cannot forget to Americans autumn of 2008 when Barack Obama not has cancelled in the most suitable and tactful image in Poland and Czechia projects of antimissile defence, in which these politicians invested a lot of energy and the political capital.

a role of the one whom hill, at conference on safety in Bratislava Globsec last week has incurred Filip Gordon

(Philip Gordon), whose post on old manners can be described as a post of the head of department concerning Europe and Eurasia of US State department. Knowing people say that it was more amusing and is more compliant, when was an analyst of non-governmental institute Brookings but since it works for administration, it has turned in a cracker. In Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw and in other cities he explains that Obama's administration did not throw the Central Europe for a board in Russian mouth and that within the limits of "reboot" of relations with Russia priorities have simply changed.

«I would not use a word «a failure» (failure), I, more likely, have told, as after «reboot» in relations with Russia we have certain calls (challenges)», - Gordon diplomatically answered my question in what he sees "a reboot" failure. Then he has added something about an unacceptable situation in Georgia, about «disagreement concerning human rights, democracy and a freedom of speech».

We sat on the closed round table with journalists from the countries of Vyshegradsky group where have not started up the unfortunate colleague from Romania, but have started up the Ukrainian journalist from military magazine. Probably, Americans so understand the Central Europe. Me has surprised, what behind a word in a pocket Slovaks at whom no radar and any base and should be («did not climb even When Hilari Clinton last time Slovakia used a word?») - the colleague from Slovak newspaper Pravda).

the Ukrainian has asked a question who will protect Ukraine which balances between Russia and the West from a rocket attack and just is more declined towards Moscow. And here this American it became almost a pity to me. Outcast Europe has thrown out on it all cares because its politicians, journalists and analysts believe that after a miscellaneous historical Experience Europe has constructed certain special relations with Washington which will help Europeans to counterbalance influence of Russian bear. Also Gordon's statement that the Central Europe inspires such countries, as Tunis, Egypt and Libya where democracy only starts to be under construction at all has not helped.

the Poles known diplomatic brutal'nost'ju, can complain of loss of communications with Americans most less. At mentioned conference Globsec in okuchivanii the American they participated, more likely, to a lesser degree and behind the closed doors (and there there was no Polish journalist).

As one day later to me has explained to Jan Bzhezinsky (Ian Brzezinski), yes, the son of THAT Bzhezinsky, an analyst on centre Atlantic Council safety issues, at administration of the USA simply «bad management» its special relation to the Central Europe. And he has added to it the Polish example: Warsaw and Washington have agreed that in Poland since 2013 the educational squadron of fighters F-16 and four transport "Oat-flakes" will be placed. Placing something is not excluded even that should replace antimissile defence, system SM-3 after show with the growing educational battery of rockets Patriot has passed for nothing.

Correctness of the Polish approach invisible okuchivanija, on Saturday reaction of the Russian newspaper "Kommersant" has confirmed: messages on the American planes and rockets in Poland today at a meeting in the Kremlin vice-president of the United States Joe Bajden ostensibly should explain to the president of Russia Dmitry Medvedev.

### **Белорусская секция на GlobSec 2011**

**[Belarusian section on Globsec 2011]**

**Community.livejournal.com, 9.3.2011**

Видеозаписи выступлений экспертов и дебатов на белорусской секции конференции [Global Security Forum 2011](#), 2-4 марта, Братислава.

Там со второй части идет очень интересная тема "Кого и как финансировать в Беларуси после 19 декабря" (откровенно выступают Смоляр, Янукевич и Шушкевич), феерическое выступление про Ленина и агентов влияния Германии Сергея [serkiz](#) Кизимы, у которого в конце концов [отобрали микрофон](#).

Да и вообще все очень мило, вплоть до трогательной истории про белорусскую девочку Дашу, которая поменяла юзерки в профайле своего Фейсбука и зажгла в сердце опытного европейского демократа надежду на свободную Беларусь.

### **Belarus After The Elections: Will Sanctions Work?**

Session co-organized by the Centre for European Studies, PACT inc. and the Institute for Modern Slovakia  
Chairman: Roland Freudenstein - Deputy Director and Head of Research, Centre for European Studies, Brussels  
Alaksandr Milinkevich - Opposition Leader, Minsk  
Balázs Jarábik - Country Representative for Belarus and Ukraine, PACT; Associate Fellow, FRIDE, Kyiv  
Alexei Pikulik - Analyst, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies; European Humanities Universities, Vilnius  
Eugeniusz Smolar - Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre for European Studies, Brussels; Senior Fellow, Polish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw  
Pavol Demeš - Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the U. S.; Minister for International Affairs of the Slovak Republic (1991 – 1992)

**Armenian-Turkish Rapprochement Should Not Be Linked to Other Problems, Phillip H. Gordon Says**  
*Thearmenianobserver.com, 9.3.2011*

SLOVAKIA — U.S disagrees with Turkey that it will ratify the Armenian-Turkey accords if Karabakh peace process achieves progress, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Phillip H. Gordon stated in his GLOBSEC security conference speech hosted by the Slovakian government.

Well known analysts, politicians and diplomats from Europe and U.S attended the conference.

The U.S supported the normalization process and U.S Secretary of State made great efforts for reconciliation of Armenia-Turkey relations.

However, the normalization process stopped. Turkey says it would ratify the Protocols if the Karabakh peace process achieves progress. The United States considers Armenia-Turkey relations should not be linked with other problems. The U.S reiterates its position and considers the parties should advance and ratify the Protocols, Gordon emphasized.

**Globsec Security Conference a big success**

*Remadeinholland.worldpress.com, 10.3.2011, Author: Daphne Bergsma*

Last week the Globsec Security Conference -edition 2011- took place in Bratislava. It was a major success, with over 500 attendants from all over the world taking part in a wide range of discussions on some very challenging issues. The Embassy was there and fed its feelers with all kinds of fascinating information.

We also had the distinct pleasure of welcoming former Dutch Minister of Defense, Mr. Middelkoop and Professor Jaap De Zwaan, the Director of 'Clingendael'-the Netherlands Institute of International Relations. Both flew in to participate in the conference.

The event was extremely well organized and staged in truly splendid surroundings. The embassy would therefore like to present its compliments to all those involved in organizing it. For those who missed it the Globsec website offers the unique opportunity to re-watch all discussions!

For more information we kindly refer you to the following website:

[www.globsec.org](http://www.globsec.org)

I highly recommend watching the dicussions!

Sincere regards,

Daphne Bergsma

**10 тем, волнующих восточную половину ЕС**  
**[Ten topics that are vexing the EU's eastern half]**

**Inosmi.ru, 10.3. 2011**

Конференция по безопасности Globsec, проходящая в Братиславе, похоже, нашла свое место в общеевропейском календаре. Я только что побывал там (предоставляю полный отчет: мой перелет и проживание в гостинице были оплачены), проведя многополярное обсуждение многополярности и подхалтурив в качестве эксперта по Ближнему Востоку на довольно неубедительном основании того, что в 1999 я провел неделю в отпуске в Дубае. К счастью, у некоторых из других участников послужной список был получше.

Но с точки зрения журналиста, ценность подобных конференций в том, что они подкидывают отличные идеи для репортажей. Вот мой список. Если все это правда, статьи, посвященные этим темам, могут появиться в журнале Economist или на сайте European Voice в ближайшее время.

Шведско-польский оборонный союз: у меня аж дух захватило, когда я услышал, что шведские парламентарии так напуганы перевооружением России, что хотят, чтобы Министерство обороны пересмотрело сотрудничество с Польшей в области безопасности. Если Россия хочет подтолкнуть своих нейтральных соседей к НАТО, то покупка наступательных вооружений – отличный способ.

Венгрия может вернуться к своему грубому подходу в отношении со Словакией после того, как в июне закончится ее шестимесячное президентство в Совете министров. Еще один бессмысленный спор в копилку размолвок, в которой уже отметились Польша с Литвой и Греция с Македонией.

А что мы думаем по поводу китайских военных судов в Средиземноморье? И все более заметных китайских интересов в Центральной и Восточной Европе? Уравновешивают ли они российские интриги, или мы просто поменяли одну проблему на другую?

Действительно ли Россия станет принимать периодическое участие во встречах «Веймарского треугольника» Франции, Германии и Польши? В малых странах это усилит ощущение того, что картель больших стран укрепляет свои позиции.

Польша теряет энтузиазм по поводу сотрудничества в рамках «Вышеградской группы», потому что предпочитает компанию больших стран маленьким? Надеюсь, что нет, но было тревожно услышать, как польский комментатор сказал, что Польша не очень-то верит в действенность центральноевропейского сотрудничества. Однако, надо заметить, что ни у кого не нашлось доброго слова для Венгрии.

Что произошло с запланированными на этот год российскими военными учениями «Запад-11» и «Ладога»? Приведет ли менее угрожающий сценарий к тому, что США также сократят масштаб запланированных учений на Балтике, или наоборот?

Что произойдет с НАТО после окончания миссии в Афганистане? Зачем США утруждать себя Европой, когда их союзники (за исключением Эстонии) тратят на оборону смехотворно низкие суммы?

А что там с американско-российской перезагрузкой? В Братиславе все пришли к консенсусу о том, что все это вылилось в одни атмосферные помехи. Или же (смешивая метафоры) все, что лежало на поверхности, уже использовали, а больше ничего и нету.

А что насчет Белоруссии? Лучшим предложением стало попросить Папу римского воспользоваться причислением его предшественника Иоанна Павла II к лику святых (что должно произойти 1 мая), чтобы попросить власти в Минске освободить политзаключенных. Расторопные организаторы конференции подготовили листовку с именами, фотографиями и биографиями заключенных. В то время как мы попивали чрезмерно дорогой венгерский бренди, они вынуждены соблюдать каторжный режим.

Ну, и если говорить об актуальных темах: что нам думать про Ливию и «Ближний Восток»? Со своей стороны я призвал к смиренному и скептическому пессимизму. Попытка подогнать события 2011 года в знакомы рамки борьбы против коммунизма высокомерна, хотя и соблазнительна. К тому времени как вы это прочитаете, Ливия может выглядеть как Венгрия в 1956 году или Румыния в 1989 или вообще как нечто совсем иное.

Конференция Globsec отлично вписывается в календарь, следуя за тусовкой плутократов в Давосе и конференцией по безопасности в Мюнхене, и предшествуя брюссельскому форуму Фонда Маршалла в Германии, в то время как эстонская конференция Леннарта Мери лишь маячит на горизонте. Признаком экономической и политической мощи Словакии является тот факт, что мало кто из участников даже спросил о состоянии правящей коалиции или экономических перспективах страны. Это, как минимум, признак успеха.

Автор статьи – корреспондент журнала *The Economist* в Центральной и Восточной Европе

### **Ten topics that are vexing the EU's eastern half**

**Europeanvoice.com, 10.3.2011, Author: Edward Lucas**

A trip to Bratislava brings to the surface some of the principal undercurrents in central and eastern Europe.

The Globsec security conference in Bratislava is carving out something of a niche in the European calendar. I have just been there (full disclosure: with my flight and hotel paid), chairing a multi-polar discussion about multi-polarity, and moonlighting as a Middle East expert, on the rather tenuous basis of a week's holiday in Dubai in 1999. Luckily, some of the other participants had more solid credentials.

But from a journalistic point of view, the value of such conferences is the story ideas that they throw up. Here's my list. If true, they may even appear in *The Economist* or *European Voice* before too many moons are out.

The Swedish-Polish defence alliance: It was gripping to hear that Swedish parliamentarians are so spooked by Russia's rearmament that they want their defence ministry to re-examine security co-operation with Poland. If Russia wants to push its neutral neighbours towards NATO, then buying offensive weapons is a good way of doing it.

Hungary may start reviving its abrasive approach to Slovakia after its six-month presidency of the Council of Ministers ends in June. Yet another pointless argument to add to the Polish-Lithuanian and Greek-Macedonian spats.

What do we think about Chinese naval vessels in the Mediterranean? And the increasingly conspicuous Chinese interest in central and eastern Europe? Does that balance Russia's mischief-making, or just exchange one problem for another?

Is it really true that Russia is going to be an occasional guest at the Franco-German-Polish 'Weimar Triangle' meetings? That will intensify the feeling in small countries that the big-countries cartel is gaining ground.

Is Poland losing enthusiasm for Visegrad co-operation, because it prefers big countries to small ones? I hope not, but it was alarming to hear a Polish pundit say that Poland does not really think central European co-operation works. Nobody has a kind word to say about Hungary, however.

What has happened to Russia's planned Zapad-11 and Ladoga military exercises this year? Will a less threatening scenario mean that the US downsizes its planned exercises in the Baltic too. Or vice versa?

What happens to NATO after the Afghan mission ends? Why will the US bother with Europe when its allies (Estonia excepted) spend ludicrously low amounts on defence?

What's with the US-Russian reset? The consensus in Bratislava was that only atmospheric remain. Or (mixing metaphors) the low-hanging fruit has been picked, and nothing much is still on the table.

What to do about Belarus? The best suggestion was that the pope should use the beatification of his predecessor, John Paul II, on 1 May, to ask the authorities in Minsk to release political prisoners. The efficient conference organisers had provided a leaflet with the names, faces and biographies of the detainees. As we sipped over-priced palinka, they are subject to hard-labour regimes.

Most topically, what should we think about Libya and the 'Middle East'? My contribution was to urge humble and sceptical pessimism. Fitting the events of 2011 into the familiar framework of the struggle against communism is arrogant, if tempting. By the time you read this, Libya may look like 1956 in Hungary, or 1989 in Romania, or something quite different.

The Globsec conference fits neatly into the calendar, after the plutocrats' shindig in Davos and the Wehrkunde security conference in Munich, and before the German Marshall Fund's Brussels Forum, with Estonia's Lennart Meri conference as a distant treat on the horizon. It is a sign of Slovakia's economic and political strength that few participants even bothered to ask about the health of the ruling coalition or the country's economic prospects. That at least is a sign of success.

*The writer is central and eastern Europe correspondent of The Economist.*

### **Демократия в ЕС мертва. Мое участие в отпевании на Форуме по глобальной безопасности в Братиславе**

**[Democracy in the EU is dead. My participation in the funeral at the Forum of the Global Security in Bratislava] News.21by, 11.3.2011**

Со 2 по 4 марта 2011 г. я участвовал в Форуме по глобальной безопасности (GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum).

Об уровне мероприятия говорит то, что в качестве со-организаторов участвовали НАТО и Европейская комиссия, выступал еврокомиссар Фюле и 7-8 министров обороны и иностранных дел отдельных стран Евросоюза и стран Восточного партнерства.

Была отдельная секция по Беларуси, которую вначале хотели сделать одной из вспомогательных секций, а потом трансформировали в первую секцию. Отсюда виден уровень интереса.

Я попал в состав участников практически случайно. Не раз уже в моей жизни бывало, что я оказываюсь со своей точкой зрения на совершенно противоположных по идеологии и направленности мероприятиях. Я рублю правду-матку, говоря то, что думаю, и наблюдаю за реакцией. Всегда это очень интересно.

Но в этот раз оказалось особенно интересно и поучительно. Происшедшие в связи с моим выступлением события позволяют четко проследить динамику расставания ЕС с прежней декларируемой демократией. В принципе, то, что это должно произойти, мне, как специалисту, понятно. Чтобы эффективно конкурировать с централизованными Китаем и США, ЕС должен дисциплинироваться и централизоваться. Иначе шансов в глобальной конкуренции – ноль. Если ЕС не сможет централизоваться и внедрить дисциплину, он может стать своеобразной Речью Посполитой XXI века, и так же, как Речь Посполитая в XVIII веке, развалиться на составные части из-за демократической вольницы, неуместной в жесткой конкуренции с малодемократичными или вовсе недемократичными странами.

Итак, что же произошло? На сессию собрали весь разрекламированный («цвет») белорусской оппозиции, доступный в данный момент – Милинкевича, Шушкевича и Козулина. С точки зрения идеологии секцию организовали безупречно – периодически ведущий секции (директор центра Европейских исследований из Брюсселя Роланд Фройденштайн) раздражался тирадами сочувствия к несчастной оппозиции в Беларуси, хвастался своими тесными контактами с теми, кто участвовал в событиях 19 декабря в Беларуси. Подкачали в идеологическом плане Милинкевич, Шушкевич и Козулин, которые дружно выступали на хорошем русском языке, чем меня несказанно удивили – неужели за столько лет жизни за счет доноров англоязычных стран нельзя хотя бы из уважения к кормящей руке выучить язык любезных спонсоров? Сам я выступал на английском, какой уж он у меня есть, чтобы не зависеть от интерпретаций переводчиков. Успел только сказать, что мы со времен Ленина, приехавшего с кучей немецких денег рушить российскую государственность, несколько подозрительно относимся к Лениным или Милинкевичам, не суть важно, приезжающих с немецкими деньгами вершить государственные перевороты и революции в наши тихие края. Успел еще сказать, что оппозиция, бывшая на площади 19 декабря, в классическом определении агенты иностранного влияния, а не мирные демонстранты, поскольку агента иностранного влияния определить очень просто – если ему платят деньги за политическую деятельность, он и есть иностранный агент влияния, а 2 февраля 2011 года представителям

оппозиции как раз и заплатили 80 миллионов евро за проделанную работу. Далее перешел к следующему вопросу – о «мирных демонстрантах», якобы подвергнутых жестоким репрессиям – спросил, почему бы «мирным демонстрантам» не прийти 19 декабря на какую-нибудь минскую площадь, где нет правительственных зданий, чтобы мирно высказать все, что хочется и спокойно разойтись по домам безо всяких проблем? Зачем атаковать Дом правительства? И вот на этом пассаже на меня коршуном набросился ведущий секцией Roland Freudenstein (Роланд Фройденштайн), который грубо выхватил (!) у меня из рук микрофон и убежал с ним к Козулину. Все, что я успел, это сказать – «Вот она Ваша хваленая свобода мысли» – но на видеозаписи не слышно. К счастью, сам записывал на диктофон – там слышно.

Итак, впервые за всю мою жизнь, за сотню с лишним конференций, форумов и конгрессов в 18 странах мира меня грубо и бесцеремонно лишили слова по идеологическим мотивам – мое выступление слишком радикально противоречило идеологическим задумкам организаторов. Могут сказать – ну и что плохого с демократией в ЕС, может, это личные проблемы с демократией Роланда Фройденштайна? Увы, нет – в зале присутствовало по уверению организаторов более 500 представителей элиты ЕС и США. Ни один из них не решился встать и повторить знаменитые слова Вольтера – «Я не согласен ни с одним вашим словом, но я готов умереть за ваше право это говорить». Умирать то и не надо было, нужно было лишь иметь МУЖЕСТВО встать и сказать – мы поступаем недемократично по отношению к единственному представителю официальной Беларуси, верните ему отнятый микрофон и дайте договорить. А вот мужества как раз ни у кого и не оказалось вступить за демократию. А ведь ДУМАЛИ, что поступать так недемократично, думали и БОЯЛИСЬ сказать ВСЛУХ. В личных беседах в течение следующих двух дней мне то и дело говорили неофициально примерно следующее (привожу отдельные точные цитаты), в том числе и послы отдельных стран ЕС «Фройденштайн не должен был лишать Вас слова», «молодой человек, Вам не дали договорить, но мы Вас услышали», «я была шокирована, когда Фройденштайн бросился на Вас и вырвал микрофон», «эпизод с микрофоном стал единственным, что теперь можно рассказать студентам моего университета по итогам Форума».

Итак, демократию в ЕС можно отпевать, экспортировать демократию из ЕС больше невозможно, за ее отсутствием – как и в СССР, представители элит ЕС боятся публично высказывать мнение, отличное от официальной точки зрения, или даже боятся быть просто заподозренными в поддержке человеку, который высказывает противоречащие официальной точке зрения мысли. Возможно, они обсуждают это на кухнях, как в СССР, но кому какое теперь до этого дело?

Видеозапись выступления на сайте Форума – session 1, part 3 and 4:

<http://www.ata-sac.org/globsec2011/multimedia/video-archive/>

Кизима Сергей  
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## **ANASOFT - the partner of international security forum GLOBSEC 2011**

**Anasoft.com, 11.3.2011**

ANASOFT has become a **partner** of the unique international security forum GLOBSEC 2011. It is a regular forum of influential personalities from the field of high international politics, private non-governmental sector and intellectual sphere not only from both sides of the Atlantic, but also from a wider international security community. GLOBSEC is the only central European event of its kind, taking place regularly once a year in Bratislava.

GLOBSEC 2011 is organised by the Slovak Atlantic Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, representation of the European Commission in Slovakia and the International Visegrad Fund.

GLOBSEC 2011 took place **2nd – 4th March 2011 in the Kempinski Hotel \*\*\*\*\* River Park Bratislava.**

For the programme of this year's conference **click here.**

Video examples from year 2011 and previous years can be found **on this website**.

**GLOBSEC: nikt nie chce słuchać Łukaszenki**  
**[GLOBSEC: nobody wants to listen to Lukashenko]**  
*Portal.arcana.pl, 12.3.2011*

W czasie panelu dyskusyjnego moderator dyskusji, Roland Freudenstein, po prostu zabrał mikrofon Siergiejowi Kizimie, doktorowi nauk politycznych, będącemu kierownikiem katedry stosunków międzynarodowych Akademii zarządzania przy prezydencie. Incydentu oczywiście nie dało się ukryć, w związku z czym Kizima na swoim blogu to wydarzenie skomentował.

„Zdążyłem tylko powiedzieć, iż my od czasów Lenina, który przyjechał do nas z niemieckimi pieniędzmi niszczyć rosyjską państwowość, trochę podejrzliwie odnosimy się do wszelkich Leninów czy Milinkiewiczów, którzy przyjeżdżają robić przewroty państwowe i rewolucje w naszym cichym kraju. Zdążyłem jeszcze powiedzieć, iż opozycja, który była na Placu Niepodległości 19 grudnia, jest klasycznym przykładem zagranicznych agentów, a nie pokojowych demonstrantów. Zagranicznego agenta bardzo łatwo poznać właśnie po tym, że otrzymuje on wynagrodzenie za działalność polityczną, a 2 lutego 2011 roku przedstawicielom opozycji akurat wypłacono 80 mln euro za wykonaną pracę. Potem przeszedłem do następnej kwestii – do >>pokojowych demonstracji<<, które podobno skończyły się dla ich uczestników ostrymi represjami. Zapytałem mianowicie, dlaczego ci >>pokojowi demonstranci<< nie przyszli 19 grudnia na dowolny miński plac, gdzie nie ma budynków rządowych, żeby pokojowo powiedzieć to, co chcą i spokojnie się rozejść bez żadnych problemów? Po co atakować Dom Rządu?” – zdążył na koniec powiedzieć Kizim, zanim mu wyrwano mikrofon. „Po raz pierwszy w życiu, a bratem udział w ponad 100 konferencjach, forach i kongresach w 18 krajach, tak brutalnie i bezceremonialnie pozbawiono mnie głosu z powodów ideologicznych – moje wystąpienie bowiem zbyt radykalnie kłóciło się z ideologicznymi zamiarami organizatorów”.

**Interview: Miroslav Lajčak, izvršni direktor Evropske unije za Europu i Centralnu Aziju**  
**[Interview: Miroslav Lajcak, Managing Director of the European Union's Europe and Central Asia]**  
*Hercegbosna.org, 12.3.2011*

BIH U OČIMA EVROPSKE UNIJE -DRAMA FORMIRANJA VLASTI

ZA BIH JE U OVOM TRENUTKU KLJUČNO DA FEDERACIJA BIH DOBIJE VLADU KOJA ĆE BITI U STANJU DA RJEŠAVA PROBLEME, A NE DA IH STVARA!

Bivši visoki predstavnik u Bosni i Hercegovini, odnedavno izvršni direktor za Evropu i centralnu Aziju pri zajedničkoj Službi vanjskih poslova EU-a, češki diplomata MIROSLAV LAJČAK u razgovoru sa novinarkom „SB“ iznosi utiske nakon nedavnog susreta sa vodećim bh. političarima, govori o planovima Evropske unije u našoj zemlji, otkriva ovlasti i mandat koje će imati budući evropski predstavnik u BiH

Jedan od učesnika prošlosedmične GLOBSEC konferencije, vodećeg foruma za najvažnija politička i sigurnosna pitanja u srednjoj Evropi, koji se već šestu godinu održava u Bratislavi, bio je i nekadašnji visoki predstavnik u BiH, a danas jedan od ključnih diplomata u novoformiranoj evropskoj diplomatskoj službi Miroslav Lajčak. Na ovoj konferenciji, koja je okupila tri stotine gostiju, dužnosnike i stručnjake iz područja sigurnosti iz cijelog svijeta, dominirale su teme kao što su Novi izazovi za NATO, NATO i EU, NATO i transatlantski odnosi nakon Lisabonske konferencije, Transatlantski odnosi u 21. stoljeću - uloga srednje Evrope, Evropska unija - danas i sutra, a nekadašnji šef OHR-a i slovački ministar vanjskih poslova gostovao je na sesiji posvećenoj Rusiji. Po okončanju učešća u debati, Lajčak je u razgovoru za naš list govorio o svojoj nedavnoj posjeti BiH, imenovanju novog evropskog predstavnika u BiH, strategiji Evropske unije prema BiH... On je, osobno, kako kaže, tokom službovanja u Bosni i Hercegovini izgradio snažan emotivan odnos prema BiH i stalo mu je do toga da zemlja napreduje. „To njeni građani zaista zaslužuju. Lično ću biti sretan da vidim da BiH kreće naprijed i tome ću i sam pomoći. Jer, prema događajima u BiH ne mogu biti ravnodušan, dolaze li dobre vijesti ili ne iz nje je nešto što doživljavam vrlo lično“, kaže Lajčak na početku razgovora za Slobodnu Bosnu, vođenog krajem prošle sedmice u Bratislavi.

Upozorili ste nedavno da bi za Hrvatsku, Srbiju, Crnu Goru ovo mogla biti uspješna godina kada su u pitanju evropske integracije, ali da druge zemlje Zapadnog Balkana moraju prvo riješiti vlastite političke probleme. Da li je 2011. već izgubljena godina za BiH?

Ne, to nije ono što sam želio reći. S jedne strane, imamo Hrvatsku koja je napravila ogroman pomak i koja će najvjerojatnije završiti pregovore ove godine, zatim Srbiju koja zna šta treba da uradi da dobije kandidatski status, te Crnu Goru također, a što se tiče Bosne i Hercegovine, moja je poruka slijedeća - i dalje su otvorene mogućnosti da BiH može da završi ovu godinu vrlo uspješno i to isključivo zavisi od toga kako će se ponašati njeni političari. Što se mene tiče, ja sam im prenio očekivanja Evropske unije i svaki od mojih partnera je to pozdravio. Ono što EU očekuje od BiH je vrlo logično, poznato, izmjerljivo i svi priznaju da su to obaveze koje je BiH već ranije preuzela na sebe i koje treba ispuniti. Insistirajući na tome, EU pokazuje i svoju ozbiljnost. Ali, ono što se sada prvo mora uraditi jeste da se formira vlast koja će imati reformski program, koja će znati i željeti da se bavi evropskim integracijama i ispunjavanjem tih očekivanja i uslova, i koja će imati dovoljan snažan mandat da te reforme provede kroz Parlament.

OPASNO JE BIRATI „NAŠE SRBE, ILI HRVATE“ KOJI NEMAJU LEGITIMITET

Razgovarali ste prošle sedmice s političarima iz oba bh. entiteta. Sa kakvim ste dojmovima napustili BiH?

Iskreno govoreći, jako me brine to što se dešava između SDP-a i SDA, s jedne, i između dva HDZ-a, s druge strane. Zaista me zabrinjava situacija u Federaciji BiH koja meni izgleda potpuno nelogično i vrlo opasno. Jer, ne može niti jedna politička stranka da pretenduje da ima sto posto legitimitet svog naroda, a s druge strane je apsolutno neprihvatljivo i opasno da kroz politički inženjering izmišljamo neke „naše“ Srbe i Hrvate da bi formalno poštovali Ustav. U takvoj situaciji postoji veliki rizik da u novoj vladi i parlamentu sjede ljudi koji imaju tzv. pravu nacionalnost, ali nemaju legitimitet jer za njih nisu glasali pripadnici tog naroda. Za mene je izuzetno važno da i Bošnjaci, Hrvati i Srbi znaju da su oni glasali za te ljude, da su to njihovi predstavnici. Poigravanje s ovakvim stvarima i izmišljanje nekih formula je, po mom mišljenju, najbolji put da se BiH dovede u duboku krizu koja je ne samo nepotrebna nego je i vrlo opasna. Za BiH ni dobijanje kandidatskog statusa do kraja godine nije nedostižno ukoliko se vlasti potrudu da izvrše svoje obaveze. U ovom procesu nema iznenađujućih, niti novih elemenata, sve je jasno, od stvari koje se u ovoj fazi moraju ispuniti, dvije su ključne: formiranje vlade sa mandatom i programom i provedba presude u slučaju Sejdić - Finci.

Zašto, prema Vašem mišljenju, toliko dugo traje formiranje vlasti? Je li razlog tome što ključni akteri u Federaciji svoje stranačke interese stavljaju iznad državnih?

Jasno je da se u ovoj postizbornoj fazi sve stranke bore za svoje pozicije, nije po tome situacija u BiH nimalo drugačija od situacije u bilo kojoj zemlji nakon održavanja izbora. U ovoj fazi, ja u BiH vidim previše inata i nedovoljno shvatanje o tome šta je zaista potrebna za zemlju. Ako ćemo dobiti vlast na nivou Federacije BiH, a potom i na nivou države koja će imati sporan mandat, jaku opoziciju i punu porostora za opstrukciju i blokade, onda od takve vlade neće biti koristi. Jer, to će nas voditi tome da se prokockaju naredne četiri godine, što je, sportskom terminologijom rečeno, „unforced error“, upadanje u „neprisiljenu grešku“, da tako kažem.

Krajem ovog mjeseca ponovo će se u Evropskoj uniji govoriti o BiH. U čemu je smisao najavljivane nove evropske strategije u BiH kad već ne postoji elementarni konsenzus da bi funkcionirala vlast?

Da, ako on ne postoji niko ko nam može biti partner, ako smo sami sebe doveli u krizu, naše su aktivnosti uzaludne. Inače, u normalnoj situaciji međunarodni partneri su potrebni, posebno u jednoj zemlji koja je krenula u tranziciju. Što se tiče evropske strategije, ona se u biti svodi na slijedeće - ubuduće će biti jasnije ko predstavlja Evropsku uniju i šta je cilj EU, kao i to da se EU spremna preuzeti ulogu vodećeg međunarodnog partnera u BiH...

Postoji li konsenzus između Sjedinjenih Američkih Država i EU oko BiH?

Postoji, ne samo sa Amerikom nego i sa drugim međunarodnim partnerima jer Evropska unija Bosni i Hercegovini nudi ono što drugi ne mogu a to je članstvo u EU. Zato je i logično da upravo EU dobije tu vodeću ulogu, dakle da taj zajednički napor međunarodnih aktera u BiH ipak predvodi Evropska unija. U tom smislu nema nikakvih suprotstavljenih mišljenja, Evropskoj uniji je više puta prigovarano da se nedovoljno osjeća njena prisutnost, da se nedovoljno čuje njen glas, da nema jedinstvene stavove, niti zajedničku adresu u BiH. Dakle, cilj je upravo to da Unija bude vidljivija, glasnija, da postoji jedna evropska adresa u BiH i na taj način dolazimo do toga da možemo krenuti u narednu fazu, dakle u razgovore o budućnosti OHR-a. Jer, sve dok ne postoji alternativa, onda je teško

tu diskusiju i voditi. Mi očekujemo da će se EU uspostaviti kao jedinstven partner koji ima povjerenje i sposobnost da pomože BiH, a to onda čitavu diskusiju oko OHR-a stavlja u drugo svjetlo...

Evropska unija je jedan od partnera i uvođenje te naše nove strategije je upravo to da se pokaže našim međunarodnim partnerima da postoji alternativa za BiH, a jedan od ciljeva ove strategije jeste da se ubrzaju razgovori o njegovom zatvaranju i da se zna da postoji alternativa nakon što se to desi.

Zašto još uvijek nije imenovan evropski predstavnik u BiH? Bilo je očekivano da se to dogodi do kraja prošle godine. Je li problem nedostatak kandidata, ili ne postoji interes za BiH, ili...?

Ne, ne, u procesu tih diskusija o evropskom strategiji, evropskom prisustvu u BiH, zaključili smo da da taj evropski predstavnik koji će biti imenovan u BiH treba da ima i formalno značajan status. Dakle, riječ je o tome da je došlo do promjene zahtjeva ili nekih uslova koje taj čovjek treba da ispuni i on će sada prema posljednjim traženim kvalifikacijama biti osoba koja ima značajno mjesto i u hijerarhiji EU-a. Želimo da dobijemo predstavnika koji zaista ima autoritet, koji će biti dio struktura EU-a, instrument provođenja evropske politike, ali i čovjek koji može i svojim ličnim integritetom da ispunjava tu ulogu.

Može li se govoriti ko su potencijalni kandidati? Ili barem iz kojih zemalja dolaze?

Ne, ne, ne bih o tome. Ima više imena, ali to ne mogu reći, to bi nas odvelo u debatu koja nam u ovoj fazi nije potrebna. Naravno, želimo da to bude čovjek koji ima iskustvo iz regiona i da poznaje situaciju u regiji, ali to ne znači da on mora biti neko ko je ovdje već bio angažovan.

Možete li onda potvrditi da to neće biti niko od onih koji su ovdje već bili međunarodni predstavnici u BiH?

U ovoj fazi, zaista ne želim ništa oko ovog pitanja ni potvrditi ni odbaciti. Još je rano o tome govoriti.

Kakva će ovlaštenja imati evropski predstavnik u BiH? Prema onom što se najavljuje, on će imati mandat sličan onome koji je s bonskim ovlastima dobio OHR...

Ne, neće imati ta ovlaštenja jer to nije evropski put, Evropska unija ima na raspolaganju intrumente, pozitivne, kao što su prije svega IPA fondovi, od kojih danas BiH dobija stotinu miliona eura godišnje, a ima i negativne, koje koristi protiv Bjelorusije i koje se koriste kada zaista dođe do nekih kršenja ljudskih prava, dakle ima mogućnost da zamrzne račune, zabrani putovanja političarima kao što je to uradila u slučaju Bjelorusije. Ali, treba biti jasno da Evropska unija ne izmišlja neke nove instrumente za BiH. Proces evropskih integracija je, ipak, proces koji se gradi na želji zemlje da napreduje i da se priključi EU, tako da ne možete kroz sankcije voditi zemlju u Evropu. Najteža sankcija je da se ovaj proces zaustavi i da se kaže, dobro, vi ste vašim građanima duželi evropsku perspektivu. Teža sankcija od toga ne može biti.

Šta se onda u Evropskoj uniji, kada je BiH u pitanju, može očekivati krajem ovog mjeseca?

Formalne zaključke, znači, formalizacija diskusije otpočete prije nekoliko nedjelja, a koja je prošlog mjeseca vođena na ministarskom nivou...

Do tada bi trebala biti i formirana vlast u BiH. Kakvu će to težinu imati?

Ključno je pitanje kakva će biti vlast i upravo će to biti snažna poruka iz BiH za Evropsku uniju. Upravo će ta poruka imati ogroman uticaj na diskusiju o kojoj govorim, jer ta poruka iz BiH može biti vrlo pozitivna, ali i negativna za dalji tok diskusije o BiH u EU.

Prema funkciji na koju ste imenovani kao izvršni direktor za Evropu i centralnu Aziju pri zajedničkoj Službi vanjskih poslova EU sada „pokrivate“ jako veliku teritoriju. Kako će biti organiziran Vaš ured?

Ja imam dva zamjenika, jedan već postoji za Rusiju, Istočno partnerstvo (koje obuhvata Gruziju, Ukrajinu, Moldaviju, Azerbejdžan, Armeniju i Bjelorusiju, koje EU nastoji stabilizirati a da im pritom ne daje perspektivu članstva, op.a.) i centralnu Aziju, a drugi koji još nije imenovan će biti zadužen za Zapadni Balkan, Zapadnu

Evropu i Tursku. Imamo i direkciju za Zapadni Balkan koja funkcioniše, tamo su ljudi koji se bave čitavom regijom, a vodi je Jonas Johnson.

Učestvujući na GLOBSEC-u, na temu Istočno partnerstvo i EU, evropski povjerenik za proširenje Štefan Fule se u jednoj rečenici, govoreći o zloupotrebi viznog režima, dotakao Zapadnog Balkana. Izvještaj o tome će biti objavljen u junu, da li je zaista moguće da će biti sankcija u vezi s tim?

Prerano je o tome govoriti, svakako ima signala iz nekih država članica da su uznemirene velikim brojem imigranata i misle da vlade tih zemalja u regiji nisu uradile dovoljno jer to je zloupotreba viznog režima... Ne želim spekulirati i slati neke katastrofalne poruke, ali, ako bi u budućnosti i došlo do poduzimanja nekih mjera, one bi bile individualne u zavisnosti od broja imigranata i odnosa vlasti prema ovom pitanju. Dakle, nije tu u pitanju cijeli Zapadni Balkan...

O Miloradu Dodiku

**DODIKU JE JASNO PORUČENO DA EU NEĆE TRPJETI IZJAVE KOJE POTKOPAVAJU INTEGRITET BIH**

S vremena na vrijeme tenzije u BiH svojim izjavama podigne Milorad Dodik. Imate bogato i dugo iskustvo u razgovorima i pregovorima sa predsjednikom Republike Srpske pa nas zanima kako vidite njegovu ulogu u procesu uspostave vlasti u BiH?

Gospodin Dodik i predstavnici Republike Srpske na svim sastancima sa predstavnicima EU dobijaju vrlo jasne poruke kojima im govorimo da ne želimo slušati izjave, niti tolerisati politiku koje dovode u pitanje integritet BiH. Ali, isto tako želim da kažem da postoji neka preopsjednutost izjavama, posebno gospodina Dodika, kao da je to najvažniji problem u BiH. Tako da se mi više bavimo izjavama nego suštinom, a činjenica je da je u ovoj fazi, dopalo se to nekom ili ne, Republika Srpska formirala svoje institucije i spremna je da formira državnu vladu, dok se to za Federaciju BiH ne može reći.

Posredovanje Njemačke

**ULOGA NJEMAČKE JE VAŽNA, ALI JE DOGOVOR DA SE TAJ PROCES ODVIJA U TAJNOSTI**

Dokle su došli pregovori između bh. političara koji se vode pod pokroviteljstvom Njemačke?

Jedan od principa tog procesa jeste tajnovitost da se ne bi zloupotrijebio u domaće političke svrhe, tako da o tome ne mogu govoriti. Još uvijek se čekaju rezultati, ali mogu reći da svi domaći partneri shvataju da je to bio jedan ozbiljan proces čiji je cilj dobar za BiH i da su pokazali konstruktivan odnos uz sve različite stavove koji postoje o nizu pitanja. Ali, postoji svijest da su ti razgovori dobri za BiH. Ali, ono što zaista zabrinjava u ovoj fazi jeste pitanje zašto toliko dugo traje formiranje vlasti, nije riječ o tome da postoji neka generalno zabrinutost za BiH iako je svima jasno da bi stvari mogle bolje izgledati. Ali, nakon izbora ono što je najvažnije jeste vidjeti kakva će biti vlada, kakav program nudi, i kakvu podršku ima u parlamentu. Osim pitanja zašto to traje toliko dugo, druga stvar koja zabrinjava jeste da li će vlada kada bude formirana imati izborni legitimitet, dovoljnu podršku, ili će to biti vlada koja odražava nečije lične ambicije, čiji će rad biti opterećen stalnim blokadama...

Slobodna Bosna

### **What cuts in US defence budget will mean for the transatlantic alliance**

***Postonpolitics.blogspot.com, 15.3.2011 Author: Tomáš Valášek***

The US defence budget seems set to fall as Washington begins to restore order in its finances. Spending on the military has reached such heights –\$700 billion, or 20 per cent of the US federal budget – that it has become too large for deficit-cutters to ignore. Even traditionally pro-defence Republicans now argue that military expenditures need to be reduced along with other government expenses. Europe, too, will feel the pinch: many of the American soldiers currently based on the continent seem certain to go, and some joint weapons programmes will be cancelled. In case of future crises in Europe, NATO's and the EU's ability to respond will be tested. The US will expect Europe to lead but European allies themselves have been reducing forces and budgets.

Congress is poised to cut the White House's request for defence for the fiscal year (FY) 2011 by \$15-\$20 billion. That might seem low relative to the \$700 billion total but of that amount roughly \$160 billion is set aside for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and will decrease as those conflicts wind down. And much of the remaining money is tied up in non-discretionary spending such as pensions and healthcare for military personnel (the latter alone costs the Pentagon over \$50 billion a year). The brunt of the cuts in FY 2011 will therefore fall on the pool of \$200-\$300 billion that pays for purchases of new equipment, foreign military assistance, overseas bases and non-core military operations. Money spent abroad will be particularly vulnerable to cuts – more and more Americans say that the US government should look after its own rather than, say, wealthy Europeans (all foreign aid is in for big reductions).

The effect of US defence budget cuts on Europe will be five-fold. First, some of the 80,000 US soldiers left in Europe as assurance to NATO allies will most probably leave; Gates said in January 2011 that "it is clear that we have excess force structure in Europe". The Balts and others in Europe who continue to fear possible trouble with Russia will wonder whether the US has enough forces ready to defend them. But their unease will be tempered by the many military exercises that the US held in the region last year. In 2010, Washington also successfully lobbied the rest of NATO to draft a defence plan for the Baltic. This was done in order to re-affirm US intent to uphold the alliance's mutual defence pledge, and it seems to have worked: judging by mood at events such as this month's GLOBSEC conference in Bratislava, the Balts and other Central Europeans are more at ease with Obama. Besides, as Stephen Flanagan of CSIS, a Washington think-tank, points out, "the 50,000 troops that will stay in Europe would be more than double the US ground presence in South Korea, where there is daily risk of imminent war." Many of the new allies have been busy cutting defence budget themselves: they say that the fiscal crisis leaves them no choice, but the cuts also suggest that they feel little imminent threat from the East. This will make Washington less reticent about withdrawing troops from Europe.

Second, the military assistance that the US provides to help allies to modernise and re-arm will continue to fall. In the past decade, the US generously funded equipment purchases in Europe, with most money going to the new allies. Low-interest US loans allowed Poland to buy F-16 fighter jets, while Romania purchased C-130 cargo planes with US aid. But in recent years, assistance to countries such as Egypt or Pakistan has taken priority – of the \$5.4 billion in 'foreign military financing', which the US set aside for 2011, \$4.7 billion will go to Middle East and North Africa. The proportion of the aid going to wealthier and less strategic European countries will be slashed further when, as expected, the overall volume of military assistance falls. In the past, US defence companies would have had a decent shot at thwarting cuts in such assistance: they tend to be its main beneficiaries as most of the money ends up with them in the form of procurement orders. But the mood in the US is changing: Republicans in particular argue that the US government should not be in the business of funding new jobs, and that the best job-creation strategy lies in cutting expenses, thus restoring order in the federal budget. Should military assistance to Europe be slashed, as seems likely, programmes such as Romania's planned purchase of F-16 fighter jets that are financed with US monies would likely be postponed or cancelled. With defence budgets falling in virtually all NATO countries, there is little hope that European allies would pick up the slack.

Third, US personnel on operations in Europe – in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Kosovo – will likely be reduced or withdrawn altogether. Because their numbers are low to begin with, the short-term impact will be minimal. Only 20 US soldiers remain in Bosnia in a force that once counted 20,000 American troops. The US has about 800 soldiers left in Kosovo, where the overall NATO force is being reduced from 14,000 to 2,500. Should a new crisis break out in the Balkans, the Pentagon will be able to send more soldiers from bases elsewhere in Europe (primarily Germany). But this reserve force too is being reduced. The downsized Pentagon will be far less willing than in the 1990s to lead military operations in Europe. In the future, Washington will look to its allies to assume main responsibility for dealing with the Balkans and other crises on Europe's periphery. The defence department's resistance to a no-fly zone in Libya could be a sign of things to come.

Fourth, those European companies that do business in the US will lose some of their orders – but so will their US competitors. Signs of renewed protectionism have been few so far. While the Pentagon recently chose Boeing over a Franco-German consortium EADS to build a new generation of tanker aircraft, "this is mainly because Boeing's planes were \$2 billion cheaper", says Andrew Koch, an analyst with Scribe Strategies and Advisors, a Washington consultancy. The European companies have worked hard to erase their US competitors' advantage: the likes of BAE Systems and EADS pledge to build equipment in the US using American workers, so they are likely

to have as many members of Congress on their side as their US counterparts. While competition for US defence contracts will toughen, European companies are not necessarily losing ground to US ones.

Fifth, the future of new weapons funded jointly by the US and its allies is in doubt. Already, the Pentagon has announced that it was pulling out of a US-German-Italian project to build a new generation of medium-range missile defences. This is in large part because the project, MEADS, has suffered technical problems. But the Pentagon, in announcing the decision, also cited financial constraints as a factor. The more the US cuts defence spending, the higher the risk that NATO's own flagship, continent-wide missile umbrella could be at risk. Announced in November 2010, the system envisions combining future US radars and missiles to be stationed mainly in Central Europe with yet-to-be-developed European sensors and interceptors. But few European governments have come forward pledging money for it. It is not obvious why the US Congress would fund a programme to defend European mainland, which the Europeans themselves are unwilling to support.

Politically, cuts in US defence spending are sure to rankle in Europe. A setback to NATO's missile defences could be particularly divisive, with new allies lamenting a chance to host US military bases, and with NATO losing one of its key initiatives, which it also has been hoping to use to entice Russia into a closer relationship. The effect of US reductions will be compounded by cuts to military spending in Europe: there is a risk that reductions on one side of the Atlantic will be used to justify corresponding cuts across the sea. NATO remains the most powerful military block in the world but it will lose some of its ability to handle multiple crises simultaneously.

The main challenge for US and European defence communities for the next few years will be to keep NATO's mutual defence pledge credible: this will require allies to prioritise missions and to hone their ability to diffuse crises before they require deployment of large forces. Even if no such crises occur, the Americans and Europeans will be busy managing the political fallout from cancelled procurement programmes and reduced operations. To minimise damage, the Pentagon should keep allies apprised of its cost-cutting measures. For their part, the Europeans need to co-ordinate better their own reductions in defence budgets, so as to make sure that enough money and resources are left to cover any shortfalls that US cuts will create.

### **Dishing the Dirt, or the Polish Way**

**Tol.org, 16.3.2011 Author: Martin Ehl**

Shoveling dirt on American diplomats, wherever they appear, has become a favorite sport in Central Europe not just for journalists, for whom it is in their job description, but also for U.S. allies, primarily politicians on the right of the political spectrum. The latter can't forget the autumn of 2008 when Barack Obama cancelled the anti-missile system for Poland and the Czech Republic in not quite the most appropriate and sensitive manner – a project into which local politicians had invested large amounts of energy and political capital.

Earlier this month at the Globsec security conference in Bratislava, the role of punching bag fell to the lot of Philip Gordon, the section chief for Europe and Eurasia in the U.S. State Department. Experts say he used to be more entertaining and forthcoming when he worked as an analyst at the influential Brookings Institute think tank, but has dried up since going to work for the Obama administration. In Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw, and elsewhere Gordon's been explaining that Washington had no intention of tossing Central Europe overboard to the Russian shark, it's just that priorities have changed in the context of the reset in relations with Russia.

"I wouldn't use the word failure," he replied diplomatically to my question whether that word might apply to the "reset." It's rather that the Americans face "challenges" in their dealings with Moscow now. He then made some remark on the unacceptable situation in Georgia and disagreements regarding human rights, democracy, and freedom of expression in that country.

We were sitting around at a closed-session roundtable for journalists from the four Visegrad countries. Our poor Romanian colleague couldn't get a seat, yet a reporter for a Ukrainian military magazine was let in. Such, maybe, is how the Americans regard Central Europe. I was surprised that the Slovaks took off their gauntlets too, although they were promised neither radar nor rockets – "When did Hillary Clinton last say the word 'Slovakia'?" asked a colleague from the Slovak daily *Pravda*.

The Ukrainian asked who would defend Ukraine against a missile attack – a country balanced between Russia and the West and just now tilting toward Russia – and I began to feel quite sorry for this American. All Central Europe flung her troubles at him because her politicians, journalists, and analysts had the feeling that they had built up some kind of special ties to Washington through shared experiences, and that America had helped

them fend off the influence of the Russian bear. It hardly helped when Gordon declared Central Europe an inspiration and example for states like Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya where they are just beginning to fight for democracy.

The Poles are known for their diplomatic brutality, and it is they who have least cause to moan over the loosening of bonds with America. At Globsec they shared in the dirt-shoveling only to a small degree and behind closed doors – and there wasn't a single Polish reporter there.

The next day Atlantic Council security analyst Ian Brzezinski (yes, the son of *that* Brzezinski) explained to me that the American administration is just "badly managing" its special relationship with Central Europe. He gave a Polish counter-example: From 2013, Washington agreed to station F-16s and four Hercules transport aircraft in Poland. And it's not ruled out that Poland will get a sort of replacement for the cancelled missile-shield program – SM-3s, after the curtain comes down on the show with the Patriots now deployed there.

The good sense of Poland's way of dishing invisible dirt was confirmed not long afterward in the Russian *Kommersant* newspaper with a report that Washington's move to send planes and rockets to Poland would be explained to President Dmitry Medvedev at the Kremlin by none other than Vice President Joe Biden.

### **Azerbaijan Clarifies View of Baku-Ankara-Yerevan Normalization Process**

**Jamestown.org, 17.3.2011 Author: Vladimír Socor**

Interviewed by Turkish media after concluding a visit to Ankara (Hurriyet Daily News & Economic Review, March 14; CNN Turk, March 16), Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister, Araz Azimov, has clarified his government's view on normalizing Azerbaijan-Turkey-Armenia relations. Baku sees this as a two-track process that must go hand in hand with resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Azimov held talks with Turkish Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, during this visit. The vision as such had been known in broad terms; but Azimov's Ankara visit has added some specifics and firmed up Turkish support.

A many-faceted concept, normalization would include re-opening Azerbaijan's and Turkey's respective borders with Armenia as a centerpiece of the process. Turkey had closed its land border with Armenia in 1993 in solidarity with Azerbaijan, after Armenian forces had crossed the line from Armenian-populated Karabakh deeper inside Azerbaijan, conducting mass ethnic cleansing in the process. Meanwhile, economically stagnant Armenia cannot develop while its borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan remain closed. Azerbaijan and Turkey are prepared to re-open both borders, if Armenian troops withdraw from Azerbaijani districts adjacent to the Armenian-populated Karabakh. This logic is also in line with the stage-by-stage resolution process within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

As spelled out in Azimov's presentation, the first phase of the process would involve the Armenian troops' withdrawal from the Agdam, Fuzuli, Jibrail, Zangilan, and Kubatli districts, all situated in Azerbaijan's interior, abutting on three sides on the Armenian-populated Karabakh region. Withdrawal of troops and re-opening of borders would proceed gradually as parallel processes. This first phase would include the provision of security guarantees, post-conflict reconstruction in Azerbaijani territories vacated by Armenian forces, and the return of Azeri expellees to their homes there. Along with this, cross-border trade and transportation between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey would go ahead. Karabakh's Armenian population could also resume economic and social contacts with its Azeri neighbors as part of post-conflict normalization.

This first phase is envisaged to be completed within five years. The second phase would involve withdrawal of Armenian forces from remaining areas of Azerbaijan, return of Azeri expellees there, international security guarantees for the Armenian population, and negotiations on Karabakh's final status. Azerbaijan takes the position that the status would ultimately involve self-government and a bi-communal model, within the framework of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. As Baku recognizes, the status issue remains the ultimate stumbling block in the negotiations ([www.news.az](http://www.news.az), March 16).

Azerbaijan and Turkey have broached this two-phased concept with the Minsk Group's co-chairs in Washington, Moscow, and Paris. The aim is to promote an environment of normality and legality in Azerbaijan-Armenia and Turkey-Armenia relations concurrently. Such an environment is a prerequisite to negotiating the thorny issue of Karabakh's status in the follow-up phase of the process. In the existing environment, however, characterized by territorial occupation and ethnic cleansing, any negotiations on status would lead nowhere; and could even provide a semblance of legitimacy to the present situation on the ground.

Armenia's foreign ministry has quickly rejected the proposed concept in undiplomatic terms. The ministry's spokesman also ruled out any Turkish input into the negotiating process, notwithstanding that Turkey is a member of the Minsk Group (Armenpress, Mediamax, March 14).

Yerevan holds to its own view of normalizing relations with Turkey. It wants Ankara to re-open the land border with Armenia unconditionally, de-coupled from the withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijan's interior districts. Further, it wants Turkey to proceed unilaterally and isolate Azerbaijan, instead of acting in tandem with it.

Those were also the implications of the October 2009 Zurich Protocols, signed by Turkey and Armenia with a push from the Obama Administration. Domestic political considerations mainly inspired this push. The administration expected Yerevan and its US Armenian supporters to return the favor and relegate the Armenian genocide recognition issue, from the US political arena into a historians' commission for debate. Some Turkish officials apparently also felt that the trade-off would relieve Turkey of pressure on that issue.

Under those documents, Ankara was to have re-opened the Turkish-Armenian border without any linkage to the Karabakh conflict-resolution process, and separately from Azerbaijan. The linkage-breaking would have removed the economic incentive for Armenia to withdraw its troops from Azerbaijan's interior districts. The stage-by-stage resolution process would have been derailed, the chances of a peaceful settlement compromised, the Turkey-Azerbaijan strategic partnership torn apart, an isolated Azerbaijan pushed into Russia's arms, and the Azerbaijan-Georgia tandem undermined. By discounting these implications, the Obama administration seriously hurt its relations with Azerbaijan, without winning over Armenia.

Those implications, topped by a domestic political backlash in Turkey, caused Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to declare the protocols unacceptable in December 2009 in Washington, only two months after the Zurich signing event. This prevented the Obama Administration from using the protocols to appease US Armenian advocacy groups, in lieu of delivering the promised recognition of the 1915-1918 events in Ottoman Turkey as a genocide. State Department officials continued into mid-2010 advocating for the protocols' ratification and implementation. This issue tends to recur annually in the run-up to Armenian Remembrance Day, April 24 in the US.

On March 3, 2011, US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon told the Global Security Forum in Bratislava (GlobSec) that the US strongly supports "normalization" between Turkey and Armenia through the Zurich Protocols. Acknowledging that this process had stalled, Gordon urged its continuation "to further trust and peace and stability." Recalling that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had promoted and witnessed the Turkish-Armenian protocols' signing, Gordon urged "the parties to move forward to peace and reconciliation." The statement stressed Turkey-Armenia reconciliation without mentioning the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, US-Azerbaijan relations, or the wider implications of compartmentalizing these issues (US State Department transcript, released March 3).

Effective normalization and reconciliation cannot advance on just one track, Turkey-Armenia, de-coupled from the other track, Armenia-Azerbaijan, and outside the process of resolving the Karabakh conflict. These issues are closely interrelated. Turkey has understood this more clearly and reinstated the linkage policy. Turkey-Azerbaijan coordination is critical to advancing Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict-resolution negotiations.

### **Back in the fold**

***Economist.com, 29.3.2011***

RECENT converts tend to be prone to missionary zeal. For Poles, Czechs or Balts, promoting human rights and democracy abroad has long been central to foreign policy. That is something that outsiders have noticed particularly since these countries joined the European Union in 2004. But Slovakia, whose stunning metamorphosis from laggard to leader could have been particularly instructive for would-be reformers, dropped off the radar soon after EU accession.

Many blamed the government that took office in 2006, an odd assortment of leftists, populists and nationalists led by Robert Fico. Foreign policy seemed to be at the bottom of their priority list (bar regular spats with Hungary, the former imperial overlord, which were used to boost nationalist credentials).

Soon after his election Mr Fico, who proudly hung a portrait of Che Guevara in his office, embarked on a string of cosy chats with authoritarian leaders. In 2007 he reportedly discussed business and the "struggle against imperialism" with Muammar Qaddafi. In 2008, days after a Slovak activist was expelled from Cuba, Mr Fico was raising a mojito to the anniversary of Fidel Castro's revolution at Havana's embassy in Bratislava. When war broke out between Russia and Georgia later that year, his attribution of blame to the Georgians caused uproar in Brussels and Washington, as WikiLeaks wires reveal

Other Slovak politicians followed Mr Fico's cynical lead. The speaker of parliament paid a friendly visit to Vietnam. The president entertained his Chinese counterpart while Chinese and Slovak protestors were manhandled by the police outside the presidential palace

All this put Slovak diplomacy in a tough position. Successive foreign ministers spent more time explaining the prime minister's blunders than developing a foreign-policy agenda. So when Mr Fico's government was ousted in last summer's election, many hoped the new cabinet—dominated by centre-right reformist types who had executed a previous restoration job on Slovakia's international brand in the years after Vladimír Mečiar, an authoritarian populist, lost power in 1998—would revitalise Slovakia's topsy-turvy diplomacy. Hopes were especially high for Mr Fico's successor, Iveta Radičová, an Oxford-educated sociology professor.

"For us, the values of human rights and democracy are overriding," says Ms Radičová. Since taking office she has presented an award for civic courage to Damas de Blanco, a Cuban opposition group consisting of wives and other female relatives of jailed dissidents, and brokered a joint declaration of the Visegrad states (the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary) plus Germany and cautious Austria, demanding immediate release of the political prisoners in Belarus.

But the main thrust of activity has come from the foreign ministry. The man in charge there is Mikuláš Dzurinda, who is one of the big beasts of Slovak politics: he served as a prime minister of the reforming government that ruled from 1998 to 2006. Mr Dzurinda likes to throw his weight about. But the competitive bar is high for a central European foreign minister: Karel Schwarzenberg from the Czech Republic and Radek Sikorski from Poland are both heavyweights. Hungary's János Martonyi is a class act too (though real foreign-policy decisions are not made in his ministry).

Mr Dzurinda knows how to get his message across. Yet the man many credit with having turned Slovakian diplomacy around is Mr Dzurinda's deputy, Milan Ježovica. He has worked closely with Slovakia's seasoned and influential NGOs, capitalising on Slovakia's legacy of struggle against communism and, later, Mečiarism.

The effort has borne fruit. In recent months the foreign ministry has turned into an outspoken critic of undemocratic regimes. This includes Libya, where "continuing violence against civilians", the ministry says, has given the international community no choice but to solve the problem "by force".

But the Slovaks reserve particular ire for the dictatorship in Belarus. During a recent security get-together in Bratislava, attended by dozens of prominent international policy-makers, the foreign ministry staged a public display (pictured) of solidarity with Belarusian political prisoners at the memorial to the Candle Demonstration (a brutally dispersed protest against what was then Czechoslovakia's Communist regime in 1988).

Mr Dzurinda also took up the case of Belarus in Brussels, sending a letter to Catherine Ashton, the EU's foreign-policy chief, earlier this month. The EU's new diplomatic corps, the European External Action Service, has now been asked to weigh up options for further economic sanctions against Alyaksandr Lukashenka's regime. By coincidence the man in charge is another Slovak, Miroslav Lajčák, a former foreign minister who now heads the EEAS department for relations with the western Balkans, Eastern Partnership and Russia. Slovakia is punching above its weight.

### **Foreign ministry sacks seven suspected former secret agents**

***primepoliticsnewsnow.info, 7.4.2011***

Hungary's foreign ministry has sacked seven of its staff who have been identified as having served the state police as secret agents under the communist era, state secretary at the ministry told MTI on Friday.

Zsolt Nemeth said the ministry ran an investigation after a list of names of suspected secret agents appeared on a website a week ago. He said the ministry only probed members of its current staff in connection with the allegations.

The scandal broke out just over a week ago when a website, [szigoruantitkos.hu](http://szigoruantitkos.hu) – meaning “top secret” – published over 600 names of officers who had been registered with the Interior Ministry’s Personnel Unit as secret agents in the communist regime. The website published the result of research by the institute and museum Emlékpont into the Interior Ministry’s files from the pre-1990 period.

## **Announcements**

### ***Munkschool.utoronto.ca***

Rex Hughes, visiting fellow at the Canada Centre for Global Security Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto served as a panelist at Globesec 2011, held in Bratislava, Slovakia from March 2nd to 4th. Globesec, with participation level of around 500 key security and foreign policy figures from both sides of the Atlantic, GLOBSEC has become the leading annual forum on foreign policy and security in Central Europe. It has acquired a stable position in the calendar of major European conferences as the only annual forum of its kind in Central Europe.

Hughes served on the panel with Ambassador Juri Luik, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to NATO, Eneken Tikk, Head of the Legal and Policy Branch with the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence and Robert Kosla, National Security/Defence Industry Manager, Microsoft (Central and Eastern Europe). The conference also included notable speakers such as Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and Janos Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Karel Schwarzenberg, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of the Czech Republic.

The Cyber Security Panel explored issues such as What mechanisms should be used to prevent infrastructure from being largely damaged. Does the new NATO Strategic Concept sufficiently address this area of cyber security. What measures need to be undertaken in order to increase the cyber security at the national level. Where are the boundaries between national and international mechanisms used in fighting cyber crime.