



International Conference of the Institute of European Democrats

EU AT THE CROSSROADS: HOW WILL 2017 NATIONAL ELECTIONS CHANGE THE FACE OF EUROPE?

Friday 5 May 2017

Hotel Tatra, Namestie 1.maja 5, 811 06 Bratislava, Slovakia

Institute of European Democrats (IED) is a European Political Foundation, formally recognized and linked to the European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP), member of the ALDE Group at the European Parliament. The IED was established in 2007 with the support of the European Institutions. It is an innovative, non-profit, political and cultural Research Institute based in Brussels, funded by the European Parliament. The main goals of IED are to promote a better understanding of the core aspects of the European integration process and to play an active role in strengthening the confidence of European citizens in the European project. The IED organizes international conferences and seminars where politicians, experts, EU and national officials, academics and civil society representatives discuss and share ideas. Such events are mainly organised in EU Member States, in order to discuss concrete issues closer to EU citizens and member organisations and in order to contribute to the national discussion with a European perspective ensured by the international dimension of the events. President of the IED is Jean Claude Casanova and Chief Executive Officer is Luca Bader.

www.iedonline.eu

Mladí Európania (ME, Young Europeans) is a Slovak non-profit youth organization which gathers young people who are not careless about the world around. The ME wants to strengthen the participation of young people in the decision-making processes at all levels. The goal of the organization is education, gathering of youth, development of their cooperation, building of liberal democracy and raising awareness of the political situation (not only) in Europe.

www.mladieuropania.sk

Moderator



Alena Bašistová is the Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the Chairwoman of the Committee on Social Affairs of the National Council and the Member of the Mandate and Immunity Committee of the National Council. She is also the university professor at the Faculty of Business Economics of the University of Economics in Bratislava with seat in Košice and the University of P. J. Šafárik in Košice. In past, she was the Director General of the Fund of Social Development in the Slovak Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Chairwoman of the management committees in several national projects, the academic researcher and professor. She cooperates with a high number of non-profit organizations and communities and she supports charity projects.



Speakers (Welcome & Introductory Speeches and 1st Panel)

Luca BADER is the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of European Democrats (IED). He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Leonardo, an Italian global high-tech company, partially owned by the Italian government. In past, he served at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. He was responsible for Europe and North America at the Democratic Party (PD) in Italy. He was advisor of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Italian Parliament. He worked for the National Democratic Institute of Washington D.C., advising the program on building Institutions and political parties. He studied International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science and at the University of London in the United Kingdom. He did research visits at the Columbia University in New York and at the Institute of International Affairs in Rome.



Karla WURSTEROVÁ is the Director of the Department of European Policies of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. From 2012 to 2015, she was the executive director of the International Visegrad Fund and she was also the representative at the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU during historically first Slovak presidency at the Council of the EU. In past, she worked at the Slovak Embassy in Prague. She studied at the University of Economics in Bratislava and École nationale d'administration publique in Paris.

Samuel ABRAHÁM is a Slovak political scientist, expert on international relations and European Union, lecturer and Rector of Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA). He studied political science, political theory, international relations and political economy at the University of Toronto in Canada and political philosophy and comparative politics at the Carleton University in Canada. In past, he was lecturer at the Comenius University in Bratislava and from 1996 to 2004 he was representative of the Project on Ethnic Relations, a Princeton-based foundation focusing on resolving ethnic tensions in Central and Eastern Europe. He is currently involved in ECOLAS - a network of universities supported by European funding in order to spread and support liberal arts education in Europe. He is the author of many publications about the crisis in the EU, such as 'A Crisis of European Identity' (2012).



Karen HENDERSON is a British political scientist and senior lecturer on EU politics at the Comenius University and Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA) in Slovakia. From 1990 to 2013 she was senior lecturer at the University of Leicester in the Great Britain before she has become Lecturer at the Comenius University. Among other activities, she chaired the Scientific Committee of the European Science Foundation's Forward Look 'Central and Eastern Europe beyond Transition: Convergence and Divergence in Europe', led the Jean Monnet module 'EU Enlargement and Democratic Consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe' and she received the research grant from Leverhulme Foundation for the project 'Study and research on Europeanization'. She is the author of numerous publications on EU enlargement, with the focus on eurosceptic political forces and influence of domestic politics on EU decision-making processes.

Karl ILGENFRITZ is a political advisor and one of the spokespersons on European affairs for the political party Freie Wähler in Germany and its representative in the board of the European Movement Germany. As a policy advisor he is responsible for the European and Federal Affairs in the Freie Wähler's Group in the Bavarian Parliament. In January 2017, he initiated the nationwide foundation of the Young Free Voters and the resolution to join the international Young Democrats for Europe (YDE). He studied Political Sciences, European Law and Modern and Contemporary History at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich.



Martin LEVENEUR is the executive manager of the European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP), a political party at the European level gathering centrist parties of Europe. He coordinates the activities of the EDP members of the European Parliament and the political agenda of the EDP member parties. Before joining the EDP staff, he served as the event officer of the French party Mouvement Démocrate (MoDem, Democratic Movement) and then parliamentary assistant to the MEP Marielle de Sarnez, vice-chair of the MoDem and ALDE Group, as well as EDP secretary general. He studied history at the Sorbonne University in Paris.



Speakers (2nd Panel)



Roman BRECELY is a Slovak politician and former Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic. Before entering politics, he was the Director and the Chairman of Boards in several industrial consortiums and he was also a businessman. He worked in the energy sector where he was responsible for managing investment processes. He graduated from the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava and the City University of Seattle in the USA. He is a strong supporter of the European project and more intense activity of Slovakia in the framework of the functioning of the EU and European integration itself.

Barbora MEŠŠOVÁ is a lawyer in the Human Rights League that is committed to helping foreigners and refugees and promoting a transparent, dignified and responsible migration, asylum and integration policy in Slovakia and Europe. In past, she worked as a Protection Officer in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and as the manager in the humanitarian organization People in Peril. She is the expert on human rights, migration and the current impact of migration on the crisis in the EU. She studied law at the Law Faculty of the University of P. J. Šafárik in Košice.



Ján ORLOVSKÝ is the executive director of one of the most well-known Slovak organizations, Open Society Foundation (OSF) that is committed to the development of open and civil society, and is the part of a family of foundations known as Open Society Foundations operating in more than 70 countries around the world. In past, he worked in diplomatic services, he also worked on the establishment of joint platforms for NGOs and business for sustainable development (Fond for transparent Slovakia, Business Leaders Forum).

Roman VILKOVIČ is a Slovak journalist and Editor-in-Chief of PlusCS London in the United Kingdom, a news portal covering political events in the Great Britain and Ireland. He is professionally involved in the European affairs on which he regularly writes the articles for British and Slovak newspapers. In past, he has worked in various journalistic positions and in advertising. He is the co-author and editor of the publication 'Visegrad Found' (2015). He studied Media Broadcasting and Journalism at the Belfast Metropolitan College in the United Kingdom.

