



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY
Strengthening the Eastern Partnership countries in the new geopolitical reality of Europe:
Role of the Baltic States and beyond
18-19 May 2023, Tallinn (Estonia)

Preliminary programme
(15/05/2023)

Friday, 19 May

9:00-9:45 **Internal meeting of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and Chair of the Cooperation Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia H.E. Mr Margus Tsahkna**

10:00-11:00 **Opening Session of the Conference**
Chaired by Ms Urve Tiidus, President of the Baltic Assembly

- Ms Urve Tiidus, President of the Baltic Assembly
- Mr Lauri Hussar, President of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia
- Ms Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
- Mr Edvards Smiltēns, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia
- Mr Roberts Zile, Vice President of the European Parliament
- Mr Sviatoslav Yurash, Chair of the Ukrainian delegation to the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly

11:00-13:00 **Session 1**
Strong and coordinated support of the Baltic States to accelerate the security and development in the Eastern Partnership countries
Chaired by Ms Urve Tiidus, President of the Baltic Assembly

The Baltic States have always been strong supporters of the Eastern Partnership. The Baltic Assembly has pledged to play the role of bridge between the Eastern Partnership countries and the West. The Baltic States have faced and overcome many of the challenges that the Eastern Partnership countries face nowadays, therefore, the practical assistance and expertise of the Baltics can be used for the benefit of the Eastern Partnership countries. It is important that the assistance and support of the Eastern Partnership countries are strong but also coordinated in the Baltic States. In this session, the speakers are invited to highlight the improvements needed to support the Eastern Partnership countries and the areas where the support of the Baltic States would be of great importance for the Eastern Partnership countries.

Keynote speech:

- **Dr Steven Blockmans**, Senior Fellow of the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute, International Centre for Defence and Security of Estonia

- **Mr Gert Antsu**, Special Envoy for Eastern Partnership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
- **Mr Jonas Daniliauskas**, Deputy Director of the Special Envoy for Eastern Partnership at the Eastern Neighbourhood Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Mr Nils Jansons**, Director General of the Bilateral Relations Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
- **Mr Sviatoslav Yurash**, Chair of the Ukrainian delegation to the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly
- **Mr Pim van Ballekom**, President of the Benelux Parliament
- **Ms Bryndís Haraldsdóttir**, Member of the Presidium of the Nordic Council

Discussions

14:00-16:00

Session 2

Strengthening democracy of the Eastern Partnership countries in the new geopolitical reality of Europe

*Chaired by **Mr Anti Poolamets**, Member of the Security and Defence Committee*

Since the Russian war in Ukraine, the geopolitical reality in Europe has changed. The European countries have understood the dangers of Russia and now need to strengthen democracy in the region to ensure the resilience of the countries near the aggressor. Russian propaganda and disinformation are widespread all around the world but especially in countries that are located near Russia. In this session, the speakers are invited to identify the risks of Russian propaganda and disinformation in the Eastern Partnership countries, the instruments which can contribute to the democratic resilience of the countries and how in particular the Baltic States can contribute to this area.

Keynote speech:

- **Ms Elżbieta Kaca**, Senior research fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs

- **Mr Ivo Juurvee**, Head of the Security & Resilience Programme and Research Fellow of the International Centre for Defence and Security
- **Mr Jonas Daniliauskas**, Deputy Director of the Special Envoy for Eastern Partnership at the Eastern Neighbourhood Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Mr Nils Jansons**, Director General of the Bilateral Relations Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
- **Mr Sviatoslav Yurash**, Chair of the Ukrainian delegation to the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly
- **Mr Pim van Ballekom**, President of the Benelux Parliament
- **Mr Erkki Tuomioja**, Member of the Presidium of the Nordic Council

Discussions

16:00 Concluding remarks by **Ms Urve Tiidus**, President of the Baltic Assembly

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